



Briefing Note

Date: April 3rd, 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 3rd, 2020.

Key messages:

As of 5 pm Friday April 3rd, 2020¹

- Globally: 1,091,332 cases (+76,267), 58,524 deaths (+5,357)
- US: 272,760 cases (+27,883), 6,991 deaths (+921)
- Italy: 119,827 cases, (+4,585), 14,681 deaths (+766)
- Spain: 117,710 cases (+5,545), 11,009 deaths (+661)
- Canada: 12,375 cases (+1,092), 208 deaths (+35)
 - Ontario: 3,255 cases, (+462), 67 deaths (+14)²
 - Quebec: 6,101 cases (+583), 61 deaths (+14)

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

- Globally passed 1 million cases. Approaching 54 000 deaths.
- Over half of this number are on the European continent. 39 000 deaths.
- US continues to be largest with 245 000+ cases. Italy, Spain, Germany now passed China.
- Canada now at 11 200 cases, 138 deaths
- Ontario has 1793, 53 deaths. Over 62000 people tested.
- Backlog down to 2000 tests.
- 26 LTC homes in outbreak.
- Hospitalized 400, 194 ICU, 140 vented. 10% of cases in HC workers and 11 hospitalized.
- Telehealth call volumes 8000 calls a day, down from 15000 from day prior.
- Online portal where you can check your lab results from home.

Question: We had some of essential employees now being stopped by police asking them where they are going. This is causing some extra stress for our racialized essential workers.

¹ www.worldometers.info

² <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



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Answer: What police jurisdictional regions are these? (Toronto & Hamilton). We will bring this back to attorney general.

Question: How many vents not being used are available at this time

Answer: Over 50% vent capacity remaining. Don't know exact number right now

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

- Food banks are having challenges, fewer volunteers as people are staying home, fewer donations, and food banks getting more and more calls, they are being overwhelmed.
- The work being done by Foodbank and volunteers is essential. I am announcing \$100 million dollars to support people get the food they need in Canada, as well as in northern and indigenous communities.
- Our government is also supplementing the GST credit. Initially announced money would be available in May, but the money will be delivered this April
 - Every qualifying adult will receive \$300, plus \$150/child.
- Major banks will be doing direct deposits.
- Sunday, Trudeau will be holding a video conference with DR Tam, Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- 3M, leading mask manufacturer, [ordered by Trump](#) to stop exporting N95 Masks to Canada

Question: Yesterday you were going to follow up with US about the divergence of N95 masks to Canada. Will Canada respond by refusing to send masks to the US.

Answer: We want to make that trade with the US continues in both directions and we want to encourage the government to do that. In the present we are confident we will see what we need. We are working with US officials to stress to the US how it is in the best interests for both our countries to keep trade flowing in both directions.

Question: In less than an hour Ontario is going to release projections. Don't you think it important to follow Premier Ford's lead to inform Canadians how many people might die?

Answer: We need to make sure projections are valid and reliable, we need to make sure we have a better grasp on the accuracy of the projections before we put information out there.

Question: Pharmacies are scared there will be a shortage of Ventolin (Asthma puffers).

Answer: We are working with international communities to make sure there are no shortages in Canadian hospitals in terms of medical supplies for those who need them.

Federal Cabinet Ministers' Press Conference

- Food banks are facing a challenging time – loss of volunteers and increase in need



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- Trudeau announced a \$100 million fund to support food banks and front-line services
- Counting on 5 major food distribution channels
 - Food Bank Canada - \$50 million
 - 2nd Harvest, Community Food Centres Canada, Breakfast Club of Canada, and the Salvation Army - \$5 million for a total of \$20 million
 - Remaining \$30 million - allocated later to fill gaps and respond to future needs
- Regional/local food banks need to ensure they are connected to one of the above-mentioned 5 major food distribution channels
- Announced that through the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, as of today, 362 projects across the nation have received funding totaling \$6.6 million
- Encouraging healthy and available people to consider volunteering
- Encouraging people to support their local food banks (donations etc.)

