

CORRESPONDENCE – March 2021

- a) Date: February 19, 2021
Topic: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open
From: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
To: Premier Doug Ford

Background:

On February 19, 2021, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) wrote to Premier Doug Ford in regards to the recent decision to begin easing the recent province-wide shutdown and stay-at-home orders in the context of the rapid emergence of COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs). Concerns were expressed about the timing of loosening the restrictions in many areas underestimates the imminent and considerable threat posed by the VOCs. A slower approach to returning to the COVID-19 Response Framework that allows for the development of clear public health messaging that reinforces the seriousness of the pandemic is recommended.

Recommendation: Endorse.

- b) Date: February 12, 2021
Topic: Food Literacy for Students Act
From: Peterborough Public Health
To: Premier Doug Ford, Minister Christine Elliott, Minister Stephen Lecce

Background:

On February 12, 2021, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health wrote to Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and Minister Lecce in support for Bill 216: Food Literacy for Students Act, 2020. The proposed Bill will require school boards to offer experimental food literacy education to all Ontario students in grades 1 through 12.

Recommendation: Receive.

- c) Date: February 12, 2021
Topic: Paid Sick Leave During an Infectious Disease Emergency
From: Peterborough Public Health
To: Premier Doug Ford, Minister Christine Elliott, Minister Stephen Lecce

Background:

On February 12, 2021, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health wrote to Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and Minister Lecce in support of the introduction of paid sick leave during an infectious disease emergency. Peterborough Public Health is requesting that the Ontario government immediately introduce paid sick leave as an essential component to the legislated emergency unpaid leave currently available as per Regulation 228/20. In addition, Peterborough Public Health urges the government to provide funding to enable all employers to provide this important public health measure to their employees as per the principals outlined in Bill 239

(Stay Home if You Are Sick Act, 2020).

Recommendation: Receive.

- d) Date: March 1, 2021
Topic: Provincial Employment Standards Reform for Provision of Paid Sick Days
From: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
To: Premier Doug Ford

Background:

On March 1, 2021, the Board of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit wrote to Premier Doug Ford regarding the concern about the absence of paid sick leave standards for workers in the province and urges the government to update the Employment Standards Act, 2000 to include paid sick days for all workers.

Recommendation: Receive.

- e) Date: March 3, 2021
Topic: Provincial Appointments to the Board of Health
From: Peterborough Public Health
To: Minister Christine Elliott

Background:

On March 3, 2021, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health wrote to Minister Elliott expressing concern about the current lack of provincial representation on their Board of Health, creating a lack of board capacity and impairs the board from comprehensively fulfilling its governance responsibilities. Peterborough Public Health requests that provincial appointments be a minimum of two years (ideally three as was previously the norm), given the time and effort necessary to onboard these representatives. Longer terms will allow for members to feel that they have had adequate time to be oriented to their responsibilities and will provide them with an opportunity to meaningfully engage in public health decisions for their community.

Recommendation: Receive.

- f) Date: February 16, 2021
Topic: Paid Sick Leave During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
From: Chatham-Kent Public Health
To: Premier Doug Ford

Background:

On February 16, 2021, the Chatham-Kent Board of Health passed a motion to endorse the Toronto Board of Health position that the Government of Ontario require employers to provide no less than five paid sick days annually to workers after three months of employment and provide necessary funding to employers so that all workers in Ontario have access to no less than

10 paid sick days annually in the event of a declared infectious disease emergency, such as COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation: Receive.

- g) Date: February 22, 2021
- Topic: Mandatory Paid Sick Leave for Ontario Workers
- From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- To: Premier Doug Ford

Background:

On February 22, 2021, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health wrote to Premier Ford in support for the paid sick leave during the COVID-19 pandemic. Refer to correspondence item c) above.

Recommendation: Receive.