



# Briefing Note

**Date:** Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Prepared for:** ONWA Senior Management, Staff, Chapters, Councils & Community Partners

**Prepared by:** Policy, Research, and Evaluation Portfolio

**Purpose:** Provide COVID-19 Provincial and National Updates for the Week of March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

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## **Reported COVID-19 Numbers as of 1:45 PM EST on Friday, March 5th, 2021<sup>1</sup>**

- **Globally:** 116,447,544 total cases; 21,822,363 active cases; 2,585,023 deaths; 92,040,158 resolved
- **USA:** 29,534,769 total cases; 8,905,966 active cases; 533,816 deaths; 20,094,987 resolved
- **Canada:** 878,391 total cases; 29,903 active cases; 22,151 deaths; 826,337 resolved
- **Ontario:** 310,164 total cases; 10,378 active cases; 7,046 deaths; 293,154 resolved

## **Press Conference Highlights: March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the government of Canada announced that the AstraZeneca vaccine is now approved for use in Canada and that they are on track for all Canadians to have access to a vaccine by September.
- Ontario reported the highest increase in new cases Thursday with another 994 infections and 10 new deaths.
- Find out about the latest public health measures, advice and restrictions in your area. [You can find your colour zone here.](#)
- Even as doses of vaccine are administered, it is critical to continue practicing [public health measures](#) to keep ourselves, families, and communities safe, especially considering that new, more transmissible COVID-19 variants are being detected across the country.
- [Click here](#) for information for First Nations and Inuit communities in preparing for, monitoring and responding to COVID-19.

## **Canada wide updates:**

- 87,085 tests performed today, 24,763,481 total tests performed, with a 3.7% positivity. Over 2.16 million vaccine doses have also been administered to date, while 1,992 people are currently in hospital due to the disease.
- The majority of cases (67.8%) and deaths (78.9%) have been reported by Ontario and Quebec
- On First Nations reserves, as of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is aware of 21,729 confirmed positive COVID-19, including 991 hospitalizations, 20,114 recovered cases, and 240 deaths.
  - The rate of reported COVID-19 cases in First Nations is currently 74% higher than in the broader Canadian population.
  - The COVID-19 case fatality rate among First Nations is about 42% of the case fatality rate in the general Canadian population.
  - 92% of those who tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered.
- Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand stated that Canada was on track to receive approximately 945,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine supply this week, which she stated includes the weekly Pfizer shipment and the first shipment of the newly approved AstraZeneca vaccine.

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



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- Several premiers announced new plans to move their provincial rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to four-month intervals between doses, instead of the 3-4 week schedule recommended for the Pfizer and Moderna shots.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the fourth COVID-19 shot approved for use in Canada and the only one that requires just a single dose. Canada has pre-purchased 10 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson product with options to buy another 28 million doses. In clinical trials, the vaccine was shown to be 66% effective overall in preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, and also effective against variants of concern

### Ontario specific updates:

- Provincially, as of March 5<sup>th</sup>, the 7-day average number of daily cases was 1,063, test positivity was 2.3% for the last week.
- There are currently 649 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, 281 of which are in the ICU. Of those, 183 are on a ventilator.
- There have been 1,285 cases of COVID-19 reported to date on-reserve in Ontario.
- Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario stated that in the past eight days, 26% of all positive samples screened positive for a variant of concern.
- Premier Ford joined Canada's Premiers for a [Virtual News Conference](#) where they called upon the federal government to increase the Federal Health Transfer from 22% to 35%. They deem the increase reasonable and based on a long-term forecast by every province and territory. This must be addressed in the upcoming federal government budget as there is a risk that the provinces won't be able to pay for all the services their populations need. The most vulnerable will suffer. The costs of COVID will be for the long-term: for long-term symptoms, catching up on surgeries.
  - Premier Ford stated that as they are waiting to get more supplies from the feds they are focused on the administration of the vaccines. Yesterday, Ontario reached a new record of over 30,000 doses administered.
  - As the pandemic declines, there will be 2 top priorities for all Canadians: rebuild our economy and rebuild our health care system. The re-build of the health care system will be more difficult – the economy is already in the re-building process. In addition to back-logged surgeries, there are many people struggling with mental health issues and long-term care homes are in desperate need of support.

### COVID-19 Related Press Releases March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Provincial:

- [Ontario Provides Additional Support for Municipalities During COVID-19](#). March 4<sup>th</sup>
- [Ontario Hires 100 Additional Health and Safety Inspectors](#). March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- [Ontario Provides More Than \\$1 Billion in Support for Small Business](#). March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- [Ontario Keeping Seniors Safe and Socially Connected during COVID-19](#). March 1<sup>st</sup>
- [Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province](#). March 1<sup>st</sup>



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## **Federal:**

- [Modified COVID-19 vaccines for variants to be fast-tracked](#). March 4<sup>th</sup>
- [Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on March 3, 2021](#)
- [Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June](#).  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- [Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on March 1, 2021](#). March 1<sup>st</sup>
- [Federal, provincial and territorial labour ministers meet to discuss important workplace issues](#).  
March 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Additional Resources**

- Take a [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) if you or someone you know was exposed to COVID-19, or if you have [symptoms](#). You will receive directions on what to do next.
- [ONWA COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- Daily updates for COVID-19 [in Ontario](#) and [in Canada](#)
- [COVID-19 response framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#)
- Learn about [Ontario's Vaccine Strategy](#), including vaccine safety.
- Additional information about [vaccine safety, concerns and possible side effects](#)
- Download the [COVID Alert](#) App.
- [COVID-19: Support for People](#) has information about the many available/free mental health services and supports.
- Small business owners in Ontario can visit [www.ontario.ca/COVIDsupport](http://www.ontario.ca/COVIDsupport) to access support such as the [Ontario Small Business Support Grant](#).