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To: Health Care Service Providers

From: Allison J. Stuart, Executive Lead  
SARS Operations Centre

Date: December 4, 2003

Re: Directives

Dear Health Care Providers:

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is releasing a series of new Directives applicable to a range of settings under SARS outbreak conditions.

These directives are quite detailed and, as a result, the documents are fairly large electronic files. To ease the burden on your e-mail inbox and on our e-mail distribution system we have decided to release this new set of Directives in two batches.

The first batch, released today, includes:

- Context piece
- Directive to All Ontario Non-Acute Care Facilities Under Outbreak Conditions
- Directive to All Ontario Acute Care Hospitals Concerning Discharge of SARS Patients (Including Probable and Suspect Cases)
- Directive to All Ontario Acute Care Hospitals Concerning Discharge of Non-SARS Patients Under Outbreak Conditions
- Communication Regarding Laboratory Tests for SARS in Ontario

The second batch will be released on the evening of December 7. It will include:

- Directive to Health Care Providers in Community Settings and Hospital-Affiliated Ambulatory/Outpatient Clinics Under Outbreak Conditions (Excluding Community Care Access Centres)
- Directive to all Community Care Access Centres and Community Support Services Under Outbreak Conditions
- Directives to All Prehospital Care Providers and Ambulance Communication Centres Regarding Management of Patients with Possible Communicable Diseases Including SARS Under Outbreak Conditions
- Questions and Answers

Please ensure that your e-mail inbox has sufficient space to accommodate Sunday's distribution (approximately 1MB). If your inbox is full or cannot accept Sunday's distribution, then please go to the Health Care Providers Section of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web site (<http://www.health.gov.on.ca>). These documents will be posted on the ministry's web site on the same day that they are distributed.

We recognize that this is a substantial amount of information for you and your colleagues to review and appreciate your continued co-operation.

*Original signed by*

Allison J. Stuart