



# Briefing Note

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

## As of 4:00 pm Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- **Globally:** 3,894,917 cases (+77,535); 269,274 deaths (+4,437); 1,332,719 recovered<sup>1</sup>
- **US:** 1,283,951 (+20,859), 76,450 deaths (+1,651)
- **Spain:** 256,855 (+3,173), 26,070 deaths (+213)
- **Italy:** 215,858 (+1,401), 29,958 deaths (+274)
- **Canada:** 64,817 cases (+1,321), 4,404 deaths (+172).
- **Ontario:** 19,121 cases (+399); 1,477 deaths (+48),
  - 1,033 hospitalized, 220 in ICU, 155 on ventilators.<sup>2</sup>
  - 13,569 recovered (+347), 4,075 active cases (+4)

## Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- **Globally:** passed 3.8 million
- **UK:** Seeing exponential growth with 201,101 cases, close to surpassing Italy for top 3
- **Russia:** 11,000 new cases, fastest growing country right now. 177,160 cases.
- **Brazil:** 12,000 new cases, 127,389 cases.
- **US:** 1.2 million.
- **Ontario:** 19,123 cases yesterday, up 399. Still hovering around 400 range for daily new cases over last few days.
- **Tests:** 12,691 in last 24 hours. 8,800 outstanding tests.
- **Long-term care homes:** No change in number of outbreaks, 4 more have resolved. 12 more residents confirmed, 50 more staff confirmed. 37 more deaths, total 1111 deaths total. 2841 resident, 1671 staff.
- 70 retirement homes outbreaks, 2 more deaths.
- Healthcare workers, change 118. 3141 cases
- Retail stores now allowed to provide Curbside pick up.

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

<sup>2</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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- New website released on pandemic pay. Is that all there is there more coming. Yes there is more coming.
- Will expect to see more related to Indigenous communities and how to help them at collaborative table today.

**Question:** Yesterday's announcement sounds like we are in Phase 2. How can we start to re-open when haven't met the criteria (i.e. ↓cases, access to PPE, 90% ct tracing)?

**Answer:** there is consideration for some of this for reopening, I don't think we would characterize ourselves in phase 2 with around 400 new cases a day. The status of contact tracing, available PPE, ability to identify and contact cases quickly. Objective for next week is to have a quest speaker come in next week to discuss reopening.

**Question – Grand Chief Archibald, COO:** We require increased testing capacity, increased tracing support & isolation (capital infrastructure) capabilities & increased PPEs before we can open up. Any plans to support this?

**Answer:** Those are general requirements that we want to make sure are in place if we want to open economy. Want to make PPE is in place, contact tracing capacity is there, testing capacity has expanded for LTC homes and available for priority groups such as Indigenous populations. Yes we are working on plans to tighten contact tracing and working on next step plans on testing for next phase of testing.

## Prime Minister Trudeau Press Conference

- Yesterday I attended a [ceremony](#) in the honour of the 6 victims of the terrible military helicopter crash. We will never forget their service. Members of the Canadian Arms forces are always there to put their lives at risk
- In Ontario, 265 Canadian Armed Force members deployed to 5 LTC homes.
- In Quebec there are 1020 members of the military assisting in 20 LTC homes
- In Nunavik, 200 members of military deployed.
- Today I am announcing, a deal that we have reached with all provinces and territories to improve salaries of essential workers. It was a joint effort; all premiers agree that we must support our frontline workers.
- It will be up to each province to determine how much of an increase, but the bottom line is, if you are putting your life at risk and you are receiving minimum wage, you deserve a top up.

## Federal Health Officials Press Conference

- Over 28,000 (44%) of cases in Canada have recovered.
- Over 1 million tested completed across Canada – 6% positive test rate.
- This week there was an average of 25,000 people tested daily.
- Today's mental health week focus is on children and youth mental health.
- Providing information and extra nurturing will help kids and youth get through this.
- Lots of good tips online like the [Kids Help Phone](#) website.



# Briefing Note

- As mentioned yesterday, talking things out helps to process emotions, which is also true for kids and youth.
- Talking about your emotions and feelings first can help them to open up and voice their own struggles.

## Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- COVID-19 presents a serious threat to our healthcare system and could have very easily overwhelmed our hospitals had we not taken extreme measures, like cancelling surgeries and procedures.
- These were very tough decisions to make but they ensured we would have the capacity to handle serious outbreaks or surges.
- As we see the curve continue to flatten and trends continue to improve, we are now in a position where we can plan for the gradual resumption of scheduled and elective surgeries and procedures.
- Ontario has developed a [framework](#) based on the advice and leadership of experts and leading clinicians across the province in collaboration with Ontario Health.
- Cardiac and cancer related surgeries and procedures are of high priority.
- Designed to help hospitals develop feasibility plans take an equitable, measured, and responsible approach that prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of patients and healthcare workers.
- Timelines for when hospitals will resume surgeries and procedures will vary as each hospital meets the criteria set out by Ontario Health. Criteria include:
  - Stability of COVID-19 cases.
  - Adequate supply of personal protective equipment and medications.
  - Adequate capacity of in-patient and intensive care beds.

Stable staffing-levels of personnel needed to perform surgeries and procedures.

## Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Overall we are heading in a good direction.
- 44% of cases are in people 60 years of age and older.
- The Greater Toronto Area continues to have the majority of cases – 61%.
- Healthcare workers with COVID-19 account for 6.4% of the cumulative total of cases.
- 13,569 (71%) of cases in Ontario are resolved, which is approximately half of all recovered cases in Canada.
- Back up to performing over 15,000 tests/day.
- Over 13,000 tests pending results.
- Positivity rate has dropped to 4.1%; continuous decreasing of positivity rate.
- Overall Ontario's case rates are staying stable and slowly coming down.
- Over 40% of long-term care (LTC) homes surveillance completed; should be at 50% by the end of the week and hope to be 100% completed by the end of next week.



# Briefing Note

- Will be testing all staff at emergency childcare centres – hope to be completed by the end of next weekend.

## **Provincial Press Releases May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Ontario Protecting Forestry Jobs & Worker Safety During COVID-19. *Province invests in worker safety to prevent the spread of the virus.* [May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 11:00 A.M.](#)

Ontario Releases Plan to Resume Scheduled Surgeries and Procedures. *Hospitals must continue to maintain capacity to respond to COVID-19.* [May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 1:00 P.M.](#)

Ontario Funds Innovative Company to Help Fight COVID-19. [May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 4:00 P.M.](#)