



# Briefing Note

**Date:** April 7<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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **As of 5 pm Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020<sup>1</sup>**

- Globally: 1,418,925 cases (+72,921), 81,507 deaths (+6,853)
- US: 391,665 cases (+24,661), 12,561 deaths (+1,690)
- Spain: 140,617 cases (+3,942), 13,912 deaths (+571)
- Italy: 135,586 cases, (+3,039), 17,127 deaths (+604)
- Canada: 17,847 cases (+1,180), 375 deaths (+52)
  - Ontario: 4,726 cases, (+379), 153 deaths (+21)<sup>2</sup>
  - Quebec: 9,340 cases (+760), 150 deaths (+29)

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

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

- **Number of COVID-19 Cases:** Globally: 1.3 million, 740 00 deaths. Europe (670 000+ cases, 53000 deaths) US (approx. 366,000 cases, 11,000 deaths), Spain (approx. 136,000 cases, 13000 deaths), Italy (approx. 132,000 cases, 16,000 deaths), Germany (surpassed 100,000 cases, 18,000 deaths).
- **US states bordering Canada** – New York 119,000 cases. Michigan 18,000, Pennsylvania 11,500, Ohio 4,000.
- **Number of COVID-19 Cases in Canada:** 16,600+ cases in Canada (Quebec: 8,500 cases, Ontario: 4,300 case, British Columbia 1,266 and Alberta surpassed BC with 1,348 cases.
- **Ontario-specific numbers:** 392 new cases bring total cases in Ontario to 4,347. There are 1,600 resolved cases, and 132 deaths.
- In Ontario, over 500 patients are hospitalized, over 233 patients in ICU and, of that 233 about 187 of those are on ventilators.
- Central East and Central LHINs have the majority on ventilators.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info)

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



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- 5 Top Public health regions with largest numbers are Toronto, 1000+. Peel 500, York 400, Ottawa 300, Durham 200. 100 plus cases in Halton, Niagara, Hamilton, Waterloo, Windsor & Essex.
- **Long-Term Care outbreaks:** There is currently 60 homes that are being tracked with outbreak activity
- **Retirement homes:** Currently, 30 retirement homes have had some outbreak activity
- Over 78000 people tested to date in ON
- Total vented in province is 592 COVID and non-COVID cases, at 70% capacity.
- Health workers 10% of cases, 450 health workers positive, 17 hospitalized, 6 in ICU.
- New case in a remote Indigenous community (Fort Hope FN).

## Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau Government of Canada Press Conference:

- 3M made a deal with the White House and will supply 3M N95 respirator masks to Canada to not cause humanitarian implications. Expecting 500,000 masks from 3M tomorrow.
- 3-point economic plan: supports business owners including new loans, safeguarding jobs through wage subsidy and through Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB). Yesterday was the first day to apply – over 1 million applications to date. Must apply according to your birth month on designated days of the week.
- The production of test kits and PPEs is increasing in production in Canada – producing up to 30,000 made in Canada ventilators.
- Have ordered millions of surgical masks and disinfectant for the hands and Health Canada has authorized the sale of more than 85 of these products in Canada.
- In Ontario, 2,000 emergency room beds have ventilators. The decision is to produce more ventilators to ensure supply and if there is an overage, we can help to fill global demand. It is not known when they will be ready for use but most likely in the coming weeks and months
- Offered messages of support to UK PM Boris Johnson who is in intensive care with COVID
- Extended urgent message to only go out for groceries and necessities despite the temptation with warming weather. The advice remains to stay home, keep 2 metres apart and go out minimally and follow the advice of medical experts regarding the use of masks.
- Those with special skills such as those in the Armed Forces will be offered full time jobs to offer communities support, Health Canada is recruiting volunteers to help frontline workers and 5,000 companies have offered help to produce in demand items
- Public Health Officials' information and decisions change daily according to modelling, facts, what's happening in other countries and what can help. Canada's approach will continue to evolve as needed
- Priority will be to get help out to people with mental health issues and has worked to get supports such as CERB.



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**Question:** What is the federal government prepared to do if COVID-19 spreads in First Nation communities like Fort Hope in North Western Ontario, given its housing crisis and boiled water advisory more than 6800 days?

**Answer:** From beginning have been concerned about impact of COVID-19 on rural, remote Indigenous communities because of pre-existing conditions and vulnerabilities. Have worked with AFN and communities across the country to send resources and continue to respond in any way required. Understand that there are particular vulnerabilities.

## Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- Deal struck with 3M and Canadian government related to N95 masks crossing the border. Great news but we can't rely on global supply chain right now, we can't rely on other countries. We have the ability to make anything here in Ontario and Ontario is stepping up.
- The Ontario Government is taking further action to stop the spread of COVID-19 by actively recruiting health care workers to increase the frontline capacity of hospitals, clinics, and assessments centres.
- Today the province is launching a new online tool that will help match skilled frontline workers with employers.
- The new [Health Workforce Matching Portal](#) will enable health care providers with a range of experience to join the provinces response to COVID-19.
- These providers include retired or non-active health care professional, internationally educated health care professionals, students and volunteers with health care experience.
- The portal will efficiently match the availability and skillsets of frontline health care workers to the employers in need of assistance to perform a variety of public health functions, such as case and contact management.

## Provincial Medical Officer of Health Press Conference:

- 4726 confirmed cases, increase of 379.
- 52% in greater Toronto area.
- 19% travel related. 19% had community exposure.
- Currently deaths 153, 51 in long term care facilities.
- 38% Resolved cases of 1832.
- 614 hospitalizations, 233 ICU, 187 vented.
- 691 under investigation. 4000 tests processed in last 24 hours.



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- 309 new cases yesterday, today numbers are below 300.
- Numbers of tests coming in are diminishing. Which is a good thing.
- Amount of travel related cases gone down.
- People with signs and symptoms are less apparent.
- Looking at priority areas for more testing (LTC, HC workers, Indigenous FN Communities).
- Quebec optimistic with some potential flattening of curve. Some optimism Canada wide of flattening curve but we haven't had word of modelling numbers federally yet.

## April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Helping Indigenous Communities Stop the Spread of COVID-19. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/mirr/en/2020/04/ontario-helping-indigenous-communities-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19.html>

Ontario Calls on all Health Care Workers to Help Fight COVID-19. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:15 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-calls-on-all-health-care-workers-to-help-fight-covid-19.html>