

## Epidemiologic Summary

# COVID-19 in Ontario: January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020

This report includes the most current information available from the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) as of 4 p.m. March 31, 2020.

## Purpose

- This daily report provides an epidemiologic summary of COVID-19 activity in Ontario to date.

## Highlights

- There are 2,392 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario reported to date in iPHIS. This represents an increase of 426 confirmed cases from the previous report.
  - 49.7% of cases are male, 49.7% are female.
  - The median age is 50, ranging in age from <1 to 105 years of age.
  - Greater Toronto Area public health units account for 56.0% of cases.
- Of all cases, 23.7% had travelled in the 14 days prior to becoming ill, 10.6% had close contact with a confirmed case, 16.1% had neither and 49.5% have exposure information pending.
- 11.3% of cases were hospitalized and 37 deaths have been reported (please note there may be a reporting delay for deaths in iPHIS).
- Twelve outbreaks have been reported in long-term care homes.

## Case Characteristics

**Table 1. Summary of cases of COVID-19: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020**

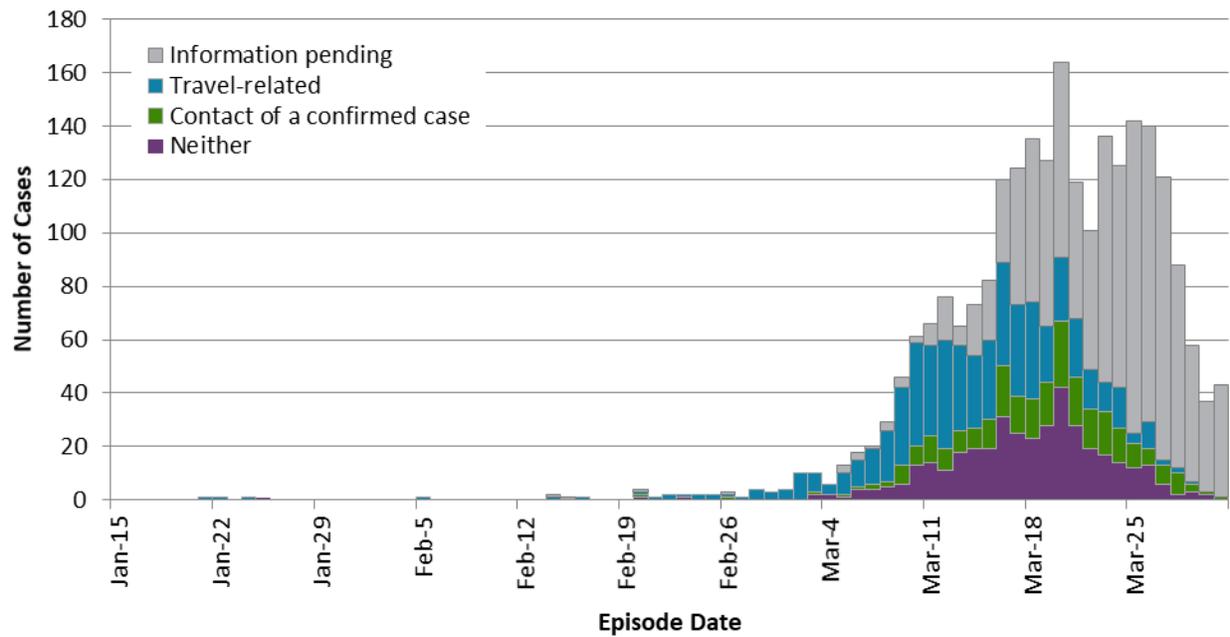
	Number	Percentage
Number of cases	2,392	N/A
Change from previous report	426	21.7% increase
Gender: Male	1,189	49.7
Gender: Female	1,189	49.7
Ages: 19 and under	55	2.3
Ages: 20-39	724	30.3
Ages: 40-59	850	35.5
Ages: 60-79	608	25.4
Ages: 80 and over	152	6.4

**Note:** 14 cases did not specify male or female. The age of three cases were unknown.

**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

# Time

**Figure 1. Confirmed cases (n=2,392) of COVID-19 by episode date and exposure: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020\***



**Note:** Travel-related refers to travel within the 14 days prior to becoming ill.

\*Interpret case counts for the most recent days with caution due to reporting lags.

