



Briefing Note

Date: March 30th, 2020

Prepared for: ONWA Staff & Senior Management, ONWA Chapters & Councils and Community Partners

Prepared By: Policy, Research, and Evaluation Portfolio

Issue: Briefing of Press Conferences - Provincial and National COVID-19 Announcements

Purpose: To inform ONWA, ONWA Chapters and Councils and community partners on recent developments on COVID-19 for March 30th, 2020.

Key messages:

As of 5 pm Thursday March 30th, 2020¹

- Globally: 742,283 cases (+18,893), 35,339 deaths (+1,275)
- US: 159,689 cases (+16,198), 2,951 deaths (+368)
- Italy: 101,739 cases, (+4,050), 11,591 deaths (+812)
- Spain: 85,195 cases (+5,085), 7,340 deaths (+537)
- Canada: 7,427 cases (+1,107), 84 deaths (+19)
 - Ontario: 1,706 cases, (+351), 33 deaths (+10)²

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

- Globally – approaching 730 000 cases, 34,599 deaths.
 - Leading country is now US
 - Followed by Italy, Spain, China, Germany, Iran, France
 - All these countries are seeing continued exponential spread.
- Canada – now over 6200 cases, Quebec 2800, BC 800, Alberta 600
- Ontario
 - 211 new cases yesterday. Over 1326 cases.
 - 23 deaths. Half of those in LTC homes.
 - 140 hospitalized, 92 in ICU, and 64 on ventilators.
 - large portion of those vented are in regions of Central East Central LHIN's.
 - 14 LTC homes in outbreak.
 - 7 retirement homes in outbreak.
- Major health units that have cases over or close to 100 cases.

¹ www.worldometers.info

² <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



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- Toronto. York. Peel. Ottawa over 100 cases
- Durham, Waterloo. Hamilton approaching 100 cases.
- Lab test backlog coming down. Over 7000 as of yesterday backlogged pending results.
- Emergency order under Emergency Care Act limiting no more than 5 people declared this weekend. Private households, operating centres and funerals are the exceptions.
- Monitoring how people are doing with social distancing. Looking at decreasing access such as public parks etc.

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

- Trudeau announced the *Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy*.
- If companies have had decreased revenues of at least 30%, because of COVID-19, they will be eligible for this subsidy
- This subsidy will cover up to 75% of wages on the first \$58, 700 an individual earns, and be backdated to March 15. This will result in up to \$847/week
- This subsidy is part of a three-pronged Federal plan that includes: the *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy*, the *Canada Emergency Benefit* and, if companies are facing liquidity issues, a range of individual options being extended to protect jobs and the economy
- Eligibility will NOT be based on the number of persons employed, and this subsidy will apply to non-profit and charities, too.
- It will take a few weeks to fully roll this out. In the meantime, there are various credit methods being extended to companies, by the government, to bridge the gap.
- Currently, there is no price tag being put on this initiative
- Trudeau also thanked the Military/Armed Forces and told the country that the Armed Forces are standing ready in the event that provinces require support

Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- In process of getting “massive, massive amounts” of new medical supplies & PPE inventory.
- The reality is, if there is a massive amount of people coming into Ontario hospitals in the next two weeks, we will not be ready, so the more time we have, the more lives we can save.
- If we push that surge to as far away from today as possible, we will save lives, but we can't do that without your support. Stay home, if you travel outside the country, you must self isolate by law. If you have a cough, fever or a hard time breathing, call your doctor and self isolate.
- If was a beautiful weekend, from what I saw, the streets where packed, this is unacceptable. We the Ontario government are prepared to take further action if we do not take precautions.



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- Last week we announced \$5 million to delivery medications and food to seniors. Today we are doubling this to \$10 million.
- \$240 million to protect residents of Long-Term Care homes.
- \$70 million to protect retirement homes, shelters etc..
- If we listen to what we are being told, it may mean one more moment with your loved ones.
- Emergency Declaration declared on March 17th, will be renewed for another 2 weeks up to April 13th, 2020.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- **Daily numbers:** There are 1,706 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in ONT. This represents an increase of 351 cases over yesterday. Of the 1,706 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 431 cases are now considered resolved.
- There is now a limit on public gatherings to 5 people, or less, with a few exceptions for **private** events like funerals.
- Individuals over 70 are highly encouraged to self-isolate as this age group particularly vulnerable to COVID-19
- Increasing Public Health measures continue to take place in Ontario
- Dr. Williams reiterated that Ontarians need to continue to be vigilant
- **Daily numbers:** There are 1,706 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in ON. This represents an increase of 351 cases over yesterday. 23 people are deceased, but the Ministry is aware of an additional 10 deaths since this morning that have not been officially published yet. Of the 1,706 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 431 cases are now considered resolved. There are currently 100 people with confirmed COVID-19 that are hospitalized in intensive care. There are 4,000 tests that have been done over the last 24 hours, and there are 5,650 samples still waiting to be tested. The backlog should decrease over the next couple of days.
- Dr. Williams reiterated the directive now in place that there in a limit on public gatherings to 5 people, or less, with a few exceptions for **private** events like funerals.
- Individuals over 70 are highly encouraged to self-isolate as this age group particularly vulnerable to COVID-19

March 28th to 30th, 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Increasing Health and Safety Measures to Better Protect Frontline Nurses from COVID-19 March 30th, 3:58 pm <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2020/03/ontario-increasing-health-and-safety-measures-to-better-protect-frontline-nurses-from-covid-19.html>



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Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health March 30th, 12:40 pm

https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2020/03/statement-from-the-chief-medical-officer-of-health.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

Ontario Stepping Up Measures to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 on Construction Sites. March 29th, 1:00 pm <https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2020/03/ontario-stepping-up-measures-to-limit-the-spread-of-covid-19-on-construction-sites.html>

Ontario Taking Emergency Measures to Support Long-Term Care Homes During COVID-19. March 28th, 4:30 pm <https://news.ontario.ca/mltc/en/2020/03/ontario-taking-further-action-through-emergency-measures-to-support-long-term-care-homes-during-covi.html>

Ontario Protecting Consumers from Price Gouging. March 28th, 1:00 pm. <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-protecting-consumers-from-price-gouging.html>

Ontario Protecting Supply Chains to Support COVID-19 Emergency Response. March 28th, 11:00 am. <https://news.ontario.ca/mgs/en/2020/03/ontario-protecting-supply-chains-to-support-covid-19-emergency-response.html>