



Briefing Note

Date: April 22nd, 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 22nd, 2020.

As of 4:30 pm Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020

- Globally: 2,621,748 cases (+65,988); 183,030 deaths (+5,571)¹
- US: 837,719 (+18,975), 46,771 deaths (+1,453)
- Spain: 208,389 (+4,211), 21,717 deaths (+435)
- Italy: 187,327 (+3,370), 25,085 deaths (+437)
- Canada: 39,813 cases (+1,391); 1,966 deaths (+132)²
- Ontario: 12,245 cases (+510); 659 deaths (+37)
 - 6,221 resolved, 878 hospitalized, 243 in ICU, 192 on ventilators.³

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- Highest cases are holding in Toronto, Peel, York, Ottawa, Durham & Windsor regions
- Windsor has the highest number per capita cases.
- Long-term care homes decreased by 1 at 127. Retirement homes decreased by 1 to 64.
- HC workers 1,368, up 101+, +2 hospitalized total of 58, ICU/vent holding.
- 1,700 lab tests pending. 3,800 yesterday, numbers decreasing.
- Yesterday announced additional funding for seniors and those with disabilities, enhanced testing for long-term care home/residential homes residents and staff. Plans will be developed locally to begin this testing, implement, and roll out within days.
- Status of LTC homes and deploying teams to assist with outbreaks, PPE deliveries will be made within 24hrs to meet the needs.
- Although these calls have been centered on LTC/Retirement homes, we are continuing centered efforts on work for all our vulnerable populations.

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

²<https://www.covid-19canada.com/>

³https://covid-19.ontario.ca/?_ga=2.66843437.2079880679.1587402079-217522806.1582483804



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Question: At the command table, what kinds of vulnerable sectors are you talking about and focusing on? Homeless shelters, victims' shelters?

Answer: Currently, I believe we are working on providing guidance documents for each sector. These discussions continue and updates will be provided when outcomes are available.

Question: Are you planning for lifting restrictions, effective contact tracing methods, the possibility of using apps to trace the virus as other countries are looking into? What exactly will that look like?

Answer: I cannot say exactly what that will look like as I do not sit at the public health table, but I do know that they are looking into exactly those issues – timing and parameters to phase/ease public health measures, and what will have to be in place. There is a conversation about this nationally and provincially about apps available and the effectiveness/use of each.

Question: We need to focus on children's mental health and addictions, and congregate settings. This is an extremely vulnerable population and next hot spot. We have 20,000 beds in close quarters, and we have received no emergency orders like long term care has, and we have received no PPE to protect our staff or our clients, the children.

Answer: Congregate living settings are being discussed. We are tracking these conversations and I will report back. PPE allocations will start to be made available to other sectors on the supply chain following prioritization. Follow up to come.

Prime Minister (PM) Trudeau Government of Canada Announcement:

- Trudeau paid tribute to the survivors of the holocaust on Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Trudeau sent condolences to victims of the Nova Scotia attacks and to the RCMP officers
- Students who have seen their education and job prospects hampered by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will soon be able to claim a new Canada Emergency Student Benefit.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced, as part of a \$9 billion package of new measures aimed at helping young people to be dated from May 1st to Aug, 2020.
- The Canadian emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will see eligible postsecondary students receive \$1,250 a month from May to August, and if you are taking care of someone else or have a disability, that amount increases to \$1,750 monthly rolled out through CRA.
- College and university students currently in school, planning to start in September, or who graduated in December 2019 are eligible.
- As well, working students earning less than \$1,000 per month can also apply.
- The CESB will require additional legislation and talks are now underway about how quickly a bill to implement this new program can be brought forward.



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- New student jobs and grants are also on their way. Specifically, the federal government is also:
 - Creating an additional 76,000 jobs for young people in sectors that need an extra hand right now, or that are on the frontlines of this pandemic.
 - Investing more than \$291 million to extend scholarships, fellowships, and grants for three or four months.
 - Launching a new Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG) of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 depending on the hours earned/served for students volunteering in the COVID-19 fight.
 - **Providing more than \$75 million to specifically increase support for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation students;** and
 - Doubling the student grants that the government gives out for the 2020-21 school year.
- The CESB is in response to students not eligible for the \$2,000 per month Canada Emergency Response Benefit, which requires applicants to have earned at least \$5,000 in the past year.
- Announced temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program to help students find work in a largely locked-down country once their summer begins.
- Employers who hire summer students can apply for a subsidy of up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial hourly minimum wage. This is aimed at helping create up to 70,000 jobs for Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30.
- Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam continues to say, that the economy is still weeks away from reopening.
- Encouraging all sectors of society to start thinking now about how they could adapt their day-to-day activities to maintain physical distancing until there is a treatment or vaccine for the virus.
- U.S./Canadian Borders to remain closed until May 1st, 2020. After that the Government will reassess. The U.S./Canada borders decision will remain a Federal/National decision.

Premier Doug Ford's Press Conference

- Ontario is taking immediate steps to further protect long-term care residents and staff during outbreak
- Response includes increased testing, COVID-19 SWAT teams, and additional PPE.
- Introduced more aggressive testing, screening, and surveillance, deployed specialized teams from hospitals, public health and the home care sector.
- Province is making a formal request for assistance from the federal government.
- 20 long-term care homes which were experiencing outbreaks are now outbreak free.



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- Province working with hospitals to deploy staffing and infection controls in LTC homes.
- Federal government has offered personnel supports from Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces.
- This support to be deployed to 5 priority LTC homes.

Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- 184,531 individuals tested, 10,391 tests completed.
- New cases yesterday were 400. Want to see the positive numbers drop to below 200 per day. Over 200 was when case containment was lost.
- Long term care COVID-19 outbreak numbers provided by the Ministry of Long-term Care: 127 homes with outbreaks – 1,985 in residents and 956 in staff.
- Immediate testing in long term care homes for residents and staff will take place. Developing an immediate implementation plan to begin testing every resident and staff in long term care homes. Making sure that homes have the tests required. There is a new Red Zone Scoring for testing of those most in need.
- Testing is one piece but most important and what really makes a difference, is infection control practices. Results of testing drive required changes to policy and directives on dealing with COVID-19.
- Utilizing hospital and military resources for homes that are understaffed due to isolation of staff. Currently assessing the need for further, testing equipment, PPEs and moving residents.
- The Public Health Agency reviewed cases to date and very few cases are from those under 18 and even less in children. It is uncommon to get infections in this age range or to spread to others. Data indicates that children are not vectors for transmission. This information will be analysed moving forward over the next few weeks and discussed with the Ministry of Education. Planning will need to take place as to when and how the process of returning to school will occur.

Provincial Press Releases April 22nd, 2020

Ontario Takes Immediate Steps to Further Protect Long-Term Care Residents and Staff During COVID-19 Outbreak. April 22nd, 1:45 pm. <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-takes-immediate-steps-to-further-protect-long-term-care-residents-and-staff-during-covid-19.html>