

Ministry of Health

Ministère de la Santé



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**MEMORANDUM TO:** *COVID-19 Collaboration Table*

**FROM:** Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

**RE:** Pandemic Response

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For almost 8 months, the team at the Ministry of Health has been working with partners across the health care sector and across government to respond to an unprecedented challenge: COVID-19. As you are well aware our journey with COVID-19 is not yet over, which is why we have been focused on preparing for an advanced, coordinated and rapid response.

As part of this planning we have been reviewing the ministry's current structure, taking into account the valuable lessons learned in Wave One. Today I am pleased to announce some organizational changes that will supplement our ongoing response and support Dr. Williams and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health – Public Health Division.

To provide increased dedicated capacity for the ongoing COVID response, and support collaboration across the ministry and government, the ministry will be setting up a temporary **Pandemic Response Division**, which will be led by **Alison Blair as Assistant Deputy Minister**. Reporting to me, this division will provide coordination of the COVID-19 related work within the ministry and will support Dr. Williams' leadership of the public health response.

The division will include:

- A **Director, Testing Strategy Coordination**, who will be responsible for leading a centralized, dedicated area to work within the ministry and the sector on the testing strategy. **Fredrika Scarth** will take on this assignment while continuing to provide oversight to the Secretariat to Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine.

- A **Director, Strategic Health Response Secretariat**, who will be responsible for the secretariat coordinating interactions with various command tables within the ministry, sector, federal government, municipalities and the OPS. **Zaynah Jamal** will be joining us from Treasury Board Secretariat, where as Senior Manager, Strategy and Transformation in the Deputy Minister's Office, led the development of a centre of excellence for change management including project tracking tools, process, and governance to track priority initiatives.
- The **Health System Emergency Management Branch**, including the **Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC)**, which will be realigned from the Chief Medical Officer of Health/ Public Health to report into this new division to provide dedicated emergency management support to the pandemic response, as well as non-COVID emergencies.

On May 11, 2020, **Rhonda McMichael** joined us in the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Population Health Initiatives to support the ministry's COVID response with a focus on case and contact management and rapid response planning. To further support outbreak management, a **Director, Rapid Response and Outbreak Management Coordination** has been created, reporting to Rhonda. **Andrew Mukoma**, who until recently was acting Director, Health Capital Investment Branch, will lead integrated planning and implementation to support the ramp-up of contact tracing and outbreak management that the province needs to support the restarting of the economy, including a potential second wave.

This new temporary structure, which will be effective August 31, 2020, is designed to allow us to consistently learn from and adjust quickly to global, national and provincial trends.

Alison's replacement as ADM, Emergency Health Services Division (EHSD) will be announced shortly.

Please join me in congratulating Alison, Fredrika, Zaynah and Andrew and wishing them well in their new roles!



Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister