



Briefing Note

Date: Friday July 17th, 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 the week of July 13th to 17th, 2020.

As of 12:00 P.M Friday, July 17th, 2020

- **Globally:** 14,010,698 cases (+71,602); 593,935 deaths (+1,928); 8,325,290 recovered¹
- **US:** 3,701,580 (+6,555), 141,200 deaths (+82).
- **Brazil:** 2,015,382 (+644), 76,846 deaths (+24)
- **India:** 1,020,644 (+15,007), 25,777 deaths (+168)
- **Canada:** 109,375 cases (+111), 8,836 deaths (+9).
- **Ontario:** 37,274 cases (+111); 2,746 deaths (+9).
 - 33,162 recovered (+101), 1,366 active cases (+1)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

Ministry of Health Daily Novel Coronavirus Update Conference Call

Tuesday July 7th, 2020 9 am.

- Globally we are seeing a significant acceleration of the virus
- 13 million cases (+200 000), 567, 000 deaths
- US: 3,479,000 cases (+65,000). Majority in southern states (Florida, Texas, California).
- Brazil, India, South Africa and South American Countries seeing significant increases.
- Canada: 108,155. 8790 deaths.
- Ontario: 36,950. 2723 deaths
- 111 new cases today (Tuesday). We have seen this low a number since early March.
 - Peel 38, York 17, Toronto 14, Windsor-Essex 10, Hamilton 9, Durham 5, majority of regions seeing 0
- Testing: 20,000 tests done today with 0.8% positivity rate.
- 104 hospitalized (-12)
- Stable but declining trends in ICU. 53 ventilated
- 27 LTC homes in active outbreak (+5). 297 resolved
- 5 Hospitals in outbreak (-5)
- 8 retirement homes in outbreak, 148 resolved

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



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- Yesterday's big announcement of moving into Stage 3 of Reopening
 - Allowed groups of 50 in indoor spaces and 100 in outdoor spaces
 - Still must practice physical distancing
 - Still Banned: Concerts, live shows, festivals, buffet style restaurants, dancing at bars, karaoke, tables at casinos

Prime Minister Trudeau Weekly COVID-19 Press Conference

Thursday July 16th, 11 am.

- We have been working with our provincial and territorial partners to outline what needs to be done over the next 6 to 8 months to safely restart of our economy.
- Today I have some good news to share, our government is investing over \$19 Billion dollars to ensure our provinces and territories have the support they need to protect the health of Canadians, help people get back to work safely and prepare for a potential second wave of the virus.
- We have outline 7 priorities areas on which to focus our efforts. Increased testing and contact tracing, securing more PPE, more support for the most vulnerable, including seniors and long-term care homes.
- But COVID-19 is not only a health crisis, but also a economic crisis.
- Until we find a vaccine, the daily threat of COVID-19 will always be there.
- We are making sure there are enough safe childcare spaces available, or supporting people who don't have paid sick leave.
- This agreement also has more support for municipalities. Our cities most remain up and running. There will be funding for operational costs, and transit. People need to be able to get to work.

Federal Health Ministers Weekly Press Conference

Wednesday July 17th

- In lieu of an in-person update to the media, Dr. Howard Njoo, Canada's Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, issued the following statement on behalf of Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer.
- 108,486 cases, 8,798 deaths. 67% of people have now recovered.
- Labs across Canada have tested over 3,302,000 people for COVID-19 to date. Over the past week, an average of 40,000 people were tested daily, with 1% testing positive.
- COVID-19 spreads quickly in crowded places and closed spaces where there is close-contact between people. Infected individuals can transmit the virus to others, even when they look and feel well. This is why it is so important to change the way people gather this summer.
- We are concerned about the increasing number of reports of individuals contracting COVID-19 at parties, nightclubs and bars.
- While no public setting can be 100% safe from COVID-19, there are some conditions and controls to watch out for that are helping to lower the risk to Canadians. Before you enter, look for some of the following signs that public health measures are well supported:
 - Information about COVID-19 control measures is readily available



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- People who are ill are discouraged from entering
- There are opportunities to practise hand hygiene and physical distancing
- Masks are worn when mandated and when physical distancing is not possible
- The environment is cleaned regularly
- There is good open air ventilation
- Some other helpful tips on how to stay safe while going out include:
 - Follow the safety rules put in place by the establishment.
 - Limit your alcohol consumption to maintain good decision making capacity.
 - Do not share drinks or utensils.
 - Avoid being in close proximity (less than 2 metres) to others who don't live with you or aren't part of your social bubble.
 - Carry with you and wear a non-medical face mask when you cannot maintain physical distancing or are around people who are not part of your social bubble.
 - Try to avoid touching common and frequently touched surfaces and objects including:
 - Menus, chairs and tables, payment machines, countertops, handrails
 - Carry hand sanitizer and wash or sanitize your hands frequently, especially after touching common and frequently touched surfaces or objects.
 - **Most importantly, stay home if you are sick even if you have only mild symptoms.**
 - These are important considerations to keep top of mind as we continue to live with COVID-19.

