



Briefing Note

Date: May 8th, 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 8th, 2020.

As of 4:00 pm Thursday May 8th, 2020

- **Globally:** 3,985,323 cases (+71,679); 274,682 deaths (+4,256); 1,374,084 recovered¹
- **US:** 1,309,660 (+17,037), 77,964 deaths (+1,036)
- **Spain:** 260,117 (+3,262), 26,299 deaths (+229)
- **Italy:** 217,185 (+1,327), 30,201 deaths (+243)
- **Canada:** 66,313 cases (+1,391), 4,567 deaths (+159).
- **Ontario:** 19,598 cases (+477); 1,540 deaths (+63),
 - 1,028 hospitalized, 213 in ICU, 166 on ventilators.²
 - 13,990 recovered (+421), 4,068 active cases (-7)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- Worldwide case numbers are increasing – were seeing around 80,000 new cases daily but now are seeing around 90,000 new cases daily.
- Ontario had an increase of 477 cases since the last report which is a much larger increase than the past 3-4 days.
- Cumulative hospitalizations continue to increase.
- Critical care capacity continues to generally improve; however number of people on vents is increasing.
- 1 more outbreak but 4 more resolved in both long-term care and retirement homes.
- 3230 cumulative cases in healthcare workers; 6 more hospitalized, 2 on vents.
- 1 new death in a healthcare worker for a total of 5 deaths.
- Updated guidance for [hospice care](#).
- Updated guidance for [screening](#) for long-term care and retirement homes.

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

²https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804



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- Ontario has a personal protective equipment (PPE) allocation table that provides PPE at no cost to top up levels where healthcare workers and other essential institutions (i.e. policing) are having challenges with access.
- Expectation that PPE supply levels are reported to the virtual inventory and to keep accessing PPE through regular supply channels as much as possible.
- A framework has been developed, that will be released in the coming days, that guides decisions to be as equitable as possible and distributed as equally as possible.
- Framework was informed by an ethics table, clinical input, and input from labour and other subject matter experts to help with difficult PPE allocation decisions.
- Ontario released a report by the Ministry of Health in partnership with Ontario Health: [*A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic.*](#)
- We are still weeks away from seeing scheduled surgeries and procedures pick up again.
- 3 main things to understand:
 - Planning for the ramping up of scheduled surgeries and procedures will take place at a hospital level and require the sign off from the hospital's already established Regional COVID-19 Steering Committee.
 - The ramping up of scheduled surgeries and procedures will be asymmetrical across the province as hospitals must meet specific criteria before being given the go ahead. Some hospitals will be able to achieve this sooner than others.
 - No scheduled surgeries or procedures will be allowed to commence until [*directive #2*](#) is amended.

Prime Minister Trudeau Press Conference

- Received the [*labour force survey*](#) for April today and the number's already tell us what we know, Canadians are hurting because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As we begin to reopen the economy and the need for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) diminishes, we anticipate the need for the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will increase.
- Accordingly, we are extending the CEWS beyond June to kickstart the reopening of the economy and boost jobs. There will be more details released next week.
- Announcing a new Industry Strategy Council that will take a deeper dive into how COVID-19 is affecting certain sectors and what is needed to support them.

Federal Ministers and Health Officials Press Conference

- Tested over 1,032,000 people in Canada – approximately 6% positivity test rate.
- This past week there was an average of over 26,000 tests completed daily across Canada.
- Our average weekly positivity test rate has been declining. Started in early April at about 9.8% and are now down to about 4% in early May.



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- Canada has doubled the number of people being tested weekly since April.
- The loss of 2 million jobs in April is really showing the impact across the country.
- Introduced the CEWS to keep Canadians working. As of yesterday 120,000 businesses had applied and 97,000 have their applications approved for a total of 1.7 million workers.
- Introduced the CERB to help Canadians who lost income. Over 7 million people have accessed the CERB to date.
- The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) is for students who are not eligible for the CERB. They will receive \$1250/month and if they have a permanent disability or dependents, they can receive an additional \$750/month.
- Applications will be opening soon and the eligible time frame is from May-August. In the meantime, students are encouraged to ensure they have a MyCRA account that is set up with direct deposit. There will be more details coming soon.
- Full details on the \$500 million in funding for the Cultural Heritage and Sport Sectors announced last month can be found [here](#).
- Newly announced [Industry Strategy Council](#) will leverage the already existing Canada's Economic Strategy Tables where business leaders can share the challenges they are facing.
- There will be two new tables, retail and transportation, joining the existing tables. More announcements in the coming days.

Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- As people gradually return to work, Ontario continues preparing for the next phase of restarting the provincial economy through the implementation of the [Framework for Reopening our Province](#).
- Also, the government is supporting struggling business owners directly impacted by COVID-19 by providing tax deferrals and commercial rent relief, and by removing regulatory roadblocks.
- There is light at the end of this dark tunnel
- By Monday, thousands of people will be returning to work at hardware stores, retail outlets and garden centres.
- Today, garden centres and nurseries will be able to open for in-store payment and purchases.
- On Saturday, hardware stores and safety supply stores will be permitted to open for in-store payment and purchases.
- On Monday, non-essential retail stores with a street entrance can begin offering curbside pickup and delivery.
- Today Stats Canada released monthly job numbers, which saw a **689,200 decrease in employment** in Ontario.



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- The province is also providing \$241 million of a total \$900 million to the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA), to deliver relief to small businesses and ensure they are ready to reopen their doors when emergency measures are lifted.

Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- Moving forward no briefings on Saturdays starting immediately
- On the data we are seeing fluctuations. Daily variability puzzles people but we are seeing trends.
- 477 daily cases, 399 yesterday. People say we are going up but remember a week ago we saw trends of differences up and down 500 cases differences daily.
- 43% over 60.
- 71% or 13990 resolved/recovered cases, makes up larger proportion of Canadians resolved nationally.
- Another death to a Personal Support Work in long-term care, moving staff deaths up to 4 in LTC.
- LTC homes, 175 outbreaks. 49 outbreaks resolved
- Positive cases in LTC, dropped by 49 due to an error in testing false positives.
- 69 outbreaks (+4) in retirement homes.
- 397949 tests done total, 6000 pending results.
- $R_0 = .45$. High as .8 in some regions.

Question: Are you moving forward with collecting race-based data, how will you use this data.

Answer: Will be on a volunteer basis, as to go through a number of different tables and committees to be used. In process to be approved, will see if will be approved, a lot of ethical issues, we do not normally collect race-based data.

Provincial Press Releases May 8th, 2020

Ontario Supports Job Creators as People Start Returning to Work. *Government continues to prepare for the next stages of reopening the economy.* [May 8th, 2020, 1:00 P.M](#)

Ontario Eases Restrictions on Professional Sports Training Facilities. [May 8th, 2020, 10:15 A.M](#)