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## Preface

Public health officials from around the world have warned that we are overdue for an influenza pandemic, warnings that have been underscored by the spread of avian (bird) influenza in Southeast Asia and the resulting toll in human life. Increasingly, health officials are talking not about “if”, but about “when” the next pandemic will occur. Therefore, it is essential that governments at every level take all reasonable efforts to protect the health of their citizens and plan for this eventuality.

We are proud that Ontario has taken a leadership role in influenza pandemic planning efforts. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the development of this third version of the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP). This version provides much more specific detail on many aspects of pandemic planning including: the public health measures that may be used during an influenza pandemic; how to optimize deployment of the health workforce; how to establish Influenza Assessment, Treatment and Referral Centres; a crisis communications toolkit; and more detailed planning information for a number of health sectors including laboratories, acute care services and long-term care homes.

OHPIP 2006 should guide health planning and response efforts at both the provincial and local levels across Ontario. It will continue to be improved and updated with additional detail and new information in the months and years ahead. It is also important to note that Ontario’s plan is closely aligned with federal direction provided in the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan (CPIP).

The development of Ontario’s plan has highlighted the importance of the relationships that are forged and the synergy that occurs when a wide range of organizations and individuals from different walks of life work together towards a common purpose. Our deepest thanks go to the many individuals participating on OHPIP committees and working groups for volunteering their time and expertise. In doing so, they have contributed immeasurably to the health and safety of their fellow Ontarians.



George Smitherman  
Minister



Dr. Sheela Basrur  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

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Rogelio Abarca	St. Michael's Hospital
Yoel Abells	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Mary Addison	Management Board of Cabinet – Ontario Shared Services - Supply Chain Management
Rob Alder	Consultant
Douglas Alderson	Consultant
Carole Alexander	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Community Health Division
Ken Allan	Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Ann Frances Allen	College of Nurses of Ontario
Malle Allen	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Communications & Information Branch
Upton Allen	Hospital for Sick Children
Linda An	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Health Professions Regulatory Policy & Programs Branch
Joanne Anderson	York Region Health Services Department
Beverley J. Antle	Ontario Association for Social Workers
Tracy Antone	Chiefs of Ontario
Jim Armstrong	Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres
Nancy Armstrong	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Communications & Information Branch
Richard Armstrong	Durham Region Emergency Medical Services
Paula Arnold	Ottawa Public Health
Judy Ash	Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories
Gordon Aue	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Operational Support Branch
Kim Auld	Toronto Public Health
Jean Bacon	Writer
Nancy Bagworth	Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores
Naideen Bailey	Region of Waterloo Public Health
Irmajean Bajnok	Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Kim Barker	Assembly of First Nations
Michael Barrett	St. Joseph's Health Care London
Hafeeza Bassirullah	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Sandra Baxter	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Services I&IT Cluster
Mary Bayliss	College of Respiratory Therapists
Kathryn Beaton	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Services I&IT Cluster
Andre Luc Beaugard	Peel Public Health
Raj Bhanot	Ontario Hospital Association

Valerie Bishop-de-Young	Ontario Community Support Association
Ari Bitnun	Hospital for Sick Children
Deanna Blair	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Communications & Information Branch
Ted Boadway	Ontario Medical Association
Stephanie Bolton	Independent Diagnostics Clinics Association
Erika Bontovics	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Infectious Disease Branch
Marilyn Booth	Ontario Children's Health Network
Gary Bragagnolo	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Emergency Health Services Branch
Mark Breen	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Michelle Brosseau	Ontario Nurses' Association
Cindy Bruce-Barrett	The Hospital for Sick Children
Sandy Buchman	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Jenny Buckley	Consultant
Mark Burgess	Quinte Healthcare Corporation
Frederick Burkle	Bloomberg School of Public Health, John Hopkins University
Vanessa Burkowski	Windsor Regional Hospital
Laura Burton	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Laboratories Branch
Patricia Caldwell	Ontario Nurses' Association
Sandra Callery	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Johanne Carboneau	Clinidata Services Corporation
Debra Carew	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Eng-Soon Chan	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Infectious Disease Branch
Liz Chappel	Ontario Multifaith Council
David Choat	The Scarborough Hospital
Michael Christian	McMaster University
Melissa Clarke	Trillium Health Centre
Lorne Coe	Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Anne Coghlan	College of Nurses of Ontario
Allan Cole	MacKinnon & Bowes Ltd. (Funeral Services)
Tim Cook	Mount Sinai Hospital
Nancy Cooper	Ontario Long-Term Care Association
Ann Corner	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Molly Court	Markham Stouffville Hospital
Jean-Pierre Courteau	Health Canada - First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
Debby Cox	William Osler Health Centre
Tina Craig	Toronto Community Care Access Centre
Mary Margaret Crapper	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Communications & Information Branch
David Creery	Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Paula Cripps-McMartin	Allied Health University Health Network
Della Croteau	Ontario College of Pharmacists
Robert Cullen	Hospital Logistics Inc. (Supply Chain Management Solutions)

