

May 12, 2020

Dear Municipal CAOs:

I am following up here on the question raised on our last call, regarding staff returning to the office after working from home. [Ontario's framework for re-opening our province](#) indicates that, as public health measures are lifted and as economic activity resumes, remote work arrangements should continue where feasible.

Ontario has shared [sector specific guidance to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#); the link currently provides three guidance resources for the office sector. All documents indicate that staff should work from home whenever possible. When work responsibilities require in-office presence – at the discretion of the employer - suggestions are provided for a range of protective measures. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) supports this recommendation and will continue to take this approach with our own staff, re-assessing on a periodic basis.

Regarding the specific question raised of temperature-taking as part of daily active staff screening, this is not a routine recommendation for office settings or most other settings at this time. SMDHU does not require this of our own staff. As such, while it can be considered as a component of screening at the discretion of an employer, we are not specifically recommending it.

If I can be of further assistance on this or other related matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

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Medical Officer of Health

CG:LS:sh

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