

## Your COVID-19 Summary for Oct. 27th - PM Warns of Tough Times Ahead

Dear OPHA Members,

Outlined below is a summary of the key developments that occurred today at the provincial and federal level related to COVID-19.

At the provincial level:

- While the number of new COVID-19 cases reported today was slightly lower than yesterday, they remain high at 827 people; there was a slight increase in the number of those hospitalized and outbreaks in long-term care homes.
- Premier Ford and Health Minister Elliott announced the government is providing \$116.5M to create up to 766 more beds at 32 hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province.

At the federal level:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recognized that being involved in a global pandemic "sucks", describing it as a "horrific national tragedy," with more challenges ahead. He warned that "unless we're really, really careful, there may not be the kinds of family gatherings we want to have at Christmas,"
- Prime Minister Trudeau and Families, Children and Social Development Minister Ahmed provided more details on the \$1B Rapid Housing Initiative, which includes two \$500M funding streams to support projects and major cities.

More details are included below along with an update on cases in Ontario and across Canada

### **Provincial Developments:**

#### **[Ontario Adding Over 760 Hospital Beds Across the Province:](#)**

- To help reduce surgical backlogs and improve access to care during COVID-19, Premier Ford and Health Minister Elliott announced the government is providing \$116.5M to create up to 766 more beds at 32 hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province; and
- William Osler Health System will be receiving up to 87 total patient beds to help alleviate hospital capacity pressures and reduce wait times. This includes 41 beds at Osler's Brampton Civic Hospital and 46 beds at Osler's Etobicoke General Hospital.

#### ***Hospital Capacity:***

- In response to media reports that some hospitals in Toronto and Peel Region are running at 100 percent capacity, Health Minister Elliott said "it is important for us to make sure that hospitals have additional capacity," pointing today's announcement as well as \$450M to expand home and community care; and opening up a number of reactivation centers to create more bed capacity.

#### ***Testing:***

- In response to media questions asking why Brampton has had only one testing facility during the pandemic and if the government would commit to opening a second one, Health Minister Elliott said "if there is a particular area where there needs to be another assessment center or

drive through center, we will certainly do that," emphasizing "if someone needs to be tested we want them to be able to go to a location that is close to them and then receive the results in a timely manner."

### **Federal Developments:**

#### ***COVID-19 Fatigue and Lockdowns:***

- In response to media reports of an increasing rise of COVID-19 fatigue among Canadians during the pandemic, Prime Minister Trudeau noted "we are in an unprecedented global pandemic that... really sucks," emphasizing the frustration of "having shut down...our lives through the spring." The Prime Minister Trudeau warned of a "tough winter ahead" and advised Canadians to continue to do their part to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Njoo added "it's not going to be a government deciding to put a lockdown measure [in place] that we're going to get out of this [pandemic]" rather it will take "all of us understanding what the tools are at our disposal, including the COVID alert app...and doing what we can do on an individual basis."

#### ***Conflicting Public Health Messaging:***

- In response to media questions about the role of government and public health agencies in some of the mixed-messages Canadians are receiving, the Prime Minister Trudeau said "there is no one message we can give to anyone," emphasizing the varied impacts of the pandemic on different parts of the country.
- The Prime Minister advised Canadians to follow local public health advice from officials on the ground who know what is necessary and needed in their communities.

#### ***Pandemic Response Document Disclosure:***

- In response to media questions about the Conservative motion requiring the federal government release documents related to its response to the pandemic, the Prime Minister shared private sector concerns around "competitiveness and confidentiality of contracts." He said his administration "will work with Parliament to ensure we're getting as much information to them as possible, while at the same time not putting Canadians at risk."

#### ***Rapid Housing Initiative:***

Prime Minister Trudeau and Families, Children and Social Development Minister Ahmed announced the \$1B in funding for the Rapid Housing Initiative will be provided through two streams:

- **Major Cities Stream:** \$500M in immediate support for pre-determined municipalities. The municipalities were determined based on metrics including the levels of renters in severe housing need and of people experiencing homelessness.
- **Projects Stream:** \$500M for projects based on applications from provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, and non-profit organizations.

We will continue to monitor and report on key COVID-19 and other provincial and federal announcements to help our members stay informed. Stay well!

Pegeen and Faduma

P.S. There's still spots left for our Lean Sigma Yellow belt training being held November 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. You can learn more and register [here](#).

### Other Announcements and Developments

- **Disciplinary Decisions in Toronto Police Force:** In response to media reports into disciplinary decisions within the Toronto Police Force over the last ten years that show nearly every officer who was disciplined for criminal convictions kept their jobs after the process, Premier Ford indicated a willingness to support changes to the Police Services Act saying "if there are recommendations from the [Municipal] Police Board and it involves the province, we're always open to looking at it working collaboratively with the [City of Toronto]....along with the Police Association as well."

### Trends and Cases in Ontario, Canada and First Nations on Reserve:

#### Cases Among First Nations on Reserve:

As of October 26th, Indigenous Services Canada is aware of these confirmed cases of COVID-19 for First Nations communities:

- 1,254 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 362 active cases
- 73 hospitalizations
- 877 recovered cases
- 15 deaths

#### Cases in Ontario: (October 26th as of 10:30am)

- Total number of cases: 72,051; an increase of 827
- The majority of newly confirmed cases continue to be concentrated in four public health units (e.g. 355 new cases in Toronto, 169 in Peel Region, 89 in York Region and 58 in Ottawa)
- Resolved: 61,530 (85.4%); an increase of 691
- Deaths: sadly, 3,103 people have died; an increase of four
- Hospitalized: 312 people were hospitalized; 75 were in intensive care and of those, 52 were on a ventilator;
- Long-term care homes (according to iPHIS): 88 active outbreaks; 397 confirmed cases in residents; 299 confirmed cases in staff; 1,932 deaths among residents and 8 among staff;
- Lab testing: 4,961,368 completed; 23,945 tests were completed yesterday, down from 28,652 tests reported on Monday; while the backlog of tests waiting to be completed increased to 22,636 from 17,603;
- As of Tuesday, [144 more individuals in schools tested positive from COVID-19](#), 932 cases within the last fourteen days and 978 cases reported more than fourteen days ago resulting in a cumulative total of 1,910 cases. 593 schools have reported a case and currently no schools have closed due to a case of COVID-19 in Ontario.

#### Cases in Canada: (October 26th as of 7pm)

- Total number of cases: 220,213; an increase of 4,109
- Resolved: 184,306 (83.7%);
- Deaths: 9,973 (4.5%);
- People tested per million: 256,746; and
- Percent Positivity: 2.2%