Fiona Dalziel	Ministry of Labour
Audrey Danaher	Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Nadia Daniell	Ontario Medical Association
Celia D'Aoust	The Ottawa Hospital
Mary Lou Decou	Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Sandra Del Signore	St. Michael's Hospital
Steve Demacio	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Health Services I & IT Cluster
Carrie Deverell	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Communications & Information Branch
Natalie Diduch	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Home Care & Support Branch
Debbie Douglas	Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
Carolyn Doxtator	Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians
Linda Dresser	Mount Sinai Hospital
Lynda Dukacz	Timmins & District Hospital
Mary Dwyer	Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services
Bronwen Edgar	Ontario Public Health Association
Cathy Egan	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Michael Eliadis	The Hospital for Sick Children
Karen Essery	Northwestern Health Unit
Gerald A. Evans	Queen's University - Kingston General Hospital
Morris Faccin	York Region Emergency Medical Services
Karen Faith	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Susy Faria	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Emergency Management Unit
Laura Farrell	Huron County Health Unit
Irwin Fefergrad	Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
Paul Felstein	Consultant
Dennis Fong	Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres
Wendy Fortier	The Ottawa Hospital
Cara Francis	Ontario Hospital Association
Sarah Friesen	Shared Healthcare Supply Services
Brian Gamble	College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario
Greg Gamble	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
Michael Gardam	University Health Network
Charles Gardner	Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
Derek Gascoigne	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
Rick Gaukel	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Supply & Financial Services Branch
Ken Gazdic	Hopital Regional de Sudbury Regional Hospital
Leon Genesove	Ministry of Labour
Carrie Gerstein	College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario
Jennifer Gibson	Joint Centre for Bioethics- University of Toronto
Leah Gitterman	University Health Network
Paul Gould	Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories

Effie Gournis	Toronto Public Health
Doug Gowans	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Community Health Division
Kathy-L Graham	Association of Day Care Operators
Phil Graham	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Sandra Grgas	University Health Network
Maureen Griffiths	Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services - Emergency Management Ontario
Doris Grinspun	Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Ann Gronski	Ontario Hospital Association
Sue Guinard	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Long-Term Care Home Branch
John Hamilton	Ontario Association of Medical Laboratories
Jessica Harris	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Laura Hawryluck	University Health Network
Gilbert Heffern	Ontario Long-Term Care Association
Margaret Herridge	University Health Network
Gillian Howard	University Health Network
Sheree Hryhor	Toronto Emergency Medical Services
Patricia Huston	Ottawa Public Health
Lori Jacobs	Chiefs of Ontario
Carol Jacobson	Ontario Medical Association
Margo Jeffrey	Community Care Access Centre - Toronto
Barb Jennings	McMaster Children’s Hospital
Beverly John	Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital
Nancy Johnson	Ontario Nurses Association
Seema Jolly	Guelph General Hospital
Kathy Jovanovic	Peel Public Health
Neena Kanwar	Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association
Jan Kasperski	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Vahe Kehyayan	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office
Brendan Kilcline	Ontario Public Service Employees’ Union
James Kilgour	Region of Peel Corporate Services
Aviva Klompas	Ontario Hospital Association
Rodney Kort	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Karim Kurji	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care /York Region
Wendy Kuruliak	Hopital Regional de Sudbury Regional Hospital
Sudha Kutty	Ontario Hospital Association
Jeffrey Kwok	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Community Health Branch
Larry LaJambe	Ministry of Children & Youth Services
Brenda Lambert	St. Thomas Elgin-General Hospital
Ronald Laxer	Hospital for Sick Children
Neil Lazar	University Health Network
Colin Q-T Lee	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Yvonne Lee	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Holly Letheren	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Infectious Disease Branch
Sue Lim	University Health Network
Bill Limerick	Northwestern Health Unit
Anne Longair	City of Toronto Hostel Services
Lori Lord	Ontario Home Care Association
Donald Low	Mount Sinai Hospital
Charlene Lunney	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes & Services for Seniors
Mary-Elle Luukkonen	Sault Area Hospital
Russell MacDonald	Ontario Air Ambulance Base Hospital Program
Valerie MacDonald	Ontario Nurses Association
Peggi Mace	Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario - Federation of Regulated Health Professions Representative
Taryn MacKenzie	Ottawa Hospital
Marcia Macks Edwards	Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association
Fiona Macpate	Ontario Safety Association for Community & Healthcare
Brenda MacPherson	Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres
Anna Majury	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Laboratories Branch
Roy Male	Regent Park Community Health Centre / South Riverdale Community Health Centre
Tess Malolos	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Communications & Information Branch
Val Mann	Northwestern Health Unit
Gordon Manning	Kingston General Hospital
Sharon Marsden	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Home Care & Support Branch
Diane Martin	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Nursing Secretariat
Laurie Martin	Clinidata Services Corporation
Anne Matlow	Hospital for Sick Children
Tony Mazzulli	Mount Sinai Hospital - Toronto Medical Laboratories
Diane McArthur	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Resources Branch
Linda McCarey	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
Lisa McCaskell	Ontario Public Service Employees Union
Beth McCracken	Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario
Allison McGeer	Consultant
Heather McGregor	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Kimberley Meighan	The Hospital for Sick Children
Mary Metcalfe	Oxford County Public Health
Greg Michener	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Sandy Milakovic	Canadian Mental Health Association - Peel Branch
Dean Miller	Shoppers' Drug Mart
Lisa Mills	Sudbury & District Health Unit
Golda Milo-Manson	Bloorview Kids Rehab
Nicola Morris	Consultant
Marie Muir	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Public Health Division

