



Briefing Note

Date: April 28th, 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 28th, 2020.

As of 5:00 pm Tuesday, April 28th, 2020

- Globally: 3,127,905 cases (+67,959); 216,986 deaths (+5,537)¹
- US: 1,029,878 (+19,522), 58,640 deaths (+1,843)
- Spain: 232, 128 (+2,706), 23,822 deaths (+301)
- Italy: 201,505 (+2,091), 27,359 deaths (+382)
- Canada: 49,815 cases (+1,315); 2,852 deaths (+145)²
- Ontario: 15,381 cases (+625); 951 deaths (+59)
 - 8,964 resolved, 951 hospitalized, 239 in ICU, 187 on ventilators.³

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- Significant increase in numbers from Spain yesterday but seems to be an error.
- Russia has seen a significant increase in cases.
- 1 million out of 3 million worldwide case are now in US.
- Canada over 48500 cases, 2700 deaths. Half of that is in Quebec with 25 000 cases. AB 1700, BC 2000, NS 900.
- ON 14856, up 444. A trend in lower increases.
- Hospitalizations 1700 smaller increase. ICU continues a trend downward, went up over weekend but over last two days went down to 239. Vent 147 down by 4.
- Suspected cases have dropped to 317. Total on vents is 624 a bit down over weekend.
- LTC home numbers increase of 4 to 154. 34 resolved. Deaths tracking 705 in LTC close to 2500 cases.
- Retirement outbreaks 56, resolved 19
- Health Care workers, 2000 cumulative, 72 hospitalized, 22 in ICU,

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

²<https://www.covid-19canada.com/>

³https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804



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- Lab test 5101 pending, 12500 tests in last 24 hours.
- Toronto 4400, Peel 2100, York 1300, Ottawa 100, Durham 800. Waterloo 500
- Other provinces will be releasing their reopening plans today. Smaller provinces with less cases will be reopening quicker than some.
- We didn't set any date re: reopening Ontario as we are still in pandemic mode.
- Cases lowered but bumped up today 100, but this may be due to extra surveillance in LTC homes. Aggressive action in red flagged LTC homes.

Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau Government of Canada Announcement

- Trudeau joining virtual meeting with the House of Commons today at noon.
- Minister Hadju, and Dr. Tam will provide updates on the new COVID-19 modelling on the best data available to understand where we are right now and where things will go.
- In many parts of the country the curve has flattened but measures can't be lifted too quickly, and we must remain vigilant.
- A shared principles framework will be released shortly on restarting the economy agreed to by the federal, provincial and territorial governments. This will be a gradual process.
- To reopen the economy there must be enough capacity to test and trace COVID-19 to control any new spread. When back at work, if someone tests positive, you will be notified quickly so you can isolate. At work, there will also need to be specific measures and more equipment for safety.
- Strong measure for the vulnerable such as seniors will need to be in place for longer.
- Trudeau acknowledged that the virus is taking a different toll on different people such as those experiencing domestic violence, in a remote community or long-term care facility. Priority is keeping all Canadians safe while getting back to normal.
- This week over 6 million surgical masks and more than 100,000 face shields will be shipped out shortly to the provinces and territories. With the re-opening of the economy, the rise of the need for PPEs for frontline workers will try to be filled with massive orders overseas before we reopen.
- On this national day of mourning we remember those who lost their lives, who were injured or fell ill at work and this year we are saluting our frontline workers for our thanks and support.
- Since yesterday over 44,000 business applied for the Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- Trudeau spoke out against racism against Asian Canadians and anti-Semitism -hatred against any has no place in Canada.
- Trudeau stated we are still a long way to finding a new vaccine which is the 1st step and then producing the vaccine in sufficient numbers to vaccinate the population. Vaccine protocols will need to be determined on who will be vaccinated first, etc.
- Quebec is expected to reopen schools on May 11th, 2020.



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Federal Ministers Press Conference (Slide deck [here.](#))

- For the epidemic to die out we need to get to the point where each infected individual is only transmitting the virus to less than one other person.
- Before Public Health measures were implemented in March, each infected person passed the virus onto just over 2 additional people average.
- Today because of our various different measures, on average, an infected person is transmitting the virus to just above 1 other person.
- Regional differences – over 80% of all confirmed cases in Canada are in Ontario and Quebec
- Confirmed cases more than doubled since the April 9th modelling briefing
- Proportion of deaths has increased from 2.2% on April 9th to 5.5% as of April 27th – expected that the case fatality ratio will continue to change over time
- 17% of cases have required hospitalization
- < 5% have required admission to an intensive care unit (ICU)
- Some individuals are at an increased risk for severe complications – depending on age, gender, and underlying health complications
- Adults age 60 years and older account for 95% of deaths
- Although only 45% of cases are males, males are more likely to be admitted to the hospital and the ICU
- Almost three quarters of cases reported one or more pre-existing health conditions, however, no one is immune to severe outcomes of COVID-19
- Observing slowed epidemic growth and levelling off of epidemic trajectories across most jurisdictions in Canada
- Outbreaks in high risk populations (seniors in long-term care homes etc.) are the driving force behind regional epidemics
- Outbreaks in congregate living settings (prisons etc.) are also the driving force behind other regional epidemics
- Epidemic slope is bending in response to our collective efforts – Canada's number of cases is increasing more slowly than many other countries
- In the last round of modelling Canada's confirmed case count was doubling every 3-5 days but now it is doubling at a rate of every 16 days
- **Predicted number of cases:** 53,000-67,000 by May 5th
- **Predicted number of death:** 3,300-3,900 by May 5th
- Seeing tragic paradox of an epidemic - growth of cases slows, growth of deaths increase
- Once we are on the downside of the slope we must remain vigilant – until we have a vaccine we must plan to live with a manageable level of COVID-19 activity. Anticipate that some Public Health Measures will have to remain in place to prevent the sparking and growing of future epidemic waves.



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Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- We want to help our small businesses. We want to remove barriers so we come back from this pandemic stronger than before (Assoc Minister of Red Tape Reduction)
- The Ontario government is launching the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the pandemic.
- Businesses working to retool their operations to produce health-related products, or those that want to continue their operations in this new environment of physical distancing, can submit potential roadblocks to the website.
- Province is prepared to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business
- We are prepared to work with businesses and show some flexibility
- "government is prepared to temporarily adjust our processes, rules and regulations to accommodate unforeseen circumstances."
- Province also pausing/extending any existing public consultations, delaying non-urgent related consultations while emergency order stays in place.
- Considering extending deadlines for reports and audits.

Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- As of 4 pm yesterday, the Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS) reported a total of 5381 confirmed, up 525 cases (3.5%) of previous report. 58% or 8954 of total cases resolved.
- Previous 3 days we have seen a decrease, but we now see a rise in today's numbers.
- This is why we need to continue practicing physical distancing and staying home.
- 951 deaths to date. Increase from 59 from previous report
- Long-term care homes - 154 active outbreaks, 705 deaths, 1 death among staff
- Lab testing, 253,040 tests completed in Ontario. 6282 currently under investigation. Last 24 hours we completed 10842 test.
- We were on a good trend, going down for 3 days, then we jumped today.

Provincial Press Releases April 28th 2020

Ontario Helping Businesses Overcome the Unique Challenges Created by COVID-19. April 28th, 1:00 pm. <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-helping-businesses-overcome-the-unique-challenges-created-by-covid-19.html>

Remembering Those Who Lost Their Lives on the Job. April 28th, 9:00 am.

<https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2020/04/remembering-those-who-lost-their-lives-on-the-job.html>