Friday July 17th, 1 pm.

- **Canada update:** 109,264 cumulative cases, 8,827 deaths, 67% of cases are recovered.
- Canada has tested over 3.3 million to date, averaging of 40,000 tested per day, with 1% positivity.
- **Recent trends in transmission:** Daily case counts are on the rise in the last few weeks. This is a concerning trend.
- This trend is parallel with reports of increased transmission among young Canadians aged 20-40, especially in parties, restaurants, and bars.
- Canada has been successful in flattening the curve, but the success is fragile, and we still need to be careful.
- Even though serious illness from COVID-19 is less common among young people, we have a shared responsibility to keep COVID-19 cases low.
- Please avoid crowded, poorly ventilated situations – consider ways to enjoy summer while following public health guidelines
- Keep your number of close contacts low, practice good hygiene, and keep a safe social distance.
- Indoor spaces are higher risk than outdoor spaces.
- More than 80% of deaths from COVID-19 have been among older Canadians living in long term care centres.
- There is [new guidance](#) from the Public Health Agency of Canada to prepare, equip, and improve care for elders in long term care centres.
- As Canadians, we must support those most at risk during their time of need.



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- Canada continues to build a stockpile of PPE to ensure the country is better prepared for any future waves of COVID-19.
- Those with disabilities have also faced significant impacts from COVID-19, including incurring additional expenses to get the supports they need.
- Today, the Federal government is rolling out previously announced one-time tax-free funding of up to \$600 for Canadians with disabilities through the *Accessible Canada Act*.
- Funding will come as an automatic payment for those receiving either the Disability Tax Credit, CPP or Quebec Disability benefit, or those receiving disability support through Veterans Canada.
- If you are eligible to apply for the disability tax credit, there is a 60-day window to apply for this funding once this Bill received royal assent.

Premier Doug Ford Daily COVID-19 Press Conferences

Monday July 13th, 1 pm

- Today, 24 of 31 regions in Ontario are reporting 5 or less cases
- 24 regions in our province, will enter Stage 3 of Reopening this Friday July 17th.
- All regions except the following will enter stage 3 of reopening
 - TO, York, Peel, Durham, Niagara, Windsor-Essex, Lambton, Haldimand-Norfolk.
- Social Gathering Numbers: 100 people to gather outdoors, and 50 indoors
- Following business will be allowed to reopen
- Gyms, fitness centers, dine bars, Casinos, Rec facilities, team sports.
- We will announce how we will support parents as they return to work regarding childcare.
- We are only allowed to move into stage 3 due to Ontario's practicing key medical advice.
- We are asking everyone to continue these everyday actions so we can continue to see the loosening of restrictions.
- We expect the province to remain in stage 3 for the foreseeable future.
- Almost all businesses will be allowed to reopen in stage 3, as long as they adhere to public health guidelines.
- On July 22nd, all Ontario's Childcare Centers will be allowed to operate with strict guidelines, and up to 15 children per room.
- Amusement parks, water parks, dancing in bars, karaoke bars, among others, will still not be allowed to open during stage 3.

Tuesday July 14th, 1 pm

- The Ontario government is providing Cambridge-based Eclipse Innovations Inc. with \$1.4 million to scale up operations to manufacture made-in-Ontario N95 Masks.
- Eclipse will manufacturer up to 1 million N95 masks each week
- The investment is part of the government's plan to increase the capacity of Ontario-made PPE, while supporting local businesses during the safe and gradual reopening of the province.



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- Today also marks the beginning of the Premiers Tour to acknowledge strong businesses and individuals across the province who have stepped up to help out during COVID-19.

Wednesday July 15th, 2 pm

- The Ontario government announced a redesigned funding model that will lead to the building of additional, modern long-term care homes providing seniors with the quality care they deserve.
- The new approach will help break down historic barriers and acceleration the construction of urgently needed LTC projects, and new and redeveloped beds.
- It is also updating design standards to include air conditioning for any new and renovated homes.
- “After inheriting 15 years of underinvestment in LTC and a massive waitlist of seniors, our government is putting forward bold and new solutions to turbo charge the development of LTC beds across the province”