Mathew Muller	St. Michael's Hospital
Patrick Nelson	Ontario Medical Association
Geri Nephew	Toronto Public Health
Doug Nesrallah	Ministry of Community & Social Services
Marsha Nicholson	Homes for the Aged Division of Toronto Community & Neighbourhood Services
Heather Nicolson-Morrison	Ontario Funeral Service Association
Colleen Nisbet	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Sandy Nuttall	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Hospitals Branch
Terry O'Donnell	Porcupine Health Unit
David Ogilvie	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Caitriona O'Sullivan	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Collette Ouellet	The Ottawa Hospital
Heather Oynett	Queen's University
Maggie Paiva	Peel Public Health
Penny Palmer	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Hospitals Branch
Joan Park	St. Michael's Hospital
Surabhi Patel-Widmeyer	Health Canada - Ontario / Nunavut Region - Regional Director's Office
Lori Payne	Ontario Community Support Association
John Pereira	Halton Region Health Department - Emergency Medical Services
Ivan Peres	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Health Professions Regulatory Policy & Programs Branch
Nancy Peroff-Johnson	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Infectious Diseases Branch
Angelo Pesce	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes & Services for Seniors
Jane Piccolotto	Ontario Community Support Association
Tony Pierro	Ontario Community Support Association
Carol Pitters	Ontario Medical Association
Laurie Poole	Clinidata Services Corporation
Susan Poutenan	Mount Sinai Hospital - Toronto Medical Laboratories
Douglas Pudden	Consultant
Alison Quigley	Child Health Network
Dianne Raby	Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Community Care Access Centre
Val Rachlis	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Seetha Raja	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Primary Health Care Team
Lee Ramage	Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation
Lynne Raskin	South Riverdale Community Health Centre
Marilyn Reddick	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Carol Reeves	Management Board of Cabinet – Ontario Shared Services - Supply Chain Management
Joanne Rey	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Infectious Disease Branch
Doug Reycraft	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Donna Reynolds	Durham Region Health Department
Margaret Ringland	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes & Services for Seniors



