



Briefing Note

Date: May 12th, 2020
Prepared for: ONWA Staff & Senior Management, Chapters, Councils & Community Partners
Prepared By: Policy, Research, and Evaluation Portfolio
Issue: Briefing of Press Conferences – Provincial/National COVID-19 Announcements

Purpose: To inform ONWA, ONWA Chapters and Councils and community partners on recent developments on COVID-19 for May 12th, 2020.

As of 4:00 pm Tuesday May 12th, 2020

- **Globally:** 4,324,274 cases (+71,984); 291,689 deaths (+4,558); 1,570,749 recovered¹
- **US:** 1,402,225 (+16,391), 83,120 deaths (+1,325)
- **Spain:** 269,520 (+1,377), 26,920 deaths (+176)
- **Russia:** 232,243 (+10,899), 2,116 deaths (+107)
- **Canada:** 71,100 cases (+1,119), 5,167 deaths (+174).
- **Ontario:** 20,907 cases (+361); 1,725 deaths (+56),
 - 1,025 hospitalized, 192 in ICU, 146 on ventilators.²
 - 15,391 recovered (+260), 3,791 active cases (+45)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

Ministry of Health Emergency Operating Center (MEOC) COVID-19 Conference Call

- Daily global cases are still going up but not as much as previously.
- Many countries are continuing with upward trends.
- Saw an increase of 361 cases in Ontario since last report – higher increase than seen over the past 3-4 days. Likely due to increased testing completed over the weekend.
- Ups and downs in daily case counts are normal. Increased testing = increased cases.
- Saw a larger increase in deaths since the last report (+56) whereas the past couple days the number of deaths were in the 30's.
- 9018 tests pending – follows a trend that we've seen to come out of the weekend with a lower number of pending tests and then increase throughout the week. Should expect to see this number go up throughout the week.
- Test positivity percent was at 3.2% the past couple days but now sitting at 3.7%.
- Reproduction number (R0) is below 1.0.
- Hospitalizations dipped below 1000 yesterday but are now back up to 1027.
- 2650 cases cumulatively have been hospitalized.

¹<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

² https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804



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- No new outbreaks in hospitals – 73 total.
- **Long-term care (LTC) homes:** 6 new outbreaks (180 total); no new resolved outbreaks (58 total); 4 new resident deaths (far smaller number than previously); case counts have gone down; outbreaks have gone up but case counts and deaths have gone down.
- **Retirement homes:** 1 new outbreak (72 total); 1 new resolved outbreak (46 total); 2 resident deaths (165 total); 3 new staff cases (258 total); fewer resident cases (552 total).
- **Healthcare workers:** 61 new cases (3407 cumulative); 3 new hospitalizations (130 cumulative); cases in an intensive care unit have stayed at 32 for the past few days.
- **Breakdown of healthcare workers:** 1558 cases in long-term care staff; 292 cases in retirement homes staff; 308 in hospital staff; leaves roughly 1200 unaccounted for.
- Updated acute care guidance document.
- Spent a good amount of time on Friday (May 8) talking about Indigenous communities and efforts there to ensure access to personal protective equipment, support for testing, and align with Public Health measures.
- Guidance document for congregate care settings will be coming soon.

Prime Minister Trudeau Press Conference

- Minister Gould [announced](#) a significant contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's end-game strategy.
- LTC homes have been the hardest hit by this pandemic and it has exposed significant failures of that system that need to be addressed.
- In the coming months we will have time to reflect on how we care for seniors and the federal government will be there to support provinces and territories in their efforts to improve the LTC system.
- Challenges aren't limited to only LTC homes – many seniors are facing increased costs associated with COVID-19.
- Announcing a one-time tax free payment of \$300 to seniors currently receiving Old Age Security (OAS) – approximately 6.7 million recipients.
- Announcing an additional one-time tax free payment of \$200 to seniors receiving both OAS and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) – approximately 2.2 million recipients.
- This means that if you receive both OAS and GIS, you will receive a one-time tax-free payment of \$500.
- Announcing an additional \$20 million in funding for the New Horizons Seniors Program that will help organizations counter loneliness and isolation.

Federal Ministers and Health Officials Press Conference

- 33,254 (47%) of cases in Canada are considered recovered.



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- Tested over 1,145,000 people in Canada – about 6% positivity rate.
- Performing on average 26,000-28,000 tests/day.
- Roughly 20% of cases in Canada are linked to LTC homes.
- Approximately 80% of deaths in Canada are seniors in those settings.
- More than 4 million seniors received the GST credit boost in April.
- Also provided half a billion dollars in funding to the United Way and food banks to help address the unique needs of vulnerable seniors.
- Reduced the minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Fund by 25%.
- Seniors who were working but had to stop because of COVID-19 are eligible for the CERB even while continuing to collect their Canadian Pension Plan and other benefits.
- Today's package of one-time tax-free \$300 payment for recipients of OAS and \$500 payment for recipients of both OAS and GIS totals \$2.5 billion in aid.
- These are individual payments so a couple can expect receive twice the amount as a single senior.
- \$20 million in funding for the New Horizons Seniors Program will help community-based programs reduce isolation, improve quality of life, and maintain social support networks. This means things like virtual exercise classes, tablets and tutorials on video conferencing, delivery of food or medications, etc.
- Temporarily preventing the suspension of GIS and allowance payments if a senior cannot file their taxes on time. The deadline is extended to October 1st – to ensure seniors avoid a disruption in these payments, they need to have filed by then.
- The government's initial response was focused on Canadians who lost their income. We know that seniors generally weren't affected by a loss of income, and if they were, they could apply for the CERB. We also know that seniors are facing increased costs as a result of COVID-19, which is why we are announcing today's additional financial aid.

Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- On Thursday we will share more good news about getting people back to work, about slowly getting back to normal.
- The Ontario government is extending the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
- The additional time will ensure the province has the necessary tools and health care capacity to contain COVID-19, while gradually reopening businesses, services, and amenities safely
- Passed during a special sitting of the Ontario Legislature today, the Declaration of Emergency has been extended until June 2nd.
- Will allow Ontario to continue to enforce current emergency orders, such as prohibiting events and gatherings of more than 5 people.
- A full list of emergency orders can be found on the [e-laws website](#).



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- The House also passed the COVID-19 Response and Reforms to Modernize Ontario Act, 2020, which will help people conduct business while practicing physical distancing by:
 - Enabling corporations to call and hold meeting virtually, and extending the time period in which annual meetings must be held in specific circumstances.
 - Extending, on a one-time basis for 2020, the legislated 4-year period during which a Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) election is mandated to be held to give more time to support remote voting.

Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Continuing on plateau with up and downs. Gradually downward slope with some undulations.
- We have 361 cases today, up from 308 and 294 last two days.
- If today is our weekly max than this is good news.
- 3485 HC workers
- Resolved 15390 or 74%
- Hospitalization 1025, down 2, ICU down 2, 146 vented down 1.
- Deaths 56, total 1725
- LTC homes: 150 active outbreaks. 58 resolved. Increase of 6. 1239 deaths and 4 deaths among staff
- Retirement homes: 72.
- Undulating trend coming down.
- R0 dipping under .9.

Question: Are we in phase 1 or are we going to start in next few days.

Answer: Phase 1 is pandemic phase, phase 2 is next step out of pandemic phase, and there are 3 steps in phase 2.

Provincial Press Releases May 12th, 2020

Declaration of Emergency Extended While Ontario Gradually Reopens the Economy. *New Legislation will allow for more virtual or remote transactions during COVID-19.* [May 12th, 2020, 2:30 P.M](#)