

**Ministry of Health**

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**Ministère de la Santé**

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January 14, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Hospitals and Health Care Providers**

**RE: Health System Coordination of Hospital Patient Transfers**

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COVID-19 cases are at the highest level since the start of the pandemic and a continued acceleration in cases along with increased hospitalizations, are expected in January 2022.

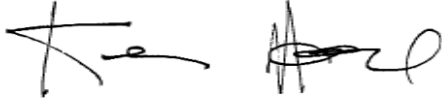
As the health system faces a surge of hospital admissions from COVID-19 infections, hospital partners and health care providers across the province have been undertaking necessary efforts to redeploy and share existing resources and capacity.

On January 4, 2022, I issued Directive #2 for Health Care Providers requiring the ceasing of all non-emergent or non-urgent surgeries and all non-emergent or non-urgent diagnostic imaging and ambulatory clinical activity in public hospitals. This was to preserve capacity in our hospital system, including health human resources, so that we may continue to provide essential health services to patients during this wave of COVID-19 infections.

Directive #2.1, issued today, builds upon Directive #2 to provide our hospital partners standard principles to follow as they continue to coordinate patient transfers, and share resources within and across hospital facilities to stabilize our health system capacity and maintain health care for as many patients as possible.

We will continue to keep you apprised of changes to Ontario's COVID-19 situation and appreciate your ongoing partnership and dedication to this critical work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

c:

Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson, President & CEO, Ontario Health

Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery Division

Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services

Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital

Susan Picarello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Services Division