Margaret Risk	Consultant
Judy Ritchie	Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
Anitta Robertson	Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Jan Robinson	College of Physiotherapists of Ontario - Federation of Health Regulated Colleges of Ontario Rep.
Karie Robinson	Toronto Public Health
Eilyn Rodriguez	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Don Ross	Consultant
Mike Rosser	Healthcare Materials Management Services (London)
Paula Ruppert	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Mental Health & Addiction Branch
Jodie Russell	Timmins & District Hospital
Tina Sakr	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Home Care & Community Support Branch
Deb Saltmarche	Ontario Pharmacists' Association
Marina Salvadori	Children's Hospital of Western Ontario
Lindy Samson	Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Marty Sargent	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Services I&IT Cluster
John Saunders	Canadian Red Cross
Gordina Schellenberg	West Hill Community Health Centre
Frank Schmidt	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care -Health Professions Regulatory Policy & Programs Branch
Brian Schwartz	Sunnybrook-Osler Centre for Prehospital Care; MOHLTC Emergency Management Unit
Dianne Scoffield	Ministry of Community & Social Services
Maria-Luise Sebald	Ontario Long-Term Care Association
Karen Sequeira	Ontario Hospital Association
Clint Shingler	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Patricia Simone	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Mary Anne Simpson	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Jane Sinclair	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes & Services for Seniors
Terry Siriska	Ontario Hospital Association
Peter Slater	Consultant
Janine Small	Health Canada - Ontario / Nunavut Region - Communications, Marketing & Consultation Directorate
Patrick Smith	Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation
Kathryn Snell	Clinical Laboratory Management Association
Gordon Spear	Ontario Long-Term Care Association
Harry Spindel	Bayview Community Services Inc.
Sue Starling	Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Sophia Stephen	Ontario Medical Association
Janice Stewart	Princess Margaret Hospital - Haematology-Oncology Unit
Linda Stewart	Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Sarah Strasser	Sudbury & District Health Unit

Allison Stuart	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Emergency Management Unit
Brenda Stuart	Consumer
Kathy Suma	Ontario Long-Term Care Association - Extencicare
Jeff Sumner	Gamma-Dynacare
Bev Sunohara	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care- Supply & Financial Services Branch
Susan Tamblyn	Consultant
Adrianna Tetley	Ontario Association of Community Health Centres
Allison Thompson	Joint Centre for Bioethics- University of Toronto
Susan Thorning	Ontario Community Support Association
Ornella Tolomeio	Hamilton Public Health & Community Services
Gail Tomblin Murphy	Consultant
Baldwin Toye	The Ottawa Hospital
Catalina Trevizan	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Services I&IT Cluster
Ross Upshur	University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics & Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Christopher Usih	Toronto District School Board
Susan VanderBent	Ontario Home Care Providers Association
Suzanne Vanderlip	Markham Stouffville Hospital
Liz Van Horne	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Strategic Planning & Implementation Branch
Pat Vanini	Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Peter Vaughan	Consultant
Mary Vearncombe	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Jennifer Veenboer	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care – Emergency Management Unit
Joseph Verdirame	Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services - Emergency Management Ontario
Connie Verhaeghe	Hamilton Public Health & Community Services
Mariella Vigneux	Grey Bruce Public Health Unit - Association of Local Public Health Agencies Representative
Marilyn Wang	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Health Professions Regulatory Policy & Programs Branch
Bryna Warshawsky	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Randy Wax	Mount Sinai Hospital
Phillipa Welch	Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes & Services for Seniors
David White	Ontario College of Family Physicians
Georgina White	Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres
Lindsay Whitmore	Ottawa Public Health
Kathy Wilkie	College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario
Diane Wilson	Ontario Air Ambulance Services Co.
Anne-Luise Winter	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Infectious Disease Branch
Petra Wolfbeiss	Association of Municipalities of Ontario
KK Wong	Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Human Services I&IT Cluster
Barbara Yaffe	Association of Local Public Health Agencies - Toronto Public Health

HirotaKa Yamashiro  
Paul Zalan  
Randi Zlotnik-Shaul  
Dick Zoutman

Ontario Medical Association  
Family Practice  
The Hospital for Sick Children  
Queen's University

## About the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic

The Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) describes how Ontario's health care system will respond to an influenza pandemic. It sets out a comprehensive province-wide approach to health preparedness and response planning, and provides information to guide local pandemic planning groups. OHPIP endeavours to strike a balance between providing enough direction to ensure a consistent provincial health response to an influenza pandemic, and giving local jurisdictions the flexibility to respond to different scenarios that may arise during a pandemic.

OHPIP is a living document. It will be reviewed annually (or more often if required) and revised to reflect current knowledge and best practices. A steering committee has been established to oversee health planning for an influenza pandemic. The steering committee includes representatives from emergency management, public health, laboratories, the health care delivery system, labour associations, and regulatory colleges.

