



March 18 2020: COVID-19 Update

Please see the today's updates from the municipal, provincial, and federal health authorities as well as the WHO as well as major federal and provincial announcements.

Announcements:

Federal

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses](#) [Added 03-18-20]
 - **See above news release for the following:**
 - Support for Canadians
 - Income Support for Individuals Who Need it Most
 - Flexibility for Taxpayers
 - Mortgage Default Management Tools
 - Role of Financial Institutions
 - Support for Businesses
 - Supporting Canadian Businesses Through the Canada Account
 - Helping Businesses Keep Their Workers
 - Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes
 - Ensuring Businesses have Access to Credit
 - Supporting Financial Market Liquidity
 - Economic Response Plan – Cost and Implementation
- CBC- [Canada, U.S. closing border to non-essential traffic](#) [Added 03-18-20]

Provincial

- [Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public](#) [Updated 03-17-20]
- [Job Protection for Workers during the COVID-19 Situation](#) [Added 03-18-20]
 - The proposed legislation would, if passed, provide job protection for employees unable to work for the following reasons:
 - The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19.
 - The employee is acting in accordance with an order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
 - The employee is in isolation or quarantine.
 - The employee is acting in accordance with public health