

Fernandes, Krislyn

From: Gordon Fleming <gordon@alphaweb.org>
Sent: March-05-19 12:58 PM
To: All Health Units
Subject: COMOH Resolution: Undetectable = Untransmittable
Attachments: COMOH_Resolution_U=U_210219.pdf

**ATTENTION
CHAIRS, BOARDS OF HEALTH

Dear Board of Health Chair,

Please be advised that the attached resolution was passed by the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health during its February 21 meeting in Toronto. The operative clauses are copied below.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health endorse the message that an undetectable HIV viral load poses effectively no risk of HIV transmission within a comprehensive public health approach to sexual health;

AND FURTHER that the Council of Medical Officers of Health join the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and the Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health in acknowledging the importance of communicating the U=U message as part of a comprehensive public health approach to sexual health.

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WHEREAS advances in treatment and timely interventions and supports have allowed people living with HIV to manage their illness and live a healthy life; and

WHEREAS there have been no confirmed cases of sexually transmitted HIV to an HIV-negative partner when the HIV-positive partner was continuously on antiretroviral therapy (ART) with sustained viral suppression; and

WHEREAS when a person living with HIV on ART takes their medications consistently as prescribed and maintains a confirmed suppressed viral load, there is effectively no risk of their passing the infection on to their sex partners; and

WHEREAS Canada's Chief Public Health Officer and Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health have acknowledged the important work of the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) campaign, which promotes the scientific evidence that indicates that when an individual is being treated for HIV and maintains a suppressed viral load, there is effectively no risk of sexual transmission; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require the use of health promotion approaches to increase adoption of healthy behaviours among the population and create supportive environments to promote healthy sexual practices;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health endorse the message that an undetectable HIV viral load poses effectively no risk of HIV transmission within a comprehensive public health approach to sexual health;

AND FURTHER that the Council of Medical Officers of Health join the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and the Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health in acknowledging the importance of communicating the U=U message as part of a comprehensive public health approach to sexual health;

AND FURTHER that the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and all Ontario Boards of Health be so advised.

CARRIED February 21, 2019