While OHPIP focuses on pandemic planning for the health sector, it includes links to other ministries with emergency responsibilities such as Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the Ministry of Labour. Because a pandemic will affect every sector of society, EMO is working with other provincial ministries and their stakeholders to develop a Provincial Coordinating Plan for an Influenza Pandemic. That plan will address

pandemic planning issues outside the health sector, and focus on maintaining critical infrastructure and meeting human needs.

### **How to Use This Document**

The *Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic* is organized into three parts and 19 chapters:

#### **Part I:**

##### **The Context for Planning for an Influenza Pandemic**

1. **Background:** provides basic information about influenza and pandemics, and summarizes the impact that an influenza pandemic would have on Ontario in terms of the number of people who will become ill and need some form of health care.
2. **Roles, Responsibilities and Frameworks for Decision Making:** describes the phases of an influenza pandemic, the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government, and the ethical and emergency management frameworks that provide the basis for Ontario's plan and response.
3. **Planning Goals, Approach and Assumptions:** sets out the goals, strategic approach and planning assumptions for Ontario's plan.
4. **Resources:** provides a list of resources for pandemic planning.

#### **Part II:**

##### **System-Wide Issues, Activities and Tools**

5. **Surveillance -- Detecting and Monitoring the Spread of Influenza:** describes the surveillance activities in place now to monitor influenza in Ontario and detect a

pandemic virus strain, as well as those that will be added, enhanced or curtailed during a pandemic.

6. **Public Health Measures -- Managing the Spread of Influenza:** describes the public health measures that Ontario may use during a pandemic, and the factors that will determine which measures are used.
7. **Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety:** sets out the range of steps that the public, health care organizations and health care providers can take to prevent the spread of influenza and to protect the health workforce.
8. **Optimizing Deployment of the Health Workforce:** describes a competency-based approach to health human resources planning for a pandemic, and the steps that planners, employers and health care providers can take to make the most effective use of knowledge and skills during a pandemic.
9. **Antivirals and Vaccines:** sets out the policies for antiviral and vaccine supply, distribution and use, and describes the steps Ontario will take to acquire and distribute antivirals and vaccine during a pandemic.
10. **Equipment and Supplies:** describes the steps that Ontario and health care organizations will take to ensure an adequate, secure supply of equipment and supplies during a pandemic.
11. **Influenza Assessment, Treatment and Referral Centres:** describes the temporary Flu Centres that Ontario will establish, if required, during a pandemic to give the public easy

one-stop access to assessment, information, treatment and referral services. The Flu Centres will also help reduce the demands on primary care providers and acute care hospitals, allowing them to focus on meeting the needs of people who need that level of care.

12. **Communications:** describes the steps that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) will use to communicate with the public, health care workers and other stakeholders during an influenza pandemic.

**Part III:  
Setting-Specific Issues, Activities and Tools**

13. **Public Health Services:** sets out the steps the public health system will take to manage the demand for services during an influenza pandemic.
15. **Laboratory Services:** describes how the laboratory system will function during a pandemic, including tests that will be provided and those that may be curtailed or reduced.
15. **Emergency Health Services:** to be developed
16. **Community Health Services:** provides preliminary information on community health services during a pandemic; to be developed.
17. **Acute Care Services:** sets out approaches that acute care hospitals can use to manage their resources during a pandemic, including determining who will be admitted to critical care.
18. **Paediatric Services:** provides preliminary information on the impact of pandemic on health

services for children; to be developed.

