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May 4, 2020

From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Public health reminders urged as Ontario plans to ease restrictions and Emergency Orders

Last week, the Ministry of Health announced its plans to slowly re-open the province over the weeks ahead. This is a very hopeful message for us all.

However, the government was quite clear that this will be a staged approach, and will only occur if there is:

- a consistent decrease in cases over a 2-to-4 week period;
- a continued capacity of PPE and critical care;
- 90% of new cases are reached by public health within a 24-hour period; and
- ongoing testing of suspected cases to detect new outbreaks quickly.

Maintaining public health measures for the foreseeable future will be imperative in the re-opening of our province. That includes continuing to practice and respect physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, limiting time outside of your home in the community and with other people, and helping our most vulnerable.

We urge you to help us get this message out widely by sharing these messages with your staff, patients and on your own social media profiles. Here is a [patient-ready resource](#) to consider sharing.

We require a strong and collective reminder in our communities about the important role public health interventions have in our ability to return to normal.

Yours Truly,

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