

Executives from eight local hospitals are calling on the province to extend [pandemic pay](#) to all hospital workers, saying uncertainty surrounding who gets it is affecting morale.

But it doesn't appear the province will budge.

In an open letter dated May 27, Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand. Brant and Burlington hospital executives — including Rob MacIsaac, president and CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences, and Melissa Farrell, president of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (HHS) — urge the province to give the \$4 per hour pandemic pay raise to all hospital workers. The hospital brass say they want the change to come into effect before the government finalizes its plans for pandemic pay distribution.

“Unfortunately, the lack of clarity and uncertainty regarding pandemic pay eligibility is impacting the morale of our employees and undermining the recognition they are receiving from our communities,” the leaders write. “We value the efforts of all of our employees and we believe they all deserve recognition for their contributions.”

But a spokesperson for the provincial Treasury Board put a damper on any hopes they'll all get a pay bump.

“As Premier Ford has said, we wish we could provide pandemic pay to every single front-line worker who has contributed to the fight against COVID-19,” said spokesperson Sebastian Skamski. “However, unfortunately, there is a limit to the amount of funding provided by the federal government through our shared agreement and we are not able to expand the pandemic pay program beyond the over 375,000 employees already deemed eligible.”

On April 25, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced [some front-line health-care workers would receive a temporary raise of \\$4 per hour](#) during the pandemic. It was then to go to 350,000 staff working in environments such as including hospitals, correctional facilities and long-term care homes and be in effect for four months.

“It's our way of saying thank you,” Ford said at the time.