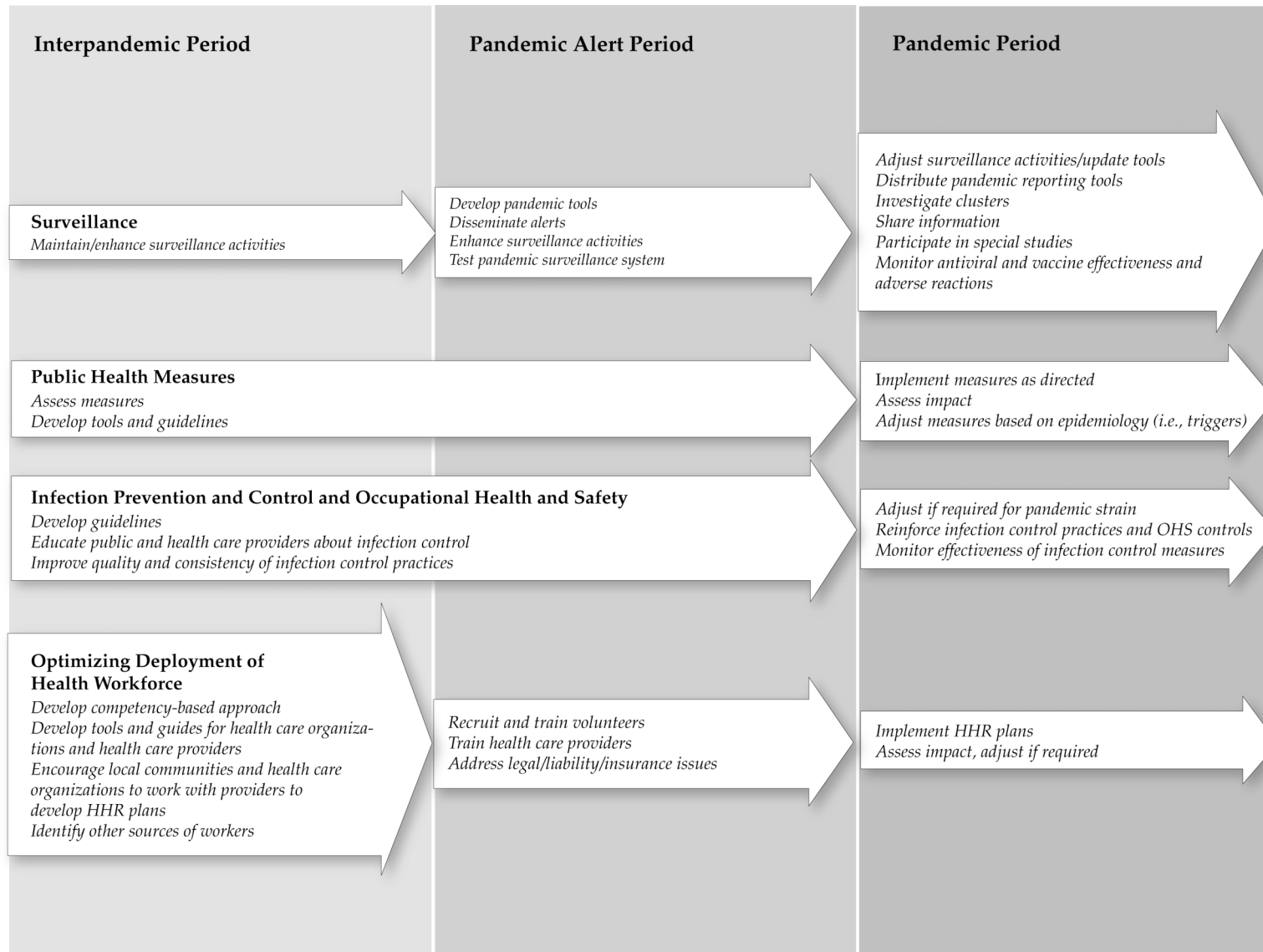
19. **Long-Term Care Homes:** sets out guidelines for long-term care homes designed to protect residents and staff during a pandemic, and continue to provide high quality care.

