

**alPHa Sections:**

Boards of Health  
Section

Council of Ontario  
Medical Officers of  
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate  
Organizations:**

Association of Ontario  
Public Health Business  
Administrators

Association of  
Public Health  
Epidemiologists  
in Ontario

Association of  
Supervisors of Public  
Health Inspectors of  
Ontario

Health Promotion  
Ontario

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Nursing  
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in  
Public Health

May 7, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Bldg Rm 281, Queen's Park,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Public Health Measures – Extension of Current Restrictions**

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On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and its member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations, I am writing today to strongly recommend a further extension of the current province-wide restrictions, including the stay-at-home order, beyond their planned expiry on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

After an aggressive resurgence that followed the lifting of similar restrictions in February, we are encouraged by the beginnings of clear downward trends in the reproductive rate, new daily cases, active cases, hospitalizations, and test positivity rates following the reimposition of restrictions in early April. Most of these metrics however, most notably patients in ICU, remain far higher than they were at the peak of the second wave, and we do not anticipate that this will change before the current orders lapse.

It is crystal clear that public health measures aimed at decreasing mobility and interpersonal contact are by far the most important tool we have currently to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Their effectiveness is not up for debate after three waves of declines and resurgences occurred in lockstep with the intensification and relaxation of restrictions. Any move to relax restrictions now would without a doubt reverse the modest downward trends we have observed over the past two weeks.

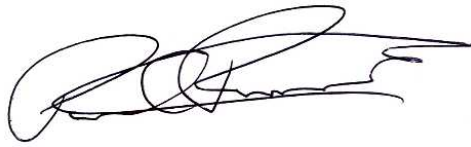
Ontario is making great progress with its vaccination campaign but until we have achieved a critical mass of people who are fully vaccinated, we must rely on minimizing transmission by limiting interpersonal contact until such a time as the metrics we have been using to guide our decisions thus far reflect solid epidemiological evidence that transmission and the risks of severe outcomes are low enough, and capacity in acute care and public health has improved enough that restrictions can be lifted. Now is not that time.

Our members, as Ontario's front-line and pre-eminent public health experts, are more than willing to provide further advice and input to ensure the success of Ontario's COVID-19 response and we look forward to an invitation to discuss this with you further. To schedule a meeting, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa, at [loretta@alphaweb.org](mailto:loretta@alphaweb.org) or 416-595-0006 x 222.

Yours Sincerely,



Carmen McGregor,  
alPHa President



Dr. Paul Roumeliotis,  
Chair, Council of Ontario Medical  
Officers of Health (COMOH)



Trudy Sachowski,  
Chair, Boards of Health  
Section

**COPY:** Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario. alPHa advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.