



Briefing Note

Date: April 14th, 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 14th, 2020.

As of 5 pm Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

- Globally: 1,970,225 cases; 124,544 deaths¹
- Canada: 26,183 cases; 823 deaths²
 - Ontario: 7,953 cases; 334 deaths; 2,107 tests pending results³
 - Hospitalized: 769 cases
 - In an Intensive Care Unit (ICU): 255 cases (decrease of 8)
 - In an ICU and on a ventilator: 199 cases

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences

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

- Currently the key focus is on long-term care and retirement homes – working to provide further guidance products soon.
- 111 long-term care homes and 44 retirement homes in outbreak.
- Further guidance products on testing coming soon.
- Update to [directive #5](#) on the Ministry of Health's website.
- National data shows that the daily growth rate of COVID-19 cases is decreasing across the country – currently sitting around an 8% daily increase in cases.
- New official modelling projections using updated data hopefully coming soon – seem to be some indicators that Canada is flattening the curve.
- There is some optimism to be had with that, but there are no intentions to ease up on Public Health measures and restrictions yet.
- PPE situation in Ontario has greatly improved.
- Launching a program to do more intensive testing around long-term care homes and other priority groups.

¹ <https://www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

³ <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>



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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Press Conference

- The government is investing almost \$130 million to help northern communities fight COVID-19.
- Of the \$130 million, \$72.6 million will be given to the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut specifically for health care and community preparedness.
- Will also be providing more funding to Nutrition North Canada so people can more easily afford food and basics needed to keep you and your family healthy.
- To ensure things like groceries and medical equipment continue to flow to northern communities, we are providing funding for northern air carriers to transport those supplies.
- Effective as of midnight tonight, measures will be strengthened for those coming back from travelling abroad. If asymptomatic travellers cannot explain a credible quarantine plan, they will be required to quarantine in a hotel. This order strengthens the Quarantine Act orders. Examples of an inadequate plan are if there are elderly family members at risk or no set destination.
- Trudeau indicated that it will still be several more weeks until we will be able to leave isolation. Recognized the importance of getting our economy going and said we will have to do it in phases, and remain vigilant until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed.
- The travel restrictions for foreign travellers coming into Canada will remain in place for several more weeks.
- Over the weekend we received shipments of PPE, including four planes of N95 masks. To be shipped to the provinces and territories after being unpacked and validated. Now have a total of 1.1 million N95s ready to be shipped to the provinces and territories with more to come.
- Received millions of pairs of gloves and will be getting new protective gowns from domestic suppliers starting next Monday
- Moving forward on a range of rapid testing kits. Thousands of new test kits will be supplied every month. Testing capacity will increase with new testing technologies to simplify the tests.
- Offering support to business owners in the north whose business expenses are not already covered in current measures through CanNor.
- Brought back the legislature over the weekend to pass the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- Announcing measures soon for students and essential workers, potentially within the week.
- Announced \$20 million for food inspections to keep food supply safe and build capacity for more overtime and extra shifts, as well as hiring and training.
- We must protect seniors and not visit them in retirement homes or long-term care facilities.
- Released new guidelines for these types of facilities, established clear rules on restricted visits, control measures for staff and what to do in cases of infection.
- After significant gaps in the beginning, almost all provinces have been doing a much better job at providing data and continue to improve on data collection and collation.



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Federal Ministers and Health Officials Press Conference

- The emergency order under the Quarantine Act that requires all people entering Canada to self-isolate for 14 days is being updated effective as of midnight tonight.
- Any travelers, asymptomatic or symptomatic, are forbidden to isolate where there are vulnerable people (adults 65 years or older and/or people of all ages with underlying health conditions).
- Upon arrival, travelers will have to confirm they have a suitable place to isolate where they have access to necessities (like food and medication) and will not come into contact with vulnerable people
- If you do not have a suitable environment to isolate in, you must go to a place designated by the Chief Medical Officer of Canada (i.e. a hotel)
- Critical to have a plan in place before returning to Canada
- Children are also greatly affected by this pandemic. Talk honestly and openly with them – do not lie or keep secrets; reassure them that we will get through this pandemic.
- Be mindful of children’s media consumption related to COVID-19.
- Investing an additional \$25 million in Nutrition North Canada to better support people in having access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. Increasing the subsidy for basic and essential goods that people depend on.
- Cleaning items and personal hygiene items have been added to the eligible list of Nutrition North Canada subsidies for all northern communities.
- Funding for the first year of the Harvesters Support Grant has been allocated to Indigenous nations and partners
- The Harvesters Support Grant was co-developed by Indigenous partners, that allows communities to return to traditional harvesting and food sharing practices by alleviating the high costs associated with traditional hunting and harvesting

Premier Doug Ford’s Press Conference

- Ontario will be launching and enhancing supports, resources, and tools to combat COVID-19 within our long-term care homes.
- Ontario hopes that there will be specialized teams employed within long-term care homes for each facility that directly focus on outbreak care.
- There will be new infection control measures in-place within high-risk homes to prevent infection.
- Limiting caregiving staff to one facility.
- Increasing homecare support by enhancing COVID-19 testing within the sector and supplying PPE; doing everything necessary that is needed for the protection of our frontline caregivers.
- Direct funding to cover additional staffing for homes that need it the most and increasing hours of part-time staff.



Briefing Note

- The Ontario government is extending its Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* for 28 days – until May 12.
- Students will not be returning to school on May 4 – this does not mean the school year is cancelled.

Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Williams Press Conference

- Data after the long weekend is more complicated and takes longer to relay.
- Currently, few confirmed cases are travel related and more cases are close contact and community spread related.
- The numbers are plateauing and emergency admissions are dropping.
- Evidence across the country suggests the number of confirmed positives is plateauing across the provinces. Peaked at 12% in the beginning of April and now down to 10%.
- Laying out a plan using resources within long-term care facilities and expertise from Public Health and Acute Care Centres.
- 50% of deaths are related to long-term care facilities.
- Additional help for long-term care homes is expected to be alleviated through acute care in the hospitals and better testing.
- Had previously taken steps for long term care workers to reduce the number of homes they were working in. Will work with the Premier in how the province will deal with this from a legal perspective.

Provincial and Federal Press Releases from April 10th – 14th

- Ontario Protects Parents during COVID-19. April 10th, 2:30 pm.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2020/04/ontario-taking-action-to-support-parents-during-covid-19.html>
- Ontario Takes Further Action to Stop the Spread of COVID-19. April 11th, 8:00 am.
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-takes-further-action-to-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19.html>
- Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to Continue the Fight Against COVID-19. April 14th, 3:30 pm
<https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-extends-declaration-of-emergency-to-continue-the-fight-against-covid-19.html>
- Government of Canada Further Facilitates Enforcement of the Federal Quarantine Act. April 14th, 11:13 am.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-justice/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-further-facilitates-enforcement-of-the-federal-quarantine-act.html>