

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé
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To Ontario's Health Care Workers and Health Care Employers:

As Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I want to assure you that the safety of Ontario's health care workers, patients and the public are my top priority. As health care workers, you are our first line of defence and I am determined to make sure you have the tools you need to perform the important work you do.

Today, alongside the Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health and representatives of Ontario's health care workers and providers, I announced that the CMOH will be issuing a Directive for Ebola preparedness to respond to concerns raised by our frontline workers.

As Minister of Health, I am listening to your concerns. As a public health doctor with many years' experience working with infectious diseases in Africa, I deeply understand those concerns. And I am committed to making sure you feel safe and protected.

I am confident that Ontario will be ready and fully able to contain and treat any case of Ebola. We must make sure that all frontline health care workers are properly trained and provided with the necessary personal protective equipment to be safe as you carry out your work.

With the experience and lessons learned from the SARS epidemic, our health care facilities now have sophisticated infection control systems and procedures to protect health care providers, patients and all Ontarians. They are fully equipped to deal with any potential cases of Ebola.

The Directive released today outlines the appropriate training that health care employers must provide for their staff on the proper use of personal protective equipment and other occupational health and safety measures. It also outlines what personal protective equipment must be made available to all health care workers, especially those providing care to confirmed Ebola patients.

To stay up-to-date on current practices and resources, please our website at www.ontario.ca/ebola. I have instructed the ministry to make sure that the site is updated regularly so you have the latest information.

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Ontario's Health Care Workers and Health Care Employers

Please be assured that my ministry — in collaboration with our partners across the health system — are monitoring the Ebola situation and are continually assessing the risk to Ontarians to ensure that we are completely prepared.

I also want to assure health care workers across the province that you have my full support to come forward to us with your concerns should you feel that additional training, equipment or other means of protection and prevention are required in your workplace and community. I have created a formal Minister's Advisory Table on Ebola Preparedness to ensure that the needs of health care workers are addressed as quickly as possible, and that ongoing advice is provided to me. This Advisory Table will include frontline workers and health care providers.

On behalf of myself, the Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health, my ministry and the Government of Ontario, thank you for your selfless and tireless work on behalf of all Ontarians.

In times like these, we are all reminded of how critical your work is in protecting the public from dangers beyond our borders. It is my job as Minister to make sure you are — and feel — both safe and protected.

Thank you again for the vital and courageous work you do every day on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister