



Briefing Note

Date: Friday August 21st, 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 August 17th to 21st, 2020.

Situation as of 12:20 P.M Friday, August 21st, 2020¹:

- **Globally:** 22,923,947 (+73,845); 798,204 deaths (+1,828); 15,571,133 recovered
- **US:** 5,756,295 (+10,023), 177,619 deaths (+195).
- **Brazil:** 3,505,361 (+264), 112,445 deaths (+22)
- **India:** 2,925,337 (+21,008), 55,174 deaths (+199)
- **Canada:** 123,873 cases (+180), 9,054 deaths (+4). 110,288 recovered
- **Ontario:** 41,179 cases (+131); 2,796 deaths (+3).
 - 37,396 recovered (+106), 986 active cases (+22)

Detailed Summary of Provincial Press Conferences

Premier Ford Daily Press Conferences

Monday August 17th

- This morning I spoke to representatives from Ontario's 444 municipalities
- Its never been more important to stand with our provincial partners. I want our municipalities to know, that I will always have your back.
- Over the last 2 weeks, we have seen less than 100 daily new cases. Businesses are opening their doors and hiring back people since reopening into stage 3.
- In June & July, Ontario added back 528,000 jobs. Over 90% of jobs recovered to pre-COVID levels.

Thursday August 20th

- Ontario announced the hiring of an additional 200 Ontario Provincial Police officers.
- "As we help communities recover from the impacts of COVID-19, its absolutely critical we give our brave men and women in uniform the tools and resources they need to do their job, stay healthy, and keep us all safe. That is why our government is putting more boots on the ground to crack down on the criminals who would rob families and individuals of the chance to rebuild their lives during this difficult period" Ford
- This recruitment initiative responds to recommendations made by the OPP Independent Review Panel (IRP) in its final report released in March. Established in April 2019 to study the workplace culture at the OPP, the IRP was also tasked with examining how the provincial police

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



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address issues of mental health, occupational stress injuries and suicide among its members and with providing a series of recommendations.

Friday August 21st- Joint Announcement – Premier Ford and Prime Minister Trudeau

- Today the Federal government, in collaboration with the Ontario government, announced a partnership with 3M Canada, a global leader in PPE production
- The Federal and Provincial governments are each investing \$23 million to support an expansion of the 3M Canadian manufacturing plant into Ontario (specifically, the plan will be located in Brockville, Ontario)
- This new plant means more jobs, a stronger supply chain for needed PPE, and reduced reliance on overseas imports going forward in the fight against COVID-19
- The \$70 million expanded facility will be able to manufacture 50 million N95 masks per year for the next three years to be used in Ontario and Canada more broadly
- This is a 'made in Ontario' solution as we continue down the path of economic recovery and keeping COVID-19 at bay
- Canada has also developed more than 40 procurement contracts to continue to further build our PPE stockpile, including receiving over 61 million N95 respirators and counting.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Press Conference

Monday August 17th, 2020

- Over weekend we saw 106 new cases on Saturday, 81 on Sunday, and today (Monday) we are reporting 99 cases, which brings total top 40,745 cases. Of these 91% are resolved
- Today, 29 of our 34 health unit regions reported 5 or less cases and 21 our health units have reported 0 new cases.
- Ontario is reported no new deaths today, and only 3 deaths over the last week.
- The new cases today are concentrated in three health units. Toronto with 26, Peel 25, and Ottawa with 19 cases.
- Are testing levels remained high over weekend. Today 25,567 tests were completed, and of those 0.7% were positive.
- What does this mean. I am very encouraged of our number of cases have remained low, especially since most of the province has entered stage 3 for over 3 weeks now.
- Overall provincial rate continues to go down, and hospitalization and ICU admissions continue to decline.
- But in order to for the higher risk businesses and services that continue to open in stage 3, means that everybody must continue to follow public health advice and workplace guidelines to avoid future outbreak.
- We are asking everyone to more vigilant on personal protection, physical distancing and adhering to there social circles.
- The better that we all do in stage 3, means less COVID in our community, congregate settings and our schools.



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Thursday August 20th

- This is our first week of everyone in stage 3 or reopening. How have we been doing. A lot of people were concerned with a surge of cases due to reopening. We have seen some outbreaks and they have been quickly contained in different settings. Occupational or sometimes communal group gathering.
- There have been further testing coming out from that and finding more cases from the contact cases. Keeps our numbers from dropping really low, but it helps us to know that we are catching most cases.
- 91% of cases resolved. 27,291 cases.
- 1 death today, but number of deaths are lowering week over week
- Most cases are still in our large health unit regions. Toronto 21, Peel 19, and Ottawa 11.
- Hospitalizations and ICU numbers continue to decline
- Testing: 26,000 tests were done today and our positivity rate is 0.7%. We dipped down to 0.4%.
- Week over week our cases continue to decline.
- In our 20-39 age group numbers are higher, but a lot of this age group is adhering to public health guidelines, although this age group has gotten a lot of criticism.
- When we moved from stage 2 to stage 3, there was a lot of apprehensions that cases would take off. We have not seen that, I believe its because Ontarians are adhering to public health guidelines and are taking this seriously.

