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July 31, 2020

**MEMORANDUM TO:**

**FROM:** **Richard Steele**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Long-Term Care

**RE:** COVID Alert App

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I am pleased to inform you that the COVID Alert app is now available for free from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

This new made-in-Ontario mobile privacy-first app, a joint initiative of the Governments of Ontario and Canada, lets you know quickly if you may have been exposed to COVID-19. You can then get tested, sooner, to help protect yourself and those around you.

COVID Alert also provides access to the most up-to-date public health advice and resources to anyone who receives a message that they may have been exposed to the virus, including recommended actions, such as: get tested, self-isolate, or monitor for symptoms. To protect the privacy of all users, the app does not share any details about the time, date, or place of any potential exposure; and does not collect or share any personal information, such as the name, phone number, permanent device identifiers, locations or testing status of any users.

By alerting more Ontarians faster of potential exposure to COVID-19 and providing direct access to public health resources, COVID Alert can help keep us safe and help reduce community spread.

While the app is voluntary, I encourage you to download and use the app to help protect yourself and your colleagues. Please promote and introduce this key tool to your colleagues, family, friends and neighbours. The more of us who use the app, the more effective it will be in helping to stop the spread.

Stay safe and don't forget that physical distancing, wearing face coverings, practising good hand hygiene and keeping our social circles safe have been and remain critical in helping us stop COVID-19.

Protect yourself, protect others. We are in this fight together.

Thank you,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY*

Richard Steele  
Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care

**COVID Alert marketing materials can be found on the following Google drive.**