



Briefing Note

Date: Friday, October 2nd, 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 about recent developments in COVID-19 for the week of September 28th to October 2nd, 2020.

COVID-19 Numbers as of 11:23 A.M. on Friday, October 2nd, 2020¹

- **Globally:** 34,558,225 cases (+2,105,098); 1,028,839 deaths (+38,630); 25,714,335 recovered²
- **US:** 7,501,186 (+308,548); 212,730 deaths (+5,251); 4,737,664 recovered
- **Brazil:** 4,849,229 cases (+391,776), 144,767 deaths (+53,736); 4,212,772 recovered
- **India:** 6,399,329 cases (+603,091), 99,837 (+7,903); 5,353,120 recovered
- **Canada:** 149,094 cases (+19,312), 9,249 deaths (+119); 136,350 resolved
- **Ontario:** 52,248 cases (+3,366); 2,851 deaths (+15); 44,8502 resolved

Press Conference Highlights: September 28th to October 2nd, 2020

- Increased case counts have been observed across Canada, including in Ontario.
- Continue practicing Public Health measures: proper hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing masks, staying home and limit your social circle - actions today will affect what will occur through October.

Canada wide updates:

- Labs across Canada tested an average of 71,000 people daily over the past week with 1.8% testing positive. An average of 1,572 cases have been reported daily across Canada during the most recent seven days as of October 1st.
- Health impacts of the pandemic are far-reaching and go beyond those with COVID-19. Most public health authorities across Canada are reporting significant increases in opioid-related harm, including deaths.
- If you are struggling with substance use issues or other mental health concerns, you can find a full range of resources through the [Wellness Together Canada](#) mental health and substance use support portal.
- Justin Trudeau, and the Premier of Manitoba, Brian Pallister, announced people in Manitoba can now receive one-time keys from their health authorities to use with COVID Alert, Canada's COVID-19 exposure notification app. The app helps notify users if they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This app soon to be available in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

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

² Increases in case and death counts are calculated from the previous briefing note to the current briefing note. These numbers reflect the week of September 28-October 2nd, 2020.



Briefing Note

- Justin Trudeau announced \$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives to create jobs and economic growth. The Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) Growth Plan will help Canadians get back to work and is expected to create approximately 60,000 jobs across the country. The three-year plan will connect more households and small businesses to high-speed Internet, strengthen Canadian agriculture, and help build a low-carbon economy.
- Health Canada received its first submission for authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca in partnership with the University of Oxford.
- Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, announced on behalf of Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, an investment of over \$1.1 million from the Government of Canada to improve food security for residents throughout Nunavut facing the social, economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ontario specific updates:

- 90,500 tests still under investigation, record number for backlog, and 58% of October 2nd cases are people under the age of 40.
- According to new [COVID-19 modelling released on Wednesday](#), the number of new cases in Ontario is now doubling every 10 to 12 days. Ontario could record 1,000 new cases per day by mid-October.
- Ontario is putting a pause on social circles, asking people across the entire province to come in close contact now only with those inside their household as COVID-19 cases spike to unprecedented levels.
- Doug Ford made the announcement on Oct 2nd, while also declaring new restrictions for certain businesses in three COVID-19 hotspots (Toronto 323 new cases, Peel Region 111 and Ottawa at 141) targeting the areas of spread, rather the whole province.
- As of 12:01 a.m. Saturday, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, and gyms in **Ottawa** and **Peel Region** must limit capacity to 100. Toronto Public Health has already decided to limit capacity to 75.
- As of October 2, 2020, the new gathering limits are:
 - There is now a maximum of six people allowed per table and each customer's contact information must be collected for contact tracing.
 - gyms and fitness centres in the three hotspots, group exercise classes will now be limited to 10 people and the facility must limit its capacity to 50 people.
 - Banquet halls and event spaces must limit six people per table and have no more than 50 people in the facility at a time.
 - Ontario has also paused any further reopening for the next 28 days.
 - Social gathering limits did not change in Ontario and remain at 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Starting Oct. 4, assessment centres will not be accepting walk-ins. Patients with COVID-19 symptoms would have to call one of the province's 153 assessment centres and speak to a nurse practitioner before making an appointment for a swab.



Briefing Note

- Doug Ford's cabinet is also reviewing a mandatory masking policy that would make it a province-wide requirement to wear a face covering in workspaces or indoor settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.³

Daily New COVID-19 Cases in Ontario this Week

Date	# of New cases
September 28	700
September 29	554
September 30	625
October 1	538
October 2	732

COVID-19 Related Provincial Press Releases September 28th to October 2nd, 2020

- [Ontario Launches Recovery Program for Northern Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#) September 28, 2020
- [Ontario Investing \\$52.5 Million to Recruit, Retain and Support More Health Care Workers](#) September 28, 2020
- [Ontario Providing over Half a Billion Dollars to Protect Vulnerable Seniors against Second Wave of COVID-19](#) September 29, 2020
- [Ontario Honours Survivors of Residential School System](#) September 30, 2020
- [Ontario Delivers \\$2.8 Billion COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan](#) September 30, 2020
- [Ontario Modernizes Social Assistance to Help More People Re-enter the Workforce](#) September 30, 2020
- [Ontario Provides \\$461 Million to Temporarily Enhance Wages For Personal Support Workers](#) October 1, 2020
- [Ontario Revises COVID-19 Screening Guidance for Schools and Child Care](#) October 1, 2020
- [Ontario's First Inspector General of Policing Appointed](#) October 2, 2020
- [Ontario Implementing Additional Public Health and Testing Measures to Keep People Safe](#) October 2, 2020
- [Ontario Taking Action to Improve Child Care](#) October 2, 2020

³ <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-record-breaking-surge-in-covid-19-cases-1.5129964>