

June 8, 2020



Bruce Lauckner
Transitional Regional Lead West, Ontario Health
CEO for Erie St. Clair, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant, South West and Waterloo Wellington LHINs

Dear Mr. Lauckner,

Re: Ontario Health reporting inaccuracy COVID-19 Enhanced Surveillance of Long-Term Care

On the May 7, 2020, Bruce-Grey COVID-19 Update Call you debriefed myself as the Board of Health Chair and Warden of Bruce County, and Paul McQueen, Warden of Grey County among others on the status of the Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU) with regards to the Enhanced Surveillance of COVID-19 testing in Long-Term Care, as directed by the Ministry of Health, and the data reporting inaccuracy that took place.

In your debrief, you spoke very highly of Dr. Ian Arra as the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Grey and Bruce Counties, and of the GBHU performance. You attested that the GBHU has met and exceeded the Ministry of Health's expectation by reaching testing targets before the required deadlines.

You also explained what led to presenting inaccurate testing data to the Premier erroneously reflecting suboptimal performance of a number of the health unit in the South West Ontario Health Region. The reported number of swabs completed was substantially lower than actual number by a wide margin. For the GBHU, the inaccuracy showed 5% completion rate instead of the actual 45% at the time.

You explained that data from the Ontario Laboratory Information System (about 2 week old data) was possibility used instead of the diligently reported data by these health units on a daily basis.

The inaccurate data resulted in the Premier's statement in the media on May 5, 2020 describing the less than optimal performance of these health units and their MOHs. The Premier's statement was appropriately proportionate to the data that was presented.

You indicated in the meeting, what you had confirmed with the MOH on May 6, 2020, that the data inaccuracy was immediately communicated to the Premier's Office and that correction of the data was to follow.

No further communication has been forth coming from yourself as the CEO or your office representatives regarding this data inaccuracy, nor if the issue has been reported to the Premier's Office for knowledge and correction.

We respectfully request a written response confirming and outlining the following points. First, that the data inaccuracy was appropriately reported to the Premier's Office and the correction was completed. Second, and equally important, that mitigation measures have been implemented to prevent such inaccuracy from occurring in the future.

A healthier future for all.

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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mitch Towlan', with a long horizontal stroke followed by a loop and a short vertical stroke.

Mitch Towlan

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CC

Office of the Premier
Minister of Health
Minster of Long-Term Care
MPP Lisa Thompson
MPP Bill Walker
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams
Boards of Health – Ontario