



# Briefing Note

**Date:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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

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**Purpose:** To inform ONWA, ONWA Chapters and Councils and community partners on recent developments on COVID-19 for April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **As of 4:30 pm Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Globally: 3,055,132 cases (+61,870); 211,025 deaths (+4,110)<sup>1</sup>
- US: 1,004,645 cases (+17,485), 56,495 deaths (+1,082)
- Spain: 229,422 cases (+2,793), 23,521 deaths (+331)
- Italy: 199,414 cases (+1,739), 26,977 deaths (+333)
- Canada: 48,229 cases (+1,334); 2,701 deaths (+141)<sup>2</sup>
- Ontario: 14,856 cases (+424); 892 deaths (+57)
  - 8,525 resolved (+525), 5,439 active cases (-158)
  - 945 hospitalized, 241 in ICU, 191 on ventilators.<sup>3</sup>
- (Note: today is first day that all reported regions above had lower daily case increases than previous briefings)

## **Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:**

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

- Currently, there are 14,432 cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. This represents an increase of 436 cases on Saturday, and 437 cases on Sunday.
- **Hot Spots in Ontario:** Toronto, Peel, York, Ottawa, Durham, Windsor, and Waterloo.
- Currently, there are 1,660 individuals hospitalized for COVID-19 in Ontario. There are 241 individuals in Critical Care, and 191 of these individuals are on ventilators.
- **Long-term care home outbreaks:** There are currently 150 long-term care home outbreaks, and there have been 671 deaths in these homes. The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in long-term care homes is over 2,500. The number of staff cases is over 1,100, and 32 outbreaks have been resolved.
- The number of outbreaks within retirement homes sits at 59.

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

<sup>2</sup><https://www.covid-19canada.com/>

<sup>3</sup>[https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?\\_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804)



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- **Healthcare workers:** Currently, the number of cumulative cases among healthcare workers sits at 1,927. This number rose by 110 cases over the weekend. There are currently 73 healthcare workers hospitalized, and 22 of these individuals are in ICU.
- Doris Grinspun, from RNAO, requested the number of cases within homeless shelters and correctional facilities. Doris has been hearing that the outbreaks within these settings are huge, but are not being measured consistently.

## Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau Government of Canada Announcement

- The *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy*, through the Canada Revenue Agency, opened for applications this morning. The payments should start arriving in bank accounts May 7. Since the portal opened this morning, about 10,000 businesses have applied for relief through the Subsidy. The Subsidy is retroactive to March 15, 2020.
- The Prime Minister made clear that individuals can access relief through either the *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy*, or the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit*. It is one or the other, not both.
- The first virtual session of Parliament will happen tomorrow, and the first in-person session of Parliament will occur this Wednesday.
- The Federal government is collaborating with the provinces on shared guidelines (essential principles) for reopening their economies when the time comes. It will be a clear, coordinated effort across the country, but will respect provincial differences.
- Ultimately, it is up to the provinces to determine the way forward, and their plans for re-opening their economies.
- The Prime Minister reiterated that the federal government has tremendous respect for the provinces and their ability to self-determine the plan that is best for them.
- New PPE will be coming in from China throughout this week.

## Federal Ministers and Health Officials Press Conference

- Over 717,000 tests in Canada – 7% positive test rate.
- Pandemic has exposed the fragility of some of our populations; long-term care homes, group housing, those experiencing homelessness, and vulnerable Indigenous communities.
- Dangerous viruses will never go away - if we are to end the tragedy of disease and increased death rates in vulnerable populations we need to look beyond the healthcare system to the expanse of the public health, social, cultural, and economic protections.
- We need to put this virus in a corner where we manage it and not the other way around; we need to adapt our daily lives to handwashing, and physical distancing. At the same time, we need to build protective supports into our social fabric to provide long term protection against future ways of COVID-19 and future pandemics of emerging disease.



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- The issue of false negatives is an area of potential concern. Assessing this will be a part of the immunity task force with serological testing to determine what level of infection actually happened in Canada.
- How and when Public Health restrictions are lifted will be dependent on jurisdictional epidemiology.
- CEWS application through the CRA is open today.

## Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- Our efforts so far have paid off to flatten the curve. Today our experts are telling us that we are in the Peak.
- We are in the position right now to discuss reopening Ontario economy.
- Today, Ontario released its [Framework for Reopening our Province](#).
- Outlines the criteria used for loosening emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces.
- The government is planning a stage-by-stage approach to reopening the economy to ensure there are appropriate measures in place so workplaces can open safely.
- Public health officials will carefully monitor each stage for 2-4 weeks, as they assess the COVID-19 outbreak to determine if it is necessary to change to maintain public health
  - **Stage 1:** ...opening select workplaces that can immediately modify operations to meet public health guidance. Opening some outdoor spaces like parks and allowing for a greater number of people to attend events. Hospitals would begin offering non-urgent and scheduled surgeries.
  - **Stage 2:** Opening more workplaces, based on risk assessments, which may include some service industries and additional office & retail workplaces. Some larger public gatherings would be allowed, & more outdoor spaces would open.
  - **Stage 3:** Opening of all workplaces responsibly and further relaxing of restrictions on public gatherings.
- Throughout each stage, continued protections for vulnerable populations must be in place, along with continued practice of social distancing, hand washing & respiratory hygiene.
- To Chief Medical Officer of Health will provide advice to the government about easing public health measures using a range of set criteria, including:
  - Consistent 2-4 week decrease in number of new daily COVID-19 cases
  - Sufficient acute and critical care capacity, including access to ventilators and ongoing availability of PPE.
  - Approx. 90% of new COVID contacts are being reached by local public health officials within one day,



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- Ongoing testing of suspected COVID-19 cases, especially of vulnerable populations, to detect new outbreaks quickly.
- It is because of the collective efforts of all Ontarians to stay home and stop the spread of COVID-19 that we are able to consider plans to move into the next phase of our battle against this virus.
- We need everyone to continue their efforts so we can meet the criteria & move forward

## Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Today Ontario released it's framework to reopen the province. Each province is doing something similar in a coordinated fashion.
- Over weekend we had 2 consecutive days where daily new cases came down.
- As of 4 pm yesterday 14,853 cases, increase of 424 cases, or 2.9%.
- Increase each day has been going down for last 3 or 4 days.
- 57.5% female. 44% over 60 years old. 67% of our cases are now resolved. While encouraging, we have to remain vigilant.
- 892 deaths recorded.
- We now have 150 LTC homes in active outbreak, 671 deaths and 1 death in a staff person.
- Health Care workers, 2016 who have tested positive (accumulative).
- Lab test total of 242,188 test completed, 5001 under investigation. 12,050 tests done in last 24 hours.

## Provincial Press Releases April 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Ontario Unveils Guiding Principles to Reopen the Province. April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-unveils-guiding-principles-to-reopen-the-province.html>

School Closures Extended to Keep Students, Staff and Families Safe. April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2020/04/school-closures-extended-to-keep-students-staff-and-families-safe.html>

Ontario Supporting Frontline Heroes of COVID-19 with Pandemic Pay. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-supporting-frontline-heroes-of-covid-19-with-pandemic-pay.html>

Ontario Parks to Remain Closed until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am.

<https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2020/04/ontario-parks-to-remain-closed-until-may-31-2020.html>



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Ontario Allows the Redeployment of Staff to Better Care for Vulnerable People During COVID-19. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 am. <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-supporting-frontline-heroes-of-covid-19-with-pandemic-pay.html>