Detailed Summary of National Press Conferences

Federal Health Minister Dr. Tam Press Conference

Tuesday August 18th

- 122 872 cases in Canada. 9,082 deaths. 89% of people have now recovered
- 8, 840,043 people across Canada has been tested
- Over last week, average of 43,000 people were tested with 1% testing positive
- Average of 380 new cases reported in the last 7 days across country
- Last week we presented the latest modeling data on what we can expect in the fall.
- But we also know we have laid the groundwork to get through a second wave.
- Our goal was to get the cases low and build up our capacity to manage every new chain of cases.
- As schools across Canada reopen, I am confident that we have what it takes to adjust, adapt and stay the course.
- Things will be different, and their will be uncertainty, but by proceeding with caution, we will tackle these together, to make sure our kids, and our families can resume essential learning, social development and activities we all enjoy.

Thursday, August 20th

- Today, the federal ministers announced changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program and new income support benefits that will better support all Canadians.
- They also announced that in preparation for this transition and to ensure support continues for Canadians whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic, ***the Canada Emergency***



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Response Benefit (CERB) will be extended by an additional four weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks.

- This means that for the many Canadians expecting to exhaust their CERB benefits at the end of August, they will now be able to access an additional month of support.
- The government will transition people who have been receiving the CERB to a more flexible and generous EI program for those who qualify.
- To give Canadians seeking employment the support they need to get back on their feet, the government is making changes to the EI program.
- EI will now be available to more Canadians, including those who would not have qualified for EI in the past, adding more than 400,000 people into the program.
- Those receiving EI will be eligible for a taxable benefit rate of at least \$400 per week, or \$240 per week for extended parental benefits, and regular benefits will be accessible for a minimum duration of 26 weeks.
- The government will also freeze the EI insurance premium rates for two years, so Canadian workers and businesses will not face immediate increases to costs and payroll deductions due to the additional expenses resulting from the pandemic.
- Additionally, to ensure Canadians receive the support they need during these challenging times, we are proposing to implement three new benefits:
 - The **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** will provide \$400 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not eligible for EI and who still require income support and who are available and looking for work. This benefit will support Canadians whose income has dropped or not returned due to COVID-19. The benefit will allow Canadians to earn more income while on claim
 - The **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** will provide \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19.
 - The **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)** will provide \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for:
 - a child under age 12 due to the closures of schools or daycares because of COVID-19.
 - a family member with a disability or a dependent because their day program or care facility is closed due to COVID-19.
 - a child, a family member with a disability, or a dependent who is not attending school, daycare, or other care facilities under the advice of a medical professional due to being at high-risk if they contract COVID-19.
- By returning to the EI program, and introducing new complementary recovery benefits, we are ensuring Canadians have access to better supports that will help them through the next phase of our recovery. As we gradually and safely restart our economy, the Government of Canada will continue to put Canadians first, so we can move forward and build a Canada that works for everyone.

Friday August 21st

- 89% of COVID-19 cases are now recovered. More than 1.9 million Canadians have been tested to date, with an average of 48,000 tests processed per day last week with about 1% positivity



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- Data indicates that COVID-19 spread is still under manageable control
- We can expect clusters of localized outbreaks going forward, but together we can reduce the impact of these new cases
- There is new messaging coming out next week directed at the 20-39 age group, who continue to be the largest age group represented in new COVID-19 cases
- It is important for Canadians to also take care of their general and ongoing health needs - Canadians are urged to catch up on care appointments that may have been missed during COVID-19
- Flexible access has been built into many medical practices in recent months (i.e., enhanced cleaning in offices, virtual/phone appointments), and Canadians are encouraged to reach out to healthcare providers to find out the best way for them to take care of their health needs

COVID-19 Related Provincial Press Releases August 17th to 21st, 2020

Ontario Adding 200 New Provincial Police Officers. *New Hires Will Protect Communities and Support Wellness of Frontline Personnel.* [August 20, 2020 1:00 P.M](#)

Ontario Extends Orders Under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020. *Extensions needed to address ongoing risks of COVID-19 as province reopens.* [August 20, 2020 9:00 A.M.](#)

Ontario and Municipalities Work Towards a Strong Economic Recovery. *Successful AMO conference demonstrates critical partnership.* [August 19, 2020 4:00 P.M.](#)

Ontario Taking Steps to Improve Service Delivery at Provincial Agencies. *New evaluation to focus on improving the customer experience.* [August 19, 2020 2:30 P.M](#)

Ontario Invests in Made-in-Ontario Physician Scheduling Technology in the Fight Against COVID-19. *Province Helping Local Business Deploy Solutions to Streamline Physician Supply and Demand.* [August 19, 2020 10:30 A.M.](#)

Ontario Resumes Infant Hearing Checks. *Additional funding will increase audiology capacity to screen infants impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.* [August 18, 2020 11:00 A.M.](#)

Additional Resources

[Ontario Provides Update to Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#)

Daily New Cases this week in Ontario

Date	New cases
Aug 21	131



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Date	New cases
Aug 20	76
Aug 19	102
Aug 18	125
Aug 17	99
Aug 16	81
Aug 15	106
Aug 14	92
Aug 13	78
Aug 12	95
Aug 11	33