

December 4, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, New COVID-19 Measures, Long-Term Care Commission, and AMO-Ontario Annual Joint MOU Statement**

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force**

The Ontario government has announced the [appointment](#) of nine members of the new [Ministers' COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force](#). The task force, chaired by General (Retired) Rick Hillier, former Chief of Defence Staff for the Canadian Forces, will oversee the delivery, storage, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

This task force will work with General Hillier (Ret.) to advise the Province on the planning and execution of the Province's COVID-19 immunization program. It is understood that the task force will work across several ministries for the needed expertise in operations and logistics, federal-provincial and Indigenous relations, health and clinical domains, behavioural science, public health and immunization, ethics, and information technology and data. We also know that the Province will be working in partnership with AMO and municipal leaders with respect to local implementation and public education efforts.

### **New COVID-19 Measures for Three Regions**

After consultation with provincial and local public health officials, the Province is moving [three public health regions](#) to new levels with stronger public health measures as set out in the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#).

Based on the latest data, the following public health regions will move from their current level in the framework to the following levels **effective Monday, December 7, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.**

- Orange - Restrict  
Middlesex-London Health Unit and

- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Yellow - Protect
  - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

All other public health regions are remaining at their current levels. For further information please see [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) for the full list of public health region classifications.

## **Long-Term Care Commission Releases Second Set of Recommendations**

[Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission](#) issued a [letter](#) today to the government outlining a second set of recommendations for implementation to mitigate the impact of the second wave of the pandemic. The recommendations focus on three areas: leadership and accountability; using performance indicators to assess each home's readiness to prevent and manage outbreaks; and, focused inspections by the Ministry of Long-Term Care to assess compliance with measures known to reduce the impact of the virus.

AMO continues to engage with the Commission to provide a municipal perspective on lessons learned and recommendations. An initial submission was provided. To view this document and other resources about long-term care and seniors, see the [AMO website](#).

## **AMO-Ontario Annual Joint MOU Statement**

In 2008, Ontario and AMO released the first joint statement on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AMO and the Province of Ontario and have done it annually since that time. The [2019/2020 MOU Joint Statement](#) is now available.

Since November 2019 (the last Annual Statement), AMO and Ontario had a record 16 formal MOU meetings, covering over 70 agenda items. It should be noted that in addition to these formal MOU meetings the Province has continually engaged AMO and its members on the government's COVID-19 response.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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