

Situation Report #47: COVID-19

Ministry of Health | Health System Emergency Management Branch

March 12, 2020

Situation:

- Case counts as of March 12, 2020:
 - China: 80,793 cases; 3,169 deaths
 - Asia & Oceania: 10,245 cases; 102 deaths (South Korea - 62)
 - Europe: 28,593 cases; 1,198 deaths (Italy – 1,016)
 - Middle East: 11,055 cases; 440 deaths (Iran - 429)
 - Africa: 130 cases; 3 deaths
 - Latin America and Caribbean: 195 cases; 2 deaths
 - North America: 1,445 cases
 - United States – 1,336 cases; 36 deaths
 - Canada - 109 cases; 1 death
- 17 new cases were reported today in Ontario, bringing the cumulative total to 59 (this includes 5 resolved cases).
 - All cases in Ontario so far have been travel related, with investigation ongoing to determine the source of infection for one case announced yesterday.
- In Ontario, there are 536 persons under investigation with lab results pending.
- A [statement](#) was issued today indicating that, based on advice from Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table, the Minister of Education has issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19. This order was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- At the 4:00pm press conference, Dr. Williams provided further guidance to Ontarians with respect to public health measures and social distancing.

Actions Taken:

- The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a directive to health care providers and health care entities on updated IPAC Recommendations for use of personal protective equipment. The directive has been attached to this Situation Report.
- Public Health Ontario has posted a technical brief *Updated IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19*.
 - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=en>
 - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=fr>
- A status update memo to Health System Organizations and Providers on the work of the Provincial Command Table is attached to this Situation Report.
- The case definition has been updated and has been attached to this Situation Report. French translation is underway, and the ministry's [website](#) will be updated to reflect this change shortly. It is important to note that the case definition includes prioritization of who should be tested.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed two new guidance documents for health system partners:
 - [Community-based measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) in Canada](#)
 - [Risk-informed decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak](#)

Next Steps:

- The ministry is updating guidance documents and will distribute them once they are complete.
- The ministry will work with and support local partners and the federal government regarding repatriated citizens.
- The ministry continues to work with health system partners to understand their needs with respect to personal protective equipment and other supplies.