



# Briefing Note

**Date:** April 6<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 April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **As of 5 pm Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020<sup>1</sup>**

- Globally: 1,337,416 cases (+64,554), 74,182 deaths (+4,757)
- US: 362,573 cases (+25,900), 10,720 deaths (+1,104)
- Spain: 135,032 cases (+3,386), 13,169 deaths (+528)
- Italy: 132,547 cases, (+3,599), 16,523 deaths (+636)
- Canada: 16,498 cases (+986), 321 deaths (+41)
  - Ontario: 4,347 cases, (+309), 132 deaths (+13)<sup>2</sup>
  - Quebec: 8,580 cases (+636), 121 deaths (+27)

## **Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:**

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

- **Number of COVID-19 Cases:** Globally: 1.3 million cases; Hot Spots – United States (330,000+ cases), Italy (approx. 130,000 cases), Germany (approx. 100,000 cases), France (93,000 cases), Iran (63,000 cases)
- **Number of COVID-19 Cases in Canada:** 15,500+ cases in Canada (Quebec: 8,000 cases, Ontario: 4,000 case, British Columbia and Alberta both around 1200 cases, Saskatchewan/Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Manitoba approx. 200 cases).
- **Ontario-specific numbers:** 408 new cases bring total cases in Ontario to 4,038. There are 1,400 resolved cases, and 119 deaths.
- **Testing:** 268 samples still to be tested, so much of the backlog is cleared.
- In Ontario, over 500 patients are hospitalized, over 216 patients in ICU and, of that 216, about 154 of those are vented
- **Long-Term Care outbreaks:** There is currently 60 homes that are being tracked with outbreak activity
- **Retirement homes:** Currently, 30 retirement homes have had some outbreak activity

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<sup>1</sup> [www.worldometers.info](http://www.worldometers.info)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



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- Currently, in Ontario, there are just under 20,000 beds available, potential for 527 patients to be vented, there are 160 patients that are confirmed vented right now
- Public Health Ontario numbers state that, right now, there are approx. 10% of cases that are occurring in health care workers (Cumulative numbers: 450 health care workers confirmed, 17 hospitalized, 6 healthcare workers in ICU)
- Command table meeting today. In addition to other topics, this table will also talk about supplies and equipment, lab testing, and the potential to redirect testing now that the backlog is almost gone

**Question:** (Ontario Medical Association) I have a question regarding PPE. We are burning through PPE right now. Where is our new PPE? When is it coming? How will it be distributed?

**Answer:** Some are coming in from the Federal government, and there are also a number of donations coming in. Numbers are tight. There is a table concentrating on distribution and looking at contingency plans.

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

- Touched upon the Queen's message around unity and strength
- Recapped new benefits and supports Federal government will be providing to Canadians
- **Canada Emergency Response Benefit:** 240,000 people have successfully applied, starting as of this morning, when benefit applications opened up.
- The Federal government is aware that some workers aren't yet covered under the requirements to apply to this benefit. Work is underway to help people that are in other situations not currently covered [ex: those working in Long-Term Care facilities, those who are on reduced hours (10 hours or less), will soon have access to this benefit]
- Wage subsidy work ongoing and working with other parties to get legislative amendments done as soon as possible
- **Canada Business Resilience Network:** A joint effort between the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the federal government to offer support to businesses and the economy.
- We need to support our healthcare workers. Stay Home!! Our collective actions are key

**Question:** We have heard that there may be a shipment of PPE, from the United States, that has been halted. Do you have any comment on this?

**Answer:** There are productive conversations that are ongoing between Canada and the United States. We fully expect deliveries to come in as expected. We remain in close and continuous talks with the United States.

**Question:** Is there any sense of whether the *Quarantine Act* has been invoked, and whether people have had to be forced into quarantine?



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**Answer:** Fully expect Canadians to continue to comply with quarantine requests. Institutions are also in place to help individuals quarantine as soon as they step off of flights whose homes may be far from airport. Those institutions are being utilized

## Federal Cabinet Ministers' Press Conference

- Canada is in the middle of a critical period – we cannot relax on Public Health measures; imperative to continue physical distancing, hand washing, avoid touching face, coughing into elbow, staying home, and limiting public outings to essential needs only
- Although older people are most at-risk, all age groups are at risk of developing serious complications; young people are being hospitalized and people in their 20s are dying
- It is now clear that transmission is happening more often than previously recognized from infected people right before they start showing symptoms – this is called pre-symptomatic transmission
- There is evidence that some infected people, who never develop symptoms, can transmit the virus to others – this is called asymptomatic transmission
- Special Advisory Committee on COVID-19 has come to a consensus that wearing a non-medical mask, even if you have no symptoms, is an additional measure you can take to protect others in situations where physical distancing is hard to maintain
- A non-medical mask can reduce the chances of your respiratory droplets from coming into contact with others or sticking to surfaces, so wearing a non-medical mask in the community has not been proven to protect the person wearing it.
- Wearing a non-medical mask in public does not mean you can back off public health measures. You must continue to practice good hygiene and physical distancing.
- Tools, guidelines, and information about how to make your own non-medical mask will be coming soon
- Indigenous Services has been working very carefully and closely with First Nation leaders around their community-specific pandemic plans and how to address unique challenges, like the need for someone to isolate in overcrowded housing conditions

## Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- US is not letting medical supplies across border and getting supplies from other countries is getting harder. The hard truth is our supplies in Ontario are getting low. The more new cases we get, the more demand put on our resources. It up to us. To stay home as much as possible, please stop the spread of this deadly virus.
- For many of us, this week means the celebration of Easter and Passover. Whatever your tradition, keep it alive, but stay home.



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- I want to take a moment to say thank you to our teachers, and keeping our children on track during this challenging time. Education must continue, and we are taking everything possible to make this happen.
- The Ontario Government is offering direct financial support to parents while Ontario schools and childcare centres remain closed.
  - One-time payment of \$200/child 0-12 years of age, and \$250 for those 0-21 years of age with special needs.
  - Families can complete a simple online application at [www.ontario.ca/supportforfamilies](http://www.ontario.ca/supportforfamilies) to access this financial support.
  - Parents already receiving [Support for Parents](#) payments through direct deposit will be automatically eligible for this financial support and do not need to submit a new application.

### April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Takes Additional Measures to Protect First Responders During the COVID-19 Outbreak.

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:07 pm. <https://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2020/04/ontario-takes-additional-measures-to-protect-first-responders-during-the-covid-19-outbreak.html>

Ontario Providing Relief for Remote Northern Property Taxpayers During COVID-19. April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm <https://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2020/04/ontario-providing-relief-for-remote-northern-property-taxpayers-during-covid-19.html>

Ontario Government Supports Families in Response to COVID-19 April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:15 pm <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-government-supports-families-in-response-to-covid-19.html>