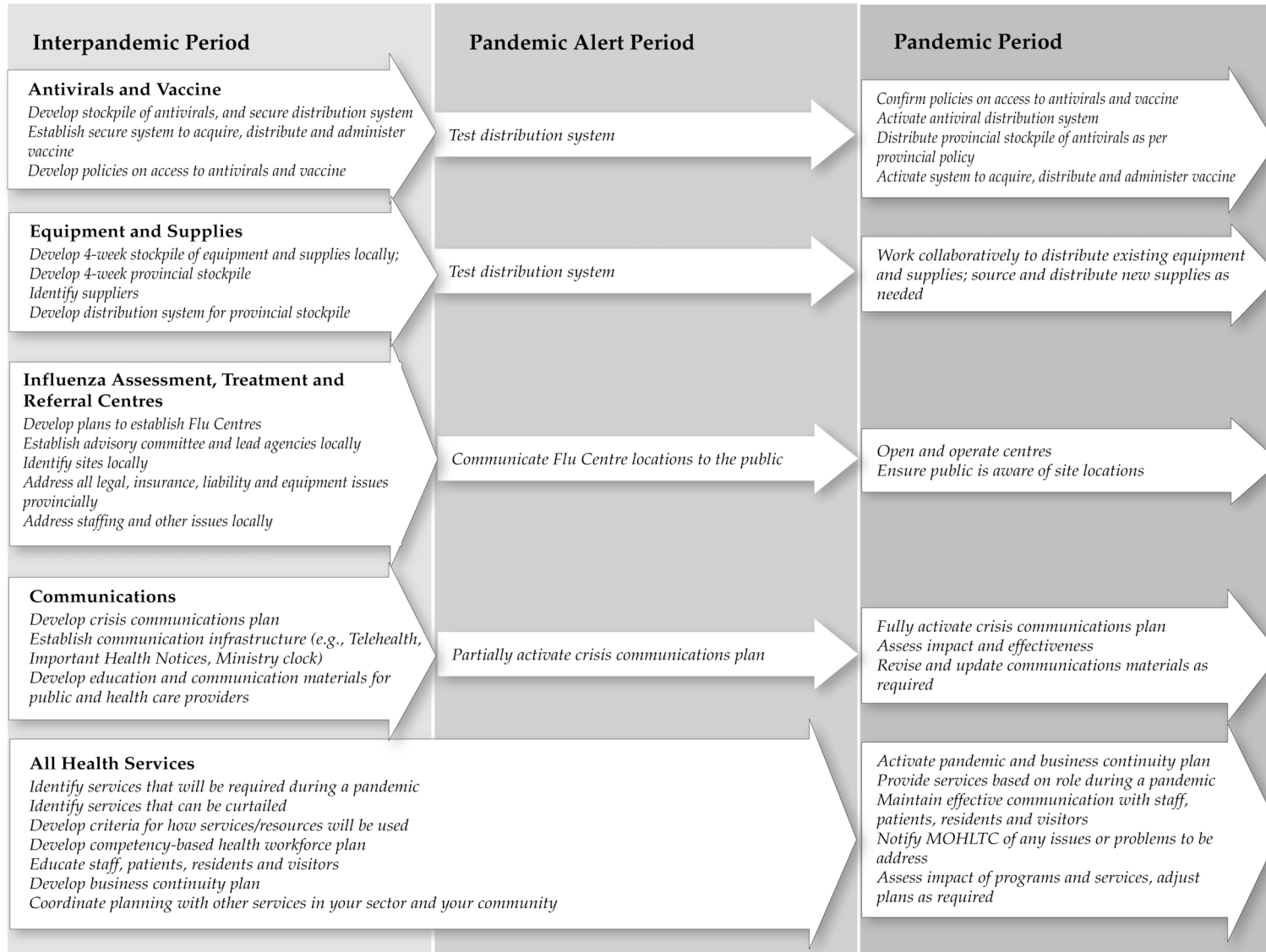
**NOTE: Chapters 5 through 19 have separate supplementary chapters, containing tools and forms (e.g., 5A Surveillance Tools, 12A Communications Tools).**

Figure 1 summarizes the focus of pandemic planning and response activities by pandemic phase.

Note: The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is continuing to develop a provincial position on personal protective equipment (i.e., masks). In the absence of a provincial position, references to masks and/or respirators throughout this document should be interpreted broadly (i.e., facial protection).

**Figure 1: Summary of Pandemic Planning and Response Activities by Pandemic Period**







## List of Abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Name</b>
CIDPC	Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Public Health Agency of Canada
CCMOH	Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Agency of Canada
CIOSC	Canadian Integrated Outbreak Surveillance Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada
CMOH	Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
CNPHI	Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence, Public Health Agency of Canada
CPHLN	Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network, Public Health Agency of Canada
CPIP	Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan, Public Health Agency of Canada
EMU	Emergency Management Unit, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
F/P/T	Federal/Provincial/ Territorial
HHR	Health Human Resources
iPHIS	integrated Public Health Information System, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
HU	Health Unit
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
MOHLTC	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
MCSCS	Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
MCSS	Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services
MOL	Ontario Ministry of Labour
NACI	National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Public Health Agency of Canada
NML	National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada
OHPIP	Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PHAC	Public Health Agency of Canada
PHD	Public Health Division, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
PIC	Pandemic Influenza Committee, Public Health Agency of Canada
PIDAC	Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
P/T	Provincial/Territorial
PTAC	Provincial Transfer Authorization Centre, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
UIIP	Universal Influenza Immunization Program, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
VAAE	Vaccine Associated Adverse Events
VAER	Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting
WHO	World Health Organization