Ontario Expert Panel on COVID-19 Projections

- Objective: to release projection data that is being used to inform provincial government
- We feel it is important to be transparent with the public about the scale of our challenges and what needs to be done to flatten the curve.
- How this outbreak unfolds is in the hands of the public. We can change the outcomes by staying at home and physical distancing from each other.
- The high mortality rate of those over the age of 80 is 16%; less 20% globally over 80.
- Over 70, 10% global mortality rate. It tells us that we must focus on protecting the elderly.

**COVID-19: Cases and Deaths by Age Group
(January 15 to April 2, 2020)**

Age Group	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Ratio (%)
19 and under	82	0	0
20-39	945	0	0
40-59	1,178	7	0.6
60-79	821	24	2.9
80 and over	226	36	15.9
Unknown	3	0	0
Total	3,255	67	2.1

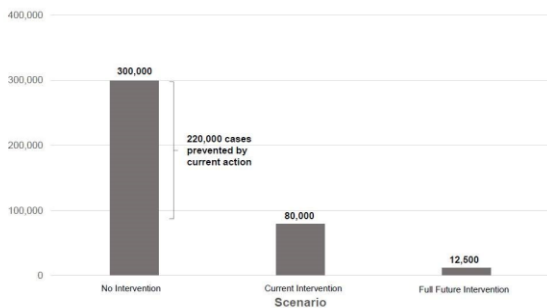
- In Ontario, we are following a trajectory similar than that in the United States.
- We are inline with the rest of Canada, and the US in terms of projected deaths.
- Projections based on measures we have taken such as closing schools, implementing social distancing, closing non-essential businesses etc....
- Important to note that these projections only work if people follow restrictions



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- Significant number of deaths: 100 000 in 30 days if we have not taken measures, 300 000 cases with no intervention. Might see 80 000 cases, 12 500 we will see by end of April if we take enhanced measures.
- Had we taken no action, up to 6000 deaths. 1600 deaths with current measures.
- Were we to take strong action, the number of deaths in month of April would be 250.

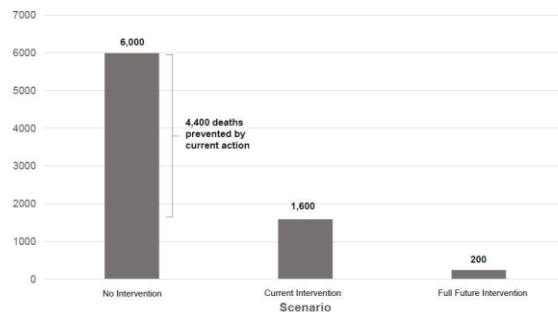
Projected Ontario Cases by April 30, 2020



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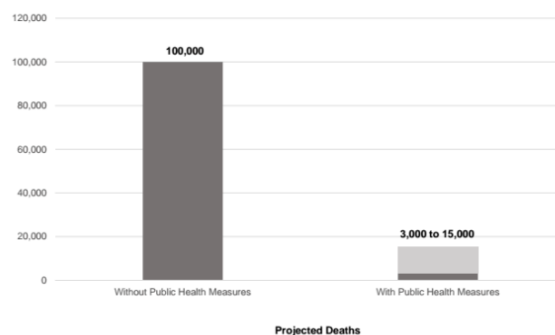
Projected Ontario Deaths by April 30, 2020



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Projected Ontario Deaths over Course of Pandemic



Note: Range depends on implementation of maximum public health measures



- Pandemic may last 18 months to 2 years, as we may have 2nd or 3rd waves over the course of pandemic.
- Had we done nothing, we may have suffered 100 000 deaths. Thankfully that is not position we are in.
- If we do everything that we can think of, we can reduce death to 3000 to 15 000. Where we end up, depends on all of us. If we follow rules, we can get as low as possible.
- Important thing to stress that effective actions have and remain in place and further action will be taken.



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- If we do not adhere to Social Distancing. April to early May, we will be pushed beyond health care and ICU capacity.
- R_0 = Reproductive number of this virus. If I was sitting here with COVID, and gave it to two people the R_0 would be 2, but if those two isolate and wash hands, they will break the chain of spread and bring the R_0 below one, and the disease will teeter off.
- If we bare down hard, it will bring the disease to an end quickly and will bring the economy back more quickly.

