



Briefing Note

Date: April 1st, 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 April 1st, 2020.

Key messages:

As of 5 pm Wednesday April 1st, 2020¹

- Globally: 928,057 cases (+69,738), 46,496 deaths (+4,194)
- US: 211,143 cases (+22,613), 4,713 deaths (+660)
- Italy: 110,574 cases, (+4,782), 13,155 deaths (+727)
- Spain: 102,179 cases (+6,256), 9,131 deaths (+667)
- Canada: 9,560 cases (+948), 112 deaths (+11)
 - Ontario: 2,392 cases, (+426), 37 deaths (+4)²
 - Quebec: 4,611 cases (+449), 33 deaths (+2)

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

- Canada 8,612 cases, 4,162 in Quebec.
 - Deaths 31 in Quebec, 24 in BC 17, 9 in Alberta.
 - 410 Care homes in Quebec have COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Ontario had 260+ new cases yesterday, total 1,987 cases, 40 deaths.
- 56% of cases in Ontario are in the City of Toronto.
- 431 resolved cases. Determining resolved cases differently now, not by two negative lab test 24 hours apart anymore.
- Backlog of test coming down, now 4,000 (compared to 5,500 yesterday).
- 2,000 hospital patients, 143 in critical care, 97 vented.
- 12 Long-term care homes reported, aware of more, closer to 30 have an outbreak.
- Memo – Directive: Do not purchase more medicine than you need. Do not exacerbate local OTC and pharmaceuticals, pressurizing shortages.
- Dr. Williams to clarify directive #3 announced yesterday, providing details and clarity on Long-term home facilities (outbreak, monitoring and assessing actions).
- Enhancing case contact management and online resources/tracking.

¹ www.worldometers.info

² <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



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- Toronto Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David McKeown postponing retirement and will be heading up the new PH Measures Table that will assess PH measures to enact/metrics to measure moving forward.
- PPE Table is still working with Federal counterparts, sub tables are also continuing and evolving, process is ramping up.
- Hosting webinars later today for long-term care and Health Units to provide detailed guidance and discussion regarding outbreak management, prevention, control. These webinars will be taped and shared with retirement homes, and possible other necessary institutions.

Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald

Question: Cluster outbreak management – those connected with people who have been found positive, or encounter those who test positive? Can we get directive and support on cluster outbreak management?

Question: Emergency policy about PPE/masks? We are extremely high-risk population. Can we look into portioning out masks and PPE provisions to slow the spread?

Question: How can we enforce the Emergency Order in First Nations? Can you work with our Chiefs on this?

Answer: We are providing ongoing guidance and are looking at how to ratify PH measures in a way that is consistent and respectful of the authorities of communities.

Analysis: these key concerns and questions by Chief RoseAnne Archibald are revealing in that the regional Chiefs are in critical need of information and direction and are seeking support on emergency preventative health management to combat this pandemic and the overwhelming risk.

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

- Clarification on Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS):
 - CERB: For those who have already applied or are currently receiving EI, do not apply for the CERB, you will be continued to be covered by EI.
- CERB will begin April 6th to make the request online – choose whether you want the check in the mail (can take up to 10 days) or via direct deposit (immediately).
 - Online may be overwhelmed, so you can try calling Canada Revenue Agency to aid you.
 - Only need to confirm once a month that you are still unemployed.
 - You must choose CERB or CEWS, cannot be on both – one or the other.
- CEWS is wage subsidy to businesses of 75% for employees' wages, where the businesses must cover the 25% of the wage top up.
- CEWS is available to those that are not publicly funded.



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- There will be severe penalties for those who try to take advantage of others during this time. There will be fines and legal recourse.

Question Period

Question: Transparency of supply of PPE and reserves? Can you guarantee we will not run out and that there won't be shortages moving forward?

Answer: Cannot guarantee this. We are working very hard to obtain and disperse the PPE and address the critical the needs. Needs and shortage will depend heavily on the citizens. The choices we make and are making, to keep each other safe.

