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**Subject:** Pandemic Pay Update

**From:** Helen Angus, Deputy Minister

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Dear Partners,

The Ministry of Health appreciates your patience as we have worked to establish the framework for Temporary Pandemic Pay in the health sector.

The attached documents provide guidance to health sector employers on administering Temporary Pandemic Pay. Matters addressed, include, but are not limited to:

- Eligibility;
- Funding Methodology and Payment;
- Statutory Entitlements and Contributions; and
- Record and Reporting Requirements.

I am also pleased to tell you that the necessary transfer payment agreements between the ministry and Ontario Health, Local Health Integration Networks, municipalities and other health sector entities to facilitate Temporary Pandemic Pay are in the process of being executed.

This means that employers should expect that their direct funder will be in touch with them very soon to establish the financial agreements that will provide them with Temporary Pandemic Pay funding.

As such, the ministry encourages employers to begin putting in place the required processes to enable them to begin flowing Temporary Pandemic Pay to their eligible workers as soon as possible.

At this time, I would also like to address certain inquiries and questions the ministry has received in relation to my memo of June 9, 2020 on the subject of the use of government funds in funding Temporary Pandemic Pay. Some of you will have heard the verbal clarification I provided at the June 15<sup>th</sup> Collaboration Table meeting, but I thought it important to follow up in writing with all who received the memo.

As I noted in my memo on June 9, 2020, the Emergency Order passed on May 29, 2020 prohibits all employers, among other entities, from expanding eligibility for Temporary

Pandemic Pay and consequently, funding provided by the government to employers for Temporary Pandemic Pay **must** be disbursed in accordance with the government's eligibility framework for Temporary Pandemic Pay.

For greater clarity, this means that employers will **not** be permitted to use Ontario government funds **of any kind** for the purpose of making other forms of COVID-19-related payments to employees who are otherwise ineligible for the government's own program for Temporary Pandemic Pay. This includes (but is not limited to) any funds previously allocated to an employer for other programs; base funding allocation for operations or services delivery, etc.

I do hope that this clarifies any questions that you may have had in this area. If you have any further questions about this or about Temporary Pandemic Pay in general, please consult the attached guidance materials, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-temporary-pandemic-pay> and/or contact the ministry at [MOH.PPInquiries@ontario.ca](mailto:MOH.PPInquiries@ontario.ca).

Thank you,

Helen Angus  
Deputy Minister