Additional public health measures which are coming:

- Enhanced capacity of case contact tracing.
- Increase testing
- Reduce number of essential workplaces
- Enhanced focus on enforcement and fines for non-compliance
- Expand direction on physical distancing
- Enhanced support for elderly, homeless and vulnerable communities.
- Consider entry restrictions in some communities including First Nations.
- Use of technology to reinforce self-isolation (alerts)
- Additional public education and communication (shelter in place)

Question: Can you walk us thru the projected death rates of 3000 to 15 000. How can we push that to the low end?

Answer: every year in Ontario we lose 1350 to flu. COVID mortality ten times higher than flu, with no vaccine, 15 000 is entirely logical and possible. But we have social distancing measures, so this pushes us back toward 3000 from 15000, we need to bear down.

Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- Every commercial industrial site must be shut down but will continue with minimized construction such as sewer, water and construction of hospital and houses. Will not hesitate to shut down non-essential construction sites.
- In light of the modelling projections, Ontario has already been doing all the precautions needed despite not having the projections sooner.
- In response to President Trump's decision to halt 3M products to Canada,
 - Ford is in talks with manufacturers regarding N-95 masks and ventilators and will not allow Ontario to be put in the position of being without again.
 - Will be expediting supplies out in the millions as soon as they are produced. In the next week will be ramping up production and at the time being have enough



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supplies in Ontario. We need level 2 surgical masks – the emphasis has been on N-95 masks.

- Stay home with this weekends warm weather – if we don't, hospitals will be in trouble
- Will do everything it takes and enact full measures if need be, to ensure safety and save lives. However, people must have access to food on their tables, medicine and gas and don't want to create civil disobedience for people to get essentials like food
- Ford did not indicate whether he will urge Prime Minister Trudeau to enforce the Emergency Protections Act
- Telehealth is operating at unprecedented levels of operation, looking at having hospitals to pursue alternate space in hotels, working hard to protect our frontline workers
- Canadian borders are now closed and 1 million Canadians have returned home
- Enhanced testing and limited visiting in long-term care homes is being implanted to ensure that safety is the top priority for residents
- This is no time for complacency, and we must remain vigilant. Please stay home. If you don't stay home, a rapid rate of occurrences and deaths will take place
- Increasing emergency hospital spaces and doctors who have the authority to pursue renting place in hotels, nursing homes and other spaces. Received over 10,000 applications from nurse retirees, students and other volunteers who want to help in various areas depending on what each hospital requires and are ready to be employed as needed.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- There is no doubt what we have done so far, has had a big impact. At the same time, there is more to be done.
- We are through that phase with people coming back from spring break.
- Border security reporting considerable dropped off in border crossing since March 23rd.
- The next two weeks period is the other side of the two week people inflow. We will see how well our measures have been successful.
- 67 000 people tested so far. Last 24 hours processed 5500 tests. Now only 1245 backlog, which is within daily testing capacity, so it's not considered a backlog anymore.
- New stricter measures in place for Long-term care section.
- 78000 individuals in long-term care, not a small number.

April 3rd 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Protecting Seniors in Retirement Homes During COVID-19 Outbreak. April 3rd, 4:30 pm
<https://news.ontario.ca/oss/en/2020/04/ontario-protecting-seniors-in-retirement-homes-during-covid-19-outbreak.html>



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Ontario Provides Full Transparency by Releasing COVID-19 Modelling. April 3rd, 3:45 pm
https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-provides-full-transparency-by-releasing-covid-19-modelling.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

Ontario Extends Business Closures to Stop the Spread of COVID19 April 3rd, 2:15 pm
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-extends-business-closures-to-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19.html>

Ontario Increasing Public Health Units' Capacity to Stop COVID-19 April 3rd, 7:30 am
https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2020/04/ontario-increasing-public-health-units-capacity-to-stop-covid-19.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p