

April 28, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
MPP Etobicoke North  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Medical Laboratory Professionals Absent from Pandemic Pay

Dear Premier Ford,

Thank you for your leadership through this tumultuous period, and your support of the critical work being done by Ontario's healthcare workforce through this pandemic. Because the lab is an often-unseen part of the healthcare system, our members were grateful for your public recognition last week of their round-the-clock work to complete COVID-19 tests.

It has been three days since the announcement of Pandemic Pay to support frontline workers fighting COVID-19. This is an admirable initiative that acknowledges the unprecedented effort and vulnerability of healthcare, social service, and corrections teams. However, the exclusion of Medical Laboratory Professionals from this list is a devastating blow to our members. We have shared our concerns with the Ministry of Health staff and understand you are currently reassessing the categories, and we hope this was merely an unfortunate oversight.

Through this crisis, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technicians have been working 24/7 to reach your target of 14,000 tests per day. This will be accomplished alongside the over 500,000 lab tests daily they continue to perform.

Ontario Labs entered this pandemic understaffed. Medical laboratory teams have not had enough personnel to cover sick days, vacation, or even necessary surgeries. Many are working well past their planned retirement dates to ensure their communities do not go without medical care.

Our members are collecting samples from patients and handling specimens of the COVID-19 virus every day. They are working hard: through long nights, staying well past the end of their shifts to get us the accurate results we so desperately need as a province. They put themselves in harm's way for the health of their patients, for the protection of all Ontarians.



Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario  
L'Association des professionnels des laboratoires médicaux de l'Ontario

The lab is at the centre of healthcare, and Medical Laboratory Professionals are an integral part of the front-line healthcare team responding to COVID-19.

We wonder if the lab was an oversight in the initial assessment of Pandemic Pay. More than ever, we are dependent on lab tests to confront this virus and eventually bringing an end to the pandemic.

We urge you to consider the vital importance of our members to the fight against COVID-19. We look forward to your reply and consideration of our request.

Thank you in advance,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MHoad', written in a cursive style.

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cc: President, MLPAO