

Ministry of Health

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e-Approval # 172-2021-108
April 30, 2021

Mr. Bill Hatanaka
Board Chair
Ontario Health
525 University Avenue 5th floor
Toronto ON M5G2L3

Dear Mr. Hatanaka:

The Ministry is the executive sponsor of the Ontario Health Data Platform (OHDP), a collaborative initiative to accelerate research and analytics within Ontario to help the province better manage and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your ongoing commitment for the operation and support of this platform for the people of Ontario.

Subsection 18(11) of O. Reg. 329/04 (General) made under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* ("the PHIPA Regulation") provides that Ontario Health, when requested to do so by the Minister, shall disclose personal health information (PHI) to the Minister where the Minister has determined that such disclosure is necessary for the purposes of:

- a) researching, analyzing, investigating, preventing, responding to, or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects; or
- b) evaluating or monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the management of, the allocation of resources to or planning for all or part of the health system.

Pursuant to subsection 18(11) of the PHIPA Regulation, I have made a determination that the PHI set out in Appendix A to this letter is necessary for the purposes set out above, and I hereby request that Ontario Health provide to the Ministry of Health, the PHI set out in Appendix A from Ontario Health's records for those same purposes.

This request shall remain in place until further notice or July 30, 2022, the date s.18(11) of the PHIPA Regulation is set to expire, whichever comes first. Details regarding the disclosure of this information are set out in the Appendix of this letter.

Mr. Bill Hatanaka

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensuring the availability of data and information needed for evidence-based health system decisions, and especially for your support in Ontario's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Elliott".

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Mr. Matthew Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Health
Ms. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Mr. Greg Hein, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

Appendix A

RELEVANT PHI REQUESTED

The Relevant Personal Health Information consists of the following datasets to be disclosed by Ontario Health.

*Note “Data Source” indicates transmission of data files not necessarily PHIPA custodianship.

Data Asset	a) Statement of Purpose & b) Need for PHI	Data Types	Data Source
Provincial COVID-19 Vaccine Solution-COVaxON (COVax)	<p>a) The purpose of this data set is to collect information to understand characteristics of individuals who receive a vaccine for COVID-19 to support and inform the effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine program in the province.</p> <p>b) The PHI is required to conduct analysis with respect to the evaluation, planning, and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the health system, and to support related research for preventing, responding to, or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects in Ontario.</p>	COVax data includes patient demographic information; socio-demographic information and (vaccine administration information (e.g. product, dose, adverse event following injection.)	MOH via ICES via OH
Critical Care Information System (CCIS)	<p>a) The purpose of this data set is to collect comprehensive critical care information on every patient (adult, paediatric, and neonatal) admitted to a Level 3 or Level 2 critical care unit in Ontario’s acute care hospitals. In addition to providing information on critical care service access and utilization, and patient outcomes, CCIS also provides information to inform capacity monitoring, system planning, and effective management of critical care resources in Ontario. The CCIS was implemented in adult and pediatric critical care units in 2009, followed by neonatal intensive care units in 2018. From March 2020, CCIS provides COVID-19 status for patients admitted to adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care unit.</p> <p>b) The PHI is required to conduct analysis with respect to the evaluation, planning, and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the health system, and to support related research for preventing, responding to, or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects in Ontario.</p>	CCIS data includes patient demographic information, hospital information, critical care admission / discharge information including COVID-19 status, clinical data about various clinical supports and interventions required, bed information including ventilators and information about outcomes of critical care including infection rates and other incidents.	HHS via ICES via OH

<p>Integrated Public Health Information System – Case Contact and Management System (COVID-19) (iPHIS-CCM)</p>	<p>a) The purpose of this data set is for reporting case information for all reportable communicable diseases as mandated under the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i> (HPPA) in Ontario. The database is used in Ontario Public Health Units for communicable disease and contact follow-up as well as outbreak management which includes COVID-19.</p> <p>b) The PHI is required to conduct analysis with respect to the evaluation, planning, and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the health system, and to support related research for preventing, responding to, or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects in Ontario.</p>	<p>The iPHIS-CCM includes patient demographic information, public health units and travel information and case and outbreak data.</p>	<p>MOH via ICES via OH</p>
<p>Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS)</p>	<p>a) The purpose of the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS) is to collect dispensing data from dispensaries in respect of all dispensed narcotics, controlled substances and other monitored drugs, irrespective of whether the prescription is paid for under a publicly funded drug program, through private insurance, or by cash for educational and public health and reporting possible criminal conduct to law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>b) The PHI is required to conduct analysis with respect to the evaluation, planning and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the health system, and to support related research for preventing, responding to or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects, specifically in the areas of prescribing practices and use of narcotic analgesics (i.e. opioids), non-narcotic controlled drugs (i.e. stimulants, benzodiazepines, barbituates), and other monitored drugs (e.g. testosterone) in the province.</p>	<p>The NMS includes information on dispensed prescriptions for narcotics, controlled substances, and other monitored drugs.</p>	<p>MOH via ICES via OH</p>

<p>Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS)</p>	<p>a) The purpose of this data set is to provide authorized health care providers with access to laboratory test orders, results from hospitals, community laboratories and public health laboratories. As patients move between hospitals, family physicians, home care and long-term care settings, OLIS makes viewing current and past test results easier and enables treatment decisions to be made at the point of care. The information collected serves the following purposes: providing a comprehensive and complete laboratory test history, monitoring progress of treatments, supporting chronic disease management and creates system cost savings by reducing administrative time spent sending lab results and duplicating tests.</p> <p>b) The PHI is required to conduct analysis with respect to the evaluation, planning, and monitoring of the impact of COVID-19 on the health system, and to support related research for preventing, responding to, or alleviating COVID-19 or its effects, specifically in the areas of clinical lab testing, and disease detection and monitoring.</p>	<p>The OLIS includes patient demographic information; (e.g., birth date, sex, patient address; healthcare provider data (e.g., practitioner licensing numbers); clinical data (e.g., laboratory test results, additional information on test requisitions and test types)</p>	<p>MOH via ICES via OH</p>
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