



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 14, 2020

Indigenous

April 10th

- The federal minister of Indigenous Services has warned that even though the number of COVID-19 cases on reserves remains low, no one should be complacent. Miller said to reporters on Friday that that borders and checkpoints are good for identifying people with COVID-19 entering a community, as well as making people aware of the disease, but the checkpoints can lead people to believe they are safe.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Services' chief medical officer Dr. Tom Wong has put out a call for nurses to step forward and serve in the North.
- A First Nations community near Hamilton of approximately 13,000 on-reserve members reported its first death related to COVID-19 on Thursday.
- Dr. David Williams, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, said Friday that statistics based on race aren't collected in Canada unless certain groups are found to have risk factors. Williams explained that the World Health Organization hasn't yet said that's the case for coronavirus.

April 13th

- New rapid COVID-19 testing devices are on their way to remote and Indigenous communities where access to testing is hindered by distance. The technology was developed by Spartan Bioscience in Ontario and was approved by Health Canada over the weekend. Ontario has ordered more than 900,000 testing kits, while Alberta's contract is for 100,000 kits. Quebec said Monday it has ordered 200,000.
- The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) says a case of COVID-19 confirmed in northern Saskatchewan was caused by a nurse bringing the virus to the community. The FSIN Vice Chief said there needs to be more personal protective equipment and testing for nurses and others in northern communities.

Provincial

April 10th

- Ontario is launching a new phase of testing, with a goal of 8,000 per day by April 15th and 14,000 per day by April 29th.
- Priority groups will include residents and staff of long-term care homes, frontline healthcare workers and first responders, as well as transplant patients, pregnant women, cross border workers, and those receiving chemotherapy. Testing will be increased in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, in addition to prisons, homeless shelters, and group homes.



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- The list of symptoms has been updated to include a hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. For seniors, the list also includes chills, delirium, falls, acute functional decline, increased heart rate, and decreased blood pressure.

April 11th

- Ontario Together has received over 14,000 submissions.
- To date, Ontario Together has provided 7,500 leads on supplies and \$9 million dollars in purchases of PPE.

April 13th

- Over the weekend, Ontario acquired over 13 million masks, and delivered 6.5 million masks across the province.
- Alberta has committed to shipping 250,000 N95 masks, 2.5 million surgical masks, 50 million gloves, 87,000 goggles, and 50 ventilators to the province.
- The province has purchased nearly \$90 million worth of supplies.
- O2 Medical Technologies is working to develop 10,000 ventilators for Ontario.
- The government is now providing same-day delivery to hospitals and long-term care homes for supplies.
- Ford promised to give the public a date by which to expect updated models on April 14th.
- Ontario reported 421 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Monday and 17 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 7 470 cases. The death toll has risen to 291, however, 3,357 people have recovered from the virus, which is 44.9 per cent of cases.
- The province's Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, said on Monday that according to current models, Ontario's COVID-19 cases are about to reach their summit. Dr. Yaffe says that although we're seeing early signs of case numbers going down, we should still be very cautious.

April 14th

- 43 new deaths occurred due to COVID-19, bringing the provincial death toll to 334. There are currently 7953 confirmed cases in Ontario.
- Tomorrow, Ontario is launching an enhanced action plan to fight COVID-19 in long-term care. This will include using hospital-based personnel to help long-term care homes when outbreaks occur. Some of these teams will be redeployed to long-term care homes when needed.
- Tonight, another emergency order will be issued, prohibiting long-term care employees from working in multiple facilities. Ontario is immediately directing funding to help homes with this transition and cover the costs of increased hours for part-time staff. New infection control measures are also being put in place immediately in high-risk homes.



ANISHINABEK NATION

- Schools will not be opening on May 4th as previously announced. The Minister of Education will be releasing more details regarding school closures in the coming days.
- Premier Ford said today that we have not yet seen the surge in hospitals that we expected.

Federal

April 10th

- The RCMP announced new powers aimed at enforcing the Quarantine Act. To do so, officers could visit homes to ensure anyone entering Canada is self-isolating for 14 days. Additionally, police can now make arrests, rather than issuing a court appearance notice or summons. The RCMP says arrests under the act, violations of which could include a fine of up to \$750 000 and imprisonment for six months, will be a last resort.
- Ottawa has named a group mandated to ensure that disabled Canadians get the help they need during the coronavirus crisis. The 11-member advisory group, consisting of academics and organization leaders spanning a range of physical and intellectual disabilities, has been tasked with apprising the government of the barriers their communities face and ensuring their needs are adequately addressed.

April 11th

- The House of Commons unanimously approved wage subsidy legislation Saturday afternoon, while Conservatives and Liberals disputed when and how Parliament should meet again.

April 12th

- Health Canada has approved new rapid testing technology created by Spartan Bioscience to address the COVID-19 testing shortage.

April 13th

- Employers bringing thousands of agricultural labourers into Canada in the coming weeks will be required to quarantine them before they can work, and the federal government is promising to offset some of the costs. Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced \$50 million in federal funding Monday to provide \$1 500 per worker, which can be used to cover wages while they are in quarantine or the costs of space to isolate for the required 14 days.
- Federal figures show that by Monday morning, 5.38 million people were getting payments through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
- U.S. and Canadian officials are in talks that will likely lead to an agreement to keep the land border closed to non-essential travel for at least another few weeks.
- Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam released information yesterday indicating that outbreaks in seniors' homes have caused almost half of the COVID-19-related fatalities in the country.



ANISHINABEK NATION

- Northern miners have told the federal government that the wage subsidy program brought in to get the country through the COVID-19 pandemic leaves them out in the cold. There has yet to be a response from Ottawa on this matter.

April 14th

- Trudeau announced today that Ottawa will be providing additional supports in the North to address health, economic, and transportation needs. These measures include:
 - \$72.6 million to the governments of Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut for health and social services;
 - \$17.3 million to the governments of Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut to support air carriers;
 - \$15 million in non-repayable support for businesses in the territories; and
 - an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies for families.

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