

# Situation Report #53: COVID-19

Ministry of Health | Health System Emergency Management Branch

March 18, 2020

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## Situation:

- Case counts as of March 18, 2020:
  - China: 80,894 cases; 3,237 deaths
  - Asia & Oceania: 13,158 cases; 170 deaths (South Korea - 84)
  - Europe: 80,355 cases; 3,445 deaths (Italy – 2,503)
  - Middle East: 19,501; 1,152 deaths (Iran – 1,135)
  - Africa: 591 cases; 14 deaths
  - Latin America and Caribbean: 1,322 cases; 8 deaths
  - North America: 6,924 cases
    - United States – 6,332 cases; 107 deaths
    - Canada - 614 cases; 8 deaths
- 22 new cases were reported today in Ontario, bringing the cumulative total to 211 (this includes five resolved cases and one death).
- In Ontario, there are 3380 persons under investigation with lab results pending. .

## Actions Taken:

1. Several important guidance documents, directives, and memorandums are attached to today's Situation Report:
  - Guidance documents for Food Premises and Personal Service Settings
  - The ministry's Emergency Health Services Division has released a memo regarding the Provincial Transfer Authorization Centre (PTAC). To further enhance Ontario's ability to track and manage COVID-19, the memo instructs all Ontario hospitals to obtain an interfacility transfer authorization number through PTAC for all interfacility transfers, including emergency transfers.
  - Canadian Blood Services is issuing an advisory to hospitals predicting the potential for shortages due to a significant number of collections cancellations related to COVID-19. Hospitals are asked to ensure the utilization of all blood components follow best practice. The National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products has developed a checklist and list of considerations. The National Emergency Blood Management Committee also developed a poster.
  - A Cyber advisory has been shared with the health system to highlight increased phishing and malicious activity using the COVID19/ CORONA Pandemic as a lure. It is strongly recommended that organizations follow email hygiene/ phishing best practices to defend against this increased activity.

1. Unfortunately we still do NOT have written directions from Province on Out of Country Travel and return. As a result we had to implement our interim measures based upon statements at a press conference by the Provincial Medical Officer of Health and Minister of Health. They are as follows:  
[https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/Memo\\_to\\_Staff\\_March\\_18\\_2020.pdf](https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/Memo_to_Staff_March_18_2020.pdf)
2. Again, at this point staff that travel to Michigan for “day trips” (i.e. work in Detroit as well as Windsor) OR live in Michigan and work at WRH ARE NOT impacted and can continue to work at WRH. Those impacted - once your 14 days have expired (start counting the day you return to Canada) and you have been symptom free please connect with Employee Health and they will clear you for return to work.
3. We know this is very stressful for our community and patients. However, it is clearly stressful for all of us and our families. Again, lean on a colleague to talk or feel free to call EAP and talk to someone in a private confidential capacity. It is 24/7 and does not cost you a dime. It is open at ALL staff to call (employees and professional staff)
  - Phone: 1-844-720-1212
  - Website: [Myfseap.ca](http://Myfseap.ca)
  - [https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/FSEAP\\_Communique\\_COVID19\\_March\\_16\\_2020.pdf](https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/FSEAP_Communique_COVID19_March_16_2020.pdf)
4. Staff screening tool has been updated: [https://www.wrh.on.ca/documents/151/STAFF\\_SCREENING\\_FORM.pdf](https://www.wrh.on.ca/documents/151/STAFF_SCREENING_FORM.pdf)
5. COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE has been open 3 days and has seen close to 300 patients and has performed over 150 swabs/tests. This is in addition to tests in hospital/ER.