Thursday July 16th 1 pm

- 24 regions in Ontario will move to Phase 3 of reopening on July 17.
- Following weeks of negotiation, a historic agreement was reached to distribute over \$19 billion in relief from the Federal government to the Provinces, Territories, and municipalities.
- Ontario is receiving \$7 billion from the Federal government as part of this agreement.
- Funds will support many sectors in Ontario including transit, childcare, expanding COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, mental health and addiction supports, etc.
- It remains important to stand together to ensure that each Ontarian can recover from this pandemic and get back on their feet.
- Ontario relies on our farmers to maintain a strong food supply, and they have faced many challenges over the course of this pandemic.
- Today, the Ontario government is investing \$150 million to expand the agriculture risk management program to better support farmers who have been impacted by COVID-19. Applications to this program are open today for those eligible.
- Thank you to farm workers who have stepped up to protect workers in the last few months.
- The Toronto Blue Jays will be able to play home games for the upcoming baseball season. No guests will be allowed to attend in person, and strict protocols will be in place.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Provincial Bi-Weekly Press Conference

Monday, July 13th

- Today's announcement was the movement to stage 3 of reopening for 24 of our 31 regions in Ontario.
- In order to open to stage 3, we need to see 4 weeks of data in the right direction. The metrics for the 24 regions was excellent and we are confident they can reopen safely on Friday July 17th.
- We need one more week of data for the remaining 7 regions, and are hoping the rest of the province can open to stage 3 by the end of July.



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- Just because we are entering stage 3, does not mean we can let our guard down.
- It is more important that we physical distance, practice cough etiquette, wash your hands etc....
- After a slight increase in new cases last Thursday, Ontario's case counts continue to follow a decreasing trend.
- Over weekend, Ontario reported just 130 new cases on Saturday, 129 cases on Sunday and today (Monday) to 160 new cases.
- 29 of Ontario's 31 regions are reporting 5 or less new cases, and 21 of those have reported no new cases at all.
- New cases are concentrated in Toronto, Peel, York, Windsor-Essex, and Ottawa.
- We are also encouraged by the low number of deaths recorded. Last week we saw 33 deaths, and only 3 reported today.
- Hospitalizations and ICU and ventilators are significantly dropping.
- Declining trends in LTC homes and agriculture industries.
- Testing are increasing in numbers, but positivity rates are lowering.
- The reason we are able to move into stage 3 is because the people of Ontario are following public health guidelines.

Thursday July 16th

- **Ontario update** – 37,163 (+111), 31,061 (+141) resolved
- 107 in hospital, 26 in ICU, and 20 on a ventilator.
- Testing continues to be robust; more than 26,000 tests per day with a positivity rate of 0.8%
- Long Term Care situation continues to improve with 19 homes on outbreak.
- Most cases continue to be in the GTA and Southern Ontario.
- 29 of 34 health units with 5 or fewer, 20 had 0 cases.
- Bulk of new cases are in 20-39 age group.
- Numbers have stayed low all week and continue to decrease; well below 150 new cases each day. This week the total number of new cases in one week since early March.
- Higher numbers of cases continue to be seen in low income and racially diverse neighbourhoods.
- Congregate living areas, farms, and food processing plants continue to be a source of outbreaks.
- Phase 3 begins tomorrow for parts of Ontario outside Toronto– while opening, we need to continue to see Ontarians following public health guidelines.
- Be vigilant in maintaining social distancing and social circles.
- Public health measures will in many ways be in place until there is a vaccine.
- Places like restaurants and bars will not operate as they did before – important to engage in those kinds of activities safely.
- No update yet on schools in the Fall – discussions are ongoing.
- The better Ontarians follow the rules in Phase 3, the better position we will be in for the Fall.



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Provincial Press Releases July 13th-17th, 2020

Ontario Extends Emergency Orders. *Extensions Protect Health and Safety as Economy Gradually Reopens.* [July 16th, 2020, 10:00 A.M.](#)

Ontario Accelerates the Development of Long-Term Care Homes. *New Approach Will Lead Modern and Upgraded Facilities with Air Conditioning.* [July 15th, 2020, 1:00 P.M.](#)

Ontario Takes Steps to Strengthen Consumer Protection. *New Act will promote confidence for those purchasing a home and other products.* [July 15th, 2020, 3:00 P.M.](#)

Province Consulting on Further Steps to Protect Ontario's Deer, Elk and Moose Population. *Changes Proposed to Keep Fatal Wildlife Disease out of Ontario.* [July 15th, 2020, 2:00 P.M.](#)

Province Supports Development of Made-in-Ontario N95 Respirators. *Building Homegrown Manufacturing Capacity Vital in Fight against COVID-19.* [July 14th, 2020, 1:00 P.M.](#)

Ontario Eliminating the Practice of Birth Alerts. *An Important Step in Creating a Child Welfare System Focused on Prevention and Early Intervention.* [July 14th, 2020, 10:30 A.M.](#)

Nearly All Business and Public Spaces to Reopen in Stage 3. *Public Gatherings Will Increase in Size as the Province Continues its Path to Economic Recovery.* [July 13th, 2020, 1:00 P.M.](#)