

March 26, 2020

To: Ontario Public Hospitals

From: Mike Heenan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital Division

Re: General approval under subsection 4(2) of the *Public Hospitals Act* for COVID-19 capacity expansion

As efforts continue across Ontario to manage and contain the outbreak of COVID-19, there is a critical need for public hospitals to maximize their capacity to provide care to their communities. The Ministry of Health (the "Ministry") is aware that many of the province's hospitals are seeking opportunities to expand the space they have available to care for patients suffering from COVID-19 and to minimize exposure risks for other hospital patients.

With a view to providing hospitals with the necessary flexibility to meet rapidly evolving service demands, the Ministry is waiving the submission requirements set out under the Section 4 Approvals Protocol relating to approval requests under subsection 4(2) of the *Public Hospitals Act* (PHA).

Pursuant to delegated authority, I am also granting general approval to all public hospitals under subsection 4(2) of the PHA to operate and use an institution, building or other premises or place ("premises") for the purposes of a hospital, provided that the following conditions are met:

- The hospital is leasing, licensing or otherwise acquiring a temporary right to occupy the premises after **March 26, 2020** to address the hospital's need to create greater capacity for the treatment of patients arising from the COVID-19 virus;
- The term of any lease entered into does not exceed **June 30, 2020**.
- The premises are selected with due regard to their suitability for the intended purpose (in view of current exigencies and system challenges) and for the safety of patients, hospital staff and others;
- The hospital agrees to provide to the Ministry as soon as reasonably practicable any information that the Ministry may request relating to the premises including, without limitation, the address, specific premises or portions of premises that are being occupied (e.g. floor(s), unit(s)), purposes for which the premises are being used, number of beds being operated on the premises, details respecting rents, copy of lease or licence agreement, etc.

Be advised that the foregoing does not constitute approval to enter into an agreement of purchase and sale. Any hospital proposing to purchase premises is required to seek Ministry approvals in accordance with the standard process.

Ontario Public Hospitals

This approval remains in effect until **June 30, 2020** unless it is revoked earlier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Heenan", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Heenan
Assistant Deputy Minister