



Briefing Note

Date: May 19th, 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 May 19th, 2020.

As of 4:00 pm Tuesday day May 19th, 2020

- **Globally:** 4,956,756 cases (+68,601); 323,095 deaths (+3,985); 1,941,288 recovered¹
- **US:** 1,561,766 (+11,472), 92,812 deaths (+831)
- **Russia:** 299,941 (+9,263), 2,837 deaths (+115)
- **Spain:** 278,803 (+615), 27,778 deaths (+69)
- **Canada:** 79,070 cases (+998), 5,909 deaths (+67).
- **Ontario:** 23,384 cases (+427); 1,919 deaths (+15),
 - 17,898 recovered (+260), 3,567 active cases (+152)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- Directive 2 and the status of reopening.
- 4.9 million Globally. 1.8 million in Europe.
- US 1.5 million. Close to 92 000 deaths.
- Russia is now next highest country closest to US. Close to 300 000 cases.
- Brazil and India rising fast in case counts
- Friday 391 new cases, sat 340, Sunday 304. Monday 427. 23,394 total. 17,900 resolved. Deaths 1919 deaths, up 15. Quite a low change we have seen in a couple days.
- Lab Testing: 18 000 on Friday, 17000 on Sat, 9000 on Sunday. Lab positivity is in 3% range. 7.8% lab positive on Sunday
- Now less than 1000 hospitalized currently.
- Toronto 8000
- Ottawa 1200
- Waterloo approaching 1000

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



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Testing:

Total tests completed	492,487
Total tests completed in the previous day	17,429
Currently under investigation	17,578

Hospitalizations:

Number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19	987
Number of patients in ICU with COVID-19	167
Number of patients in ICU on a ventilator with COVID-19	123

Long-term care (LTC) homes:

Ministry of Long-Term Care Daily Report²

Outbreaks in LTC Homes	190
Confirmed Cases for LTC Residents	2538
Confirmed Cases for LTC Staff	1615
Total confirmed LTC resident deaths	1408
Total confirmed LTC staff deaths	5

Prime Minister Trudeau Press Conference

- Trudeau offered condolences to the family of Capt. Jenn Casey and the Snowbirds team
- Extended the wage subsidy through the summer to assist people to get back to work and give business confidence to recover and rehire.
- Announced expansion of eligibility of the [Canada Emergency Business Account \(CEBA\)](#). For Sole owner/operators of businesses, business that relies on contractors or family owned business that pays employees through dividends may now qualify.
 - Minister Ing is working on potential solutions to help business owners/entrepreneurs who operate through their personal account or newly created businesses who have not yet filed a tax return.
- Over the past few weeks PPE inventory and face shields has doubled and over the weeks to come hundred of thousand of hospital gowns, glasses and swabs will be delivered to provinces and territories. Received an order of ventilators from the US but are continuing to increase our own production capacity.
- Celebrated Canada's first University in the North – Yukon College is now becoming the new Yukon University. Provided \$26 for a new science building.
- The provinces desire that the current measures at the US border be maintained as they are a vulnerable point for COVID cases coming into Canada and has been extended to June 21st.

² <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-ontario-is-responding-covid-19#section-0>



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- Increased contact tracing and testing will be key to reopening the economy. Need to ensure that there is capacity nationally to respond to wherever there may be a flare up of COVID-19 and having significant resources across the provinces. Federal government will be investing in a national framework on testing and contact tracing with the provinces.
- Will be cautious with the reopening of Parliament as with all sectors of the economy but have maintained successful virtual sittings. Concerned with reopening that some MPs will be unable to come to Ottawa because of family's safety and therefore parts of the country will not be reflected in our democratic institutions. Put forward proposal for combined virtual and in person sittings.
- Canada will continue to support the World Health Organization (WHO) even as we seek improvements. Concerned about the relationships between the largest donors to multilateral institutions and the function of them (i.e. large funding from China to WHO). Moving through COVID we need to ask questions about the strength and independence of those organizations to do the things necessary to keep everyone safe globally and will be real questions regarding China that need to be answered.

Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- Publicly funded schools closed for the rest of the school year
 - Decision was made after consulting with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - At this time, the government is planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the gradual reopening of childcare, and the opening of summer day camps subject to continuing progress in key public health indicators
 - Nothing is more important than protecting our kids in this province. Today's announcement gives parents' certainty, knowing that their children can continue learning safely at home.
 - All students who were on track to graduate from secondary school will be able to graduation, and all students will receive report cards.
- This summer, government will announce plan to strengthen learning and safety protocols to enable students to return to class for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - That plan will be bolstered by an enhanced province-wide virtual learning program that will allow all students to learn, regardless of the challenges that may transpire in the coming months.
 - Private school, licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed.
 - A gradual reopening of childcare is expected to begin when the province is ready to transition to Stage 2 of Phase 2.



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- The province unveiled an expanded seven-point summer learning plan to ensure students learn over the summer. Summer learning programs are being expanded to reach the most students in Ontario history.
- Ontario has [extended all Emergency Orders](#) currently in force until May 29th, 2020.
 - Includes closure of bars and restaurants except for takeout/delivery.
 - Restrictions on social gatherings of more than 5 people
 - Staff redeployment rules for LTC homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters.
- Government is allowing drive-in religious services.
- Government permitting reopening of some outdoor recreation amenities, including
 - Outdoor sports facilities, multi-use fields, off-leash dog areas, outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in parks effective today.
- Outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment, fitness equipment, public swimming pools, splash pads will remain closed until later stages of reopening plan.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- We are now in Stage 1 of Phase 2. Still refraining from gatherings over 5, social distancing, etc.
- First two-week period of stage 1 of phase 2.
- Today is Personal Support Worker Day
- Daily new cases over weekend remained below 400.
- 17% of our cases are in healthcare workers.
- Those recovered is now 77%, or 17,898 cases resolved.
- 987 people in hospital, 167 in ICU, 123 on ventilators.
- To date, 1,919 deaths have been reported.
- LTC homes, until now, the data provided was based on Integrated Public Health Information Systems (IPHIS). Starting today, the number of cases reported will be on the number of lab confirmed cases in LTC homes.
- 220 active outbreaks in LTC homes. 4235 confirmed cases in residents cumulative, 1015 deaths, 3 deaths for health care workers.
- 64 retirement homes in outbreaks, 118 deaths.

Provincial Press Releases May 19th, 2020

Ontario Collaborates with Med-Tech Innovations Hub in the Fight Against COVID-19. *Assistance available for manufacturing companies retooling to support the front lines.* [May 19th, 2020, 2:00 P.M.](#)



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Health and Safety Top Priority as Schools Remain Closed. *Government unveils plans for reopening child care, day camps and initiatives to strengthen learning into this summer.* [May 19th, 2020, 1:15 P.M.](#)

Ontario Extends Emergency Orders to Keep People Safe. *Some Outdoor Recreational Amenities Reopening with Restrictions.* [May 19th, 2020, 10:00 A.M.](#)

Ontario Announces Independent Commission into Long-Term Care. *Government commits to improving system following COVID-19 outbreak.* [May 19th, 2020, 9:00 A.M.](#)