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January 21, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: Allan Thompson <allan.thompson@caledon.ca>

Sent: January 21, 2021 1:14 PM

To: Lockyer, Kathryn <kathryn.lockyer@peelregion.ca>; Adams, Aretha <aretha.adams@peelregion.ca>

Cc: Loh, Lawrence <lawrence.loh@peelregion.ca>; Sandra Sharpe <Sandra.Sharpe@caledon.ca>

Subject: For Regional Council Communications Item

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I received the attached letter today and would like it added as a communication item for Regional Council and also for Dr. Loh to review and provide comments.

Thank you, Allan

Allan Thompson, Mayor

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REFERRAL TO Health Services

RECOMMENDED _____

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Mayor Allan Thompson
Town of Caledon

Dear Mayor Thompson,

Re: Request for priority sequencing in PHASE ONE of Vaccine Implementation

We are writing today as a community based healthcare provider to request priority vaccination of our staff against COVID-19. As the largest Children's Treatment Centre in Ontario, ErinoakKids provides medical and therapeutic care to 17,000+ children and youth each year across the Regions of Peel, Halton and Dufferin County (including high risk "hot zones" of infection in Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville). Our 800 regulated health and other professionals provide critical services to children with physical disabilities (including those who are medically fragile and technologically dependent), have autism, other disorders, and/or are blind or hearing impaired/deaf.

We work with the acute care system as a step down, diverting patients from hospitals to ongoing community care provision, so alleviating strain on a system that is at present functioning well beyond capacity. Many of our patients, because of their diagnoses and related attributes, are at high risk for both transmitting the virus and/or contracting it themselves. Many of our patients, because of their age, diagnosis or disability are unable to mask. Despite adherence to PPE protocols, this puts our staff at heightened risk, as does the type of therapy and procedures they provide to our patients. It is relevant to note that the interventions provided at ErinoakKids are delivered by professionals specialized in pediatric disability, and constitute a critical and scarce resource in the system.

When providing services, our 800 staff ensure adherence to all Public Health guidelines. Employees (and everyone entering our facilities) are fully screened at points of entry, rigorous environmental cleaning practices are in place, and staff are supported with the appropriate level and type of PPE.

We have continued to serve our patients throughout the pandemic, both onsite and virtually. Onsite appointments are currently provided for urgent/priority care, and treatment that cannot be delivered virtually. Current examples of in-person, on-site treatment provision includes (but is not limited to):

- Urgent medical appointments;
- Infant Hearing Program (IHP) screenings and treatment pursuant to the direction of the Ministry of Health;
- These services are hands on and by definition , provided in a confined space with the patient and a parent in attendance;
- Splinting clinics to provide pain relief for patients with neuromuscular disorders;
- Botox clinics to provide intramuscular injections for patients with neuromuscular contractures/pain;
- Administration of federally controlled medication by Health Canada;
- Respite services in a congregate setting for families who are overwhelmed by the necessities of 24/7 care;
- Seating clinics for patients in with wheelchairs to support their functioning at home/elsewhere;
- Support to patients requiring assessment/ delivery of technology by through our Assistive Devices Resource Services (ADRS) professionals;
- Urgent visits by our School Based Rehabilitation (SBRs) Regulated Health Professional staff to children/youth with disabilities (in school and at home);
- Under contract with the Region of Peel through Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) program, providing enhanced support to day care centres with preschoolers with disabilities across Peel Region;

It is on all of the above noted bases that we request of our PHUs and elected officials at the municipal, provincial and federal level priority PHASE 1 sequencing of ErinoakKids staff for vaccination against COVID-19. We provide critical, community-based health care services through specialized staff to a vulnerable, high risk population. We work with and alleviate strain on the acute care system, but need a healthy staff to be able to assist during this critical time in the pandemic in Ontario. Please note that if needed, we are credentialed to administer our own clinics, given availability of the vaccine.

Thank you, and we would ask to hear from you as soon as possible on this important matter. Should you have any queries, we are of course at your disposal.

Best regards,



Pat Bartlett
Chair, Board of Directors



Bridget Fewtrell
President & CEO