Federal Cabinet Ministers' Press Conference

- Over 250,000 tests completed with 3.7% positive results and 95% negative results
- People over the age of 60 account for 60% of hospitalizations and 93% of deaths
- Public Health Canada [website](#) now contains epidemiological information (charts and graphs):
- Launched **Canada COVID-19 app** – available online [here](#): Google Play [here](#): Apple App Store [here](#):
 - Up-to-date information about COVID-19 . Advice for preventing spread, important contact information, seeking medical help, check symptoms
- Digital mental health toolkit is coming soon
- **CERB Update**
 - 2.13 million applications for EI were received – 430,000 of applications processed
 - EI system streamlined to process 400,00 applications/day, which will see backlog cleared up soon.
 - EI system not designed to support this large volume of applications, which is why CERB portal will be available soon on April 6th
 - If you applied for EI there is no need to apply again for the CERB – you will be automatically enrolled.
 - CERB applications that opt for direct deposit will see money within 3-5 days; waiting for a cheque in the mail will take 10 days
 - Option for people without a computer or online access through the phone via Service Canada at **1-800-959-2019**
 - More info available at [here](#) and [here](#)
 - Asking people to make claims over 4 days depending on their birth month
 - For example: On April 6th, if your birthday is January, February, March
 - April 7th – April, May, June
 - April 8th – July, August, September
 - April 9th – October, November, December
 - On the weekend – any month

Premier Doug Fords Press Conference



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- Facing a ruthless enemy, a virus spreading around the world at an alarming rate, if we are going to beat this enemy, we need to remember that this virus doesn't travel on its own. People move the virus.
- This morning the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario announced, any expected of having virus, in contact with a confirmed case will be in lockdown for 14 days.
- 1000s of lives at stake, today will determine what we face tomorrow. These next two weeks will be absolutely critical, we know a surge is coming.
- Today we are giving Ontario businesses \$50 million in a new Ontario together fund. For factories to retool factory lines to make supplies that we need.
- We put in an order for 10 000 ventilators, made right here in Ontario for hospitals.
- We have a lot of work to do, but I truly believe we will get there. We will build what we need right here in ON, then we focus across on the needs across the Country.
- To help business develop successful proposals, we're announcing the Ontario Together Fund. One time Funding for \$50 million available to companies across province. Retooling and building capacity quickly and efficiently. www.Ontario.ca/ontariotogether

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- As testing backlog decreases, due to improvements in testing capacity, you will see sudden increases in confirmed cases, representing time 5 to 10 days ago.
- Number today
 - 2392 confirmed Increase 426 cases.
 - Total of 37 confirmed who have passed away.
- Public Health Units may be publicly reporting a death prior to it being in the provincial system, so there is a lag in death rates.
- 12 deaths related to outbreaks in Long term Care facilities.
- A new directive for Long-term Care homes, all asymptomatic both residents and staff will be tested.
- 689 resolved cases (30%) of total. 332 in hospital, 145 in ICU, 98 on ventilators.
- 58 000 individuals in Ontario tested, 3100 backlog awaiting results. Backlog of tests should be cleared this week.
- Goal is to move beyond 15 000 tests/day, possibly up to 18 000 test/day.
- Week of March 16th many travellers came back, we are now dealing with the tail of that. Some of those travelers will be hospital, in ICU and/or ventilated.

Question Period

Question: Guidance document has been released that limits the number of family members supporting women in labour from 2 to 1. Many women scheduled to give birth in next couple weeks. Women are scared that that might change and hospitals may restrict everyone accompanying women into labour. Do you see this happening in the near future?



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Answer: At the moment we are trying to be sensitive to that. The 'good ol days' there was no one allowed in anyways. The hospital may want to take further steps, fortunately we are not there yet as of today.

April 1st 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Joins Forces with the Private Sector to Fight COVID-19 April 1st, 1:15 pm.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-joins-forces-with-the-private-sector-to-fight-covid-19.html>

Public Required to Identify Themselves if Charged with Breaching an Emergency Order During the COVID-19 Outbreak March 31st, 9:00pm

https://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2020/03/public-required-to-identify-themselves-if-charged-with-breaching-an-emergency-order-during-the-covid.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p