



# Briefing Note

**Date:** April 15<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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **As of 5 pm Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

- Globally: 2,072,269 cases (+74,409); 133,802 deaths (+7,202)<sup>1</sup>
- US: 640,185 (+26,299), 28,306 deaths (+2,259)
- Spain: 177,633 (+3,573), 18,579 deaths (+324)
- Italy: 165,155 (+2,667), 21,645 deaths (+578)
- Canada: 28,205 cases (+1,142); 1,006 deaths (+103)
  - Ontario: 8,447 cases (+494); 385 deaths (+51)
  - Quebec: 14,860 cases (+612), 487 deaths (+52)

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

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

- 4,429 tests pending results, 3,568 resolved<sup>23</sup>
- Hospitalized: 795 cases , In an Intensive Care Unit (ICU): 254 cases (decrease of 1), In an ICU and on a ventilator: 188 cases (reached 80% capacity on vent)
- Boarding States: New York: 200,00 cases; 10,080 deaths; Michigan: 27,001 cases; 1,768 deaths
- Spread is still highest in the GTA at 2,100 cases.
- Currently key focus is on long-term care and retirement homes – working to provide further guidance products soon.
- 117 long-term care homes and 48 retirement homes in outbreak.
- Health workers 887 cases, 42 hospitalized, 13 ICU.
- Down to 2,100 lab samples testing and 5,500 samples have come in.
- Highlighted the 28-day Extension on formal emergency measures until May 12, 2020.
- There will be new announcements to outline the broader action plan for long-term care homes and retirement homes made at 1pm and 3pm EST.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>



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- Further guidance for products on testing also outlined by Dr. Williams at 1pm EST.
- Mental Health and addictions guidance will also be established today.
- Dr. Williams update: Widening the definitions/criteria to analyze for testing, and the positivity rate is dropping slowly, peaking around April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- New official modelling projections using updated data hopefully coming soon – seem to be some indicators that Canada is flattening the curve.
- There is some optimism to be had with that, but there are no intentions to ease up on Public Health measures and restrictions yet.
- PPE situation in Ontario has greatly improved.
- Launching a program for more intensive testing around long-term care homes & priority groups.

## Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Press Conference

- Announcement to top up essential workers pay through CERB to include top up of long-term care/retirement/disability care workers wages, to include seasonal workers, and extend those people who have used up all of their EI or who will run out of EI, as well as include artisans/musicians. This top up is aimed at filling the gaps of the CERB eligibility.
- Eligibility for the CERB top up is applicable to those who are making up to \$1000.00/month and need the support to make ends meet. Federal government will be working with the provinces and territories to roll out this wage boost ASAP.
- A discussion will occur tomorrow evening with the Premiers to discuss and address the issues in long-term care and retirement care homes.
- Launching a mental health portal this week that will provide mental health supports to ensure those who need help can get it, everyone in need is encouraged to reach out.
- Ramping up the manufacturing of COVID-19 test chemicals and swabs/re-agents, test kits/tools for fighting the virus.
- G7 leaders meeting tomorrow to continue coordinating global response and efforts.
- Announcing additional housing/rent support measures for students and seniors around potentially before end of week.
- Cannot rush to re-open, everything we have done and are doing now would be for nothing. Must stay the course until the data, experts and science determines otherwise.

## Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- ['COVID-19 Action Plan: Long-Term Care Homes'](#) was announced today by Province, which will add critical new measures.



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- Aggressive testing, screening and surveillance for symptomatic residents and staff and asymptomatic residents and staff in select facilities across province.
- Managing outbreaks and Spread
- Growing long-term care workforce.
- Province also issued an emergency order directing long-term care employers to ensure their employees only work in one long-term care home, meaning that employees cannot work in multiple locations.
- Special mention to Personal Support Workers

## Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Focus over last 48 hours has been Long Term care facilities.
- Outbreaks in long-term care has been a challenge for every province and territory.
- Numbers.
  - 8447 confirmed in Ontario, an increase of 498.
  - Most of those tend to be female, with 10% higher than males. National level males dominate in cases and death. 49% 60 years and over.
  - 65% of cases in Greater Toronto Area.
  - 385 deaths increase of 51 deaths.
- 98 outbreaks in LTC facilities. Death in LTC went up to 145, increase of 8 or 9.
- Out of 51 new deaths in province, around 42 were from community transmission.
- Number or resolved cases 3902. 46% of all cases are now resolved. That is good evidence
- 896 cumulative healthcare workers infected.
- Hospitalizations are up to 795. Large number of beds still available. Mid 60% occupancy rate. ICU numbers dropped to 254. Those on ventilators dropped by 11 to 188. W
- We have capacity left over in ventilators and ICU. Does that indicate we have reached a peak? We are still waiting for numbers from our modellers.
- 119,092 tests. 6010 tesst done in last 24 hours.
- 494 new cases, 233 are community transmission cases, rest of LTC cases. 261 LTC cases.
- Encouraged by flow of cases here in ON, as community numbers came down from mid 500s to mid 400s, and maybe mid 300s. But first want data people to clarify if we have plateaued and come down.



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### Provincial and Federal Press Releases April 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Ontario Ramping Up Protection for Long-Term Care Residents. April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-ramping-up-protection-for-long-term-care.html>

Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to Continue the Fight Against COVID-19. April 14<sup>th</sup>,

3:30 pm <https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-extends-declaration-of-emergency-to-continue-the-fight-against-covid-19.html>

Government of Canada Further Facilitates Enforcement of the Federal Quarantine Act. April

14<sup>th</sup>, 11:13 am. <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-justice/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-further-facilitates-enforcement-of-the-federal-quarantine-act.html>