

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

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**Ministère de la Santé  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Health Sector Colleagues

**RE:** MERS-CoV Update

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Dear Colleagues,

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry), in collaboration with Public Health Ontario (PHO) and the Public Health Agency of Canada, continues to provide overall guidance, information, awareness and tools to support health workers and health sector employers via the Ministry's website at: [www.ontario.ca/novelcoronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/novelcoronavirus).

Over the past several weeks, the ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and PHO, has conducted a series of webinars for the health sector to raise awareness about emerging infectious respiratory diseases, such as MERS-CoV, as well the ministry's information and guidance available to our health sector partners. These webinars are intended to augment ongoing training initiatives routinely provided, with an emphasis on screening and initial patient management, health worker occupational health and safety and appropriate infection prevention and control measures.

In addition, The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has created a new supporting document, *Tools for Preparedness: Triage, Screening and Patient Management of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Infections in Acute Care Settings* [http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/documents/pidac/Preparedness\\_Tools\\_MERS\\_CoV\\_2013.pdf](http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/documents/pidac/Preparedness_Tools_MERS_CoV_2013.pdf) to their document *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all Health Care Settings*. This new document replaces the previously issued *Guidance for Acute Care Settings Regarding Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Infections* and supports the ministry's ongoing preparedness and awareness activities in response to the current MERS-CoV situation.

To date, there have been no cases of MERS-CoV detected in Ontario or Canada and the public health risk to the people of Ontario remains low. However, the ministry and its partners will remain vigilant in on-going awareness, monitoring and preparedness efforts, and will share timely updates and advice as appropriate.

Thank you,

*Original signed by Dr. Robin Williams for*

Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

HLTC