



Briefing Note

Date: April 9th, 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 9th, 2020.

As of 5 pm Thursday April 9th, 2020¹

- Globally: 1,591,523 cases (+73,563), 95,021 deaths (+6,566)
- US: 462,180 cases (+27,253), 16,444 deaths (+1,656)
- Spain: 152,446 cases (+4,226), 15,238 deaths (+446)
- Italy: 143,626 cases, (+4,204), 18,279 deaths (+610)
- Canada: 20,703 cases (+1,265), 504 deaths (+77)
 - Ontario: 5,759 cases, (+483), 200 deaths (+26)²
 - Quebec: 10,912 cases (+881), 216 deaths (+41)

Summary of Key National & Provincial Press Conferences:

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

- **Number of COVID-19 Cases:** Globally: Pass 1.5 million, approaching 90,000 deaths, Europe 755,000 cases, 62,000 deaths.
- Early indication that number of deaths declining in Italy but no indication peak in Europe as a whole as happened.
- North America – 430,000 cases, 14,700 deaths in US. Canada 19,200 cases. Over 10,000 in Quebec.
- Ontario – 550 new cases with 5276 cases and 174 deaths. 600 hospitalized, 265 in ICU and 214 on ventilators. Total number of people in Ontario on ventilators is 633 (COVID + non-COVID) at 68% ventilator capacity.
- 80 long-term care home outbreaks, 30 retirement homes with outbreaks.
- Health care workers, over 622 positive, 27 hospitalizations and 9 in ICU.
- Provincial testing guide released yesterday with directive to expand testing. Priority on long-term care homes, hospitalized patients, retirement homes, healthcare workers, Indigenous communities and first responders.
- Use of cloth masks by members of public advice coming

¹ www.worldometers.info

² <https://www.covid-19canada.com/>



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- Announcement of mental health and addictions tables led by Mental Health and Addictions Center of Excellence coming.
- No call on Good Friday but a call on Monday.

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

- On Monday we launched the Canadian Economic Relief Benefit (CERB). People already received their \$2000/month and wage subsidy for keeping people on payroll is expanding \$3.3 million.
- As a country we've gotten through tough times before. 100 years ago today was VIMMIY Ridge, our citizens gave their lives for our country, fought to defend values that are dear to us such as equality and peace. Ordinary people did extraordinary things.
- Right now the future can seem more uncertain than normal. Earlier today we released our modeling. The modeling shows COVID arrived in Canada later than in other countries. This means we are still in the early stages of the epidemic. That means we have a better chance to determine our own future. But we are in a fork in the road.
- The top of the curve may be in the end of spring and the end of the curve in the summer. Then we will see smaller outbreaks past that point until a vaccine is determined. It will take months of continued determined efforts. 4000 and 44000 deaths, we want to keep that as low as possible.
- We received millions of more masks this week. And manufacturing more ventilators. We continue to support Canadian researchers to develop a vaccine.
- We must all do our part, governments, business' and citizens. Continue to stay home, grocery shop once a week, if you must go out, keep your distance.

Premier Doug Fords Press Conference

- Ontario has launched the new Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee which will focus on getting businesses up and running and people back to work after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.
- This new committee will be developing a plan to stimulate economic growth and job-creation in the weeks and months ahead.
- Today's statistics Canada released data which showed 402,800 jobs lost in Ontario due to COVID-19. That's 400 000 paychecks lost, finding it harder to put food on table, putting roofs on top of their heads.
- Sadly these numbers are just the tip of the ice berg. They are just a snapshot of what we are dealing with. These are not just numbers, but people. But we are fighting for these people, fighting for this province.
- When I look at the modeling, and see that 10s of thousands are at stake, and the what we have done so far, have saved 10s of thousands of lives. But we are also dealing with an economic crisis. The sad reality is, we are still in the thick of it. Things will get worse before they get better.
- That's why we are protecting families fight now.
- Our Government has already released a \$17 billion package with funding targeted to help families and a variety of sectors across the province.



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- \$3.7 billion to support people and jobs.
- \$6 billion by temporarily deferring taxes.
- \$1.9 billion to allow employers to defer Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Payments.
- \$1.8 billion to defer municipal education and property tax payments.
- \$52 million from the package will support individuals and families in financial crisis through social assistance and can apply [here](#).

Dr. Williams, Ontario Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

- As of 4pm yesterday
 - 5759 confirmed cases in Ontario (+438 case increase from previous report)
 - 632 hospitalized, 264 in ICU – of those 214 on a ventilator
 - 37.5% of cases are people aged 65 years or older
 - 200 deaths (+26 increase from previous report)
 - 69 Long-term care (LTC) homes in outbreak; 88 deaths from LTC homes
 - 2305 cases are resolved – roughly 40% of cases
 - Cumulatively, 622 healthcare workers are infected
 - 1208 tests awaiting results
- Hoping to release new projections sometime next week with update data; will hopefully show the extent to which Public Health measures are working
- Provided an update to guidance on testing available [here](#)
- General population testing is not being recommended at this time; we will continue to focus on priority group testing (i.e. healthcare workers, LTC homes, Indigenous communities)
- No physician has ever been directed that they were not allowed to test someone if they felt it was necessary
- Not currently short of any testing materials

Question: How can the province ramp up testing to the point where Premier Ford wants it to be at 13,000 tests/day?

Answer: Because of our size, it's not hard to ramp up testing. The difficulty instead, is that if we are not careful, we could surpass 13,000 tests/day and create a backlog. So we need to make sure that we keep the focus on our priority testing populations. We will utilize the enhanced testing capacity, but we will do it in a way that maximizes testing for our priority groups.

April 9th 2020 Provincial Press Releases

Ontario Starts Planning for Provincial Recovery. April 9th, 1:20 pm

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-starts-planning-for-economic-recovery.html>