**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

## Exposure

**Table 2. Confirmed cases (n=2,392) of COVID-19 by exposure type: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020**

	Number	Percentage
Travel*	567	23.7
Contact of a confirmed case	254	10.6
Neither	386	16.1
Information pending	1,185	49.5

\* Travel within the 14 days prior to becoming ill; travel locations are provided in [Appendix A](#).

**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

## Severity

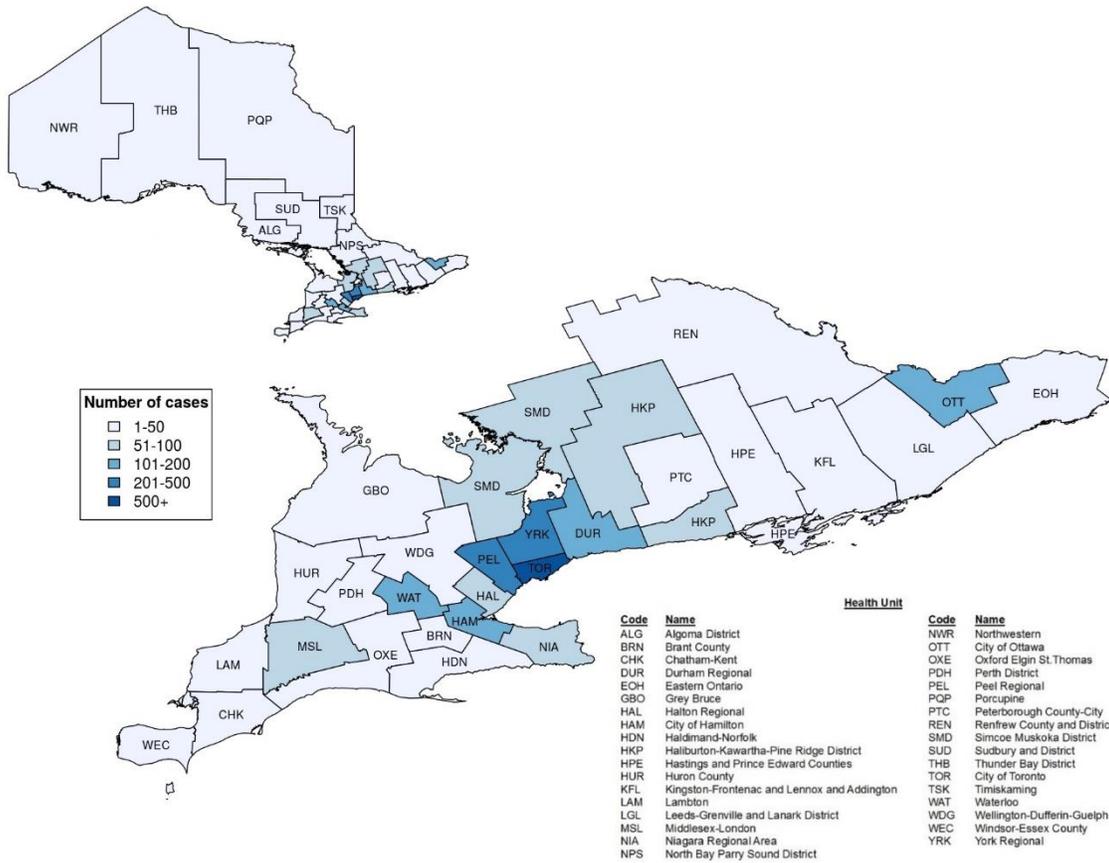
**Table 3. Confirmed cases (n=2,392) of COVID-19 by severity: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020**

	Number	Percentage
Cumulative hospitalized	270	11.3
Cumulative intensive care	91	3.8
Cumulative deaths reported (please note there may be a reporting delay for deaths in iPHIS)	37	1.5

**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

# Geography

**Figure 2. Confirmed cases (n=2,392) of COVID-19 by public health unit: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020**



**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

## Long-Term Care Homes

**Table 4. Confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks reported in long-term care homes and total number of associated cases**

Indicator	Count
Number of confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes (LTCHs)	12
Total number of cases** reported as part of the confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCHs	230
In residents	135
In staff	92
Total number of deaths** reported as part of the confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCHs	12
In residents	11
In staff	0

**Data Source:** integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database

\*\*Includes all outbreak-related cases and deaths, regardless of whether the case was laboratory confirmed (deaths among non-laboratory confirmed cases reported here are not included in table 3). May include cases other than residents or staff, such as volunteers.

# Technical Notes

## Data Sources (Case Data)

- The data for this report were based on information extracted from the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, as of **March 31, 2020 at 4 p.m.**
- iPHIS is a dynamic disease reporting system, which allows ongoing updates to data previously entered. As a result, data extracted from iPHIS represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and may differ from previous or subsequent reports.

## iPHIS data caveats:

- The data only represent cases reported to public health and recorded in iPHIS. As a result, all counts will be subject to varying degrees of underreporting due to a variety of factors, such as disease awareness and medical care seeking behaviours, which may depend on severity of illness, clinical practice, changes in laboratory testing, and reporting behaviours.
- Only cases meeting the confirmed case classification as listed in the MOH [COVID-19 case definition](#) are included in the report counts.
- Cases in this dataset are reported based on the Accurate Episode Date (displayed as episode date in graphs). This is a calculated field used when extracting data from iPHIS. The field uses a number of dates entered in iPHIS to provide an approximation of onset date.
- Orientation of case counts by geography is based on the diagnosing health unit (DHU). DHU refers to the case's public health unit of residence at the time of illness onset and not necessarily the location of exposure. Cases for which the DHU was reported as MOH (to signify a case that is not a resident of Ontario) have been excluded from the analyses.
  - GTA health units include: Durham Region Health Department, Peel Public Health, Toronto Public Health and York Region Public Health
- Exposure type is determined by examining the exposure and risk factor fields from iPHIS to determine whether a case travelled, was a contact of a case or neither. A hierarchy has been applied as follows: Travel-related > Close contact of a confirmed case > Neither > Information pending.
- Cases for which the Disposition Status was reported as ENTERED IN ERROR, DOES NOT MEET DEFINITION, DUPLICATE-DO NOT USE, or any variation on these values have been excluded.

## Appendix A

**Confirmed cases (n=567) of COVID-19 with travel history\* by location: Ontario, January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020**

Location travelled to**	Cases
United States	168
United Kingdom	61
Cruise	48
Germany	24
Spain	21
Mexico	20
Austria	19
Iran	17
Philippines	15
France	14
Egypt	12
India	10
Portugal	10
Switzerland	9
Cuba	7
Ireland	6
British Columbia	5
Italy	5
Netherlands	5

Location travelled to**	Cases
Peru	5
China	4
Costa Rica	4
Morocco	4
United Arab Emirates	4
Bahamas	3
Colombia	3
Jordan	3
Pakistan	3
Singapore	3
Barbados	2
Bolivia	2
Denmark	2
Dominican Republic	2
Israel	2
Panama	2
Quebec	2
Turkey	2
Alberta	1
Aruba	1
Australia	1
Brazil	1

Location travelled to**	Cases
Ecuador	1
Hong Kong	1
Jamaica	1
Japan	1
New Zealand	1
Russian Federation	1
Saint Martin	1
Saskatchewan	1
South Africa	1
South Korea	1
State of Palestine	1
Sweden	1
Tahiti	1
Trinidad And Tobago	1
Viet Nam	1

\* Travel within the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

\*\* Cases may report travel exposures for more than one country, or may report travel as a risk factor without specifying the location. Because of this, the sum of the counts in this table may not add to the number of cases with travel exposure.

## Disclaimer

This document was developed by Public Health Ontario (PHO). PHO provides scientific and technical advice to Ontario's government, public health organizations and health care providers. PHO's work is guided by the current best available evidence at the time of publication.

The application and use of this document is the responsibility of the user. PHO assumes no liability resulting from any such application or use.

This document may be reproduced without permission for non-commercial purposes only and provided that appropriate credit is given to PHO. No changes and/or modifications may be made to this document without express written permission from PHO.

## Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Epidemiologic summary: COVID-19 in Ontario – January 15, 2020 to March 31, 2020. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

## For Further Information

For more information, email [cd@oahpp.ca](mailto:cd@oahpp.ca).

## Public Health Ontario

Public Health Ontario is a Crown corporation dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. Public Health Ontario links public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers to the best scientific intelligence and knowledge from around the world.

For more information about PHO, visit [publichealthontario.ca](http://publichealthontario.ca).

