



May 6, 2003

To all Ontario Acute Care Hospitals:

We are writing to you today to reconfirm that all acute care hospitals must ensure strict compliance with the directives issued by the Provincial Operations Centre.

As we are now in the sixth week of this provincial emergency many people may feel that the urgency of the situation is diminished. Even though the number of active cases is declining, health care facilities and professionals must maintain vigilance in combating this disease.

A key component of this vigilance will be ensuring the use of appropriate personal protective equipment and the fit testing of masks.

Please reinforce with your staff that they must not come to work when they are feeling ill. This is particularly important for those staff who work in areas where there is, or could be, exposure to suspect or probable SARS patients.

Your staff, your patients and your community are relying on your organization's efforts to contain the spread of SARS.

Your continued cooperation and adherence to the directives will help Ontario successfully respond to this challenge.

We thank you for your hard work and commitment to the patients in your care.

Original signed by:

Dr. Colin D'Cunha
Commissioner of
Health and Chief
Medical Officer of Health

Original signed by:

Phil Hassen
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care

Original signed by:

Dr. James G. Young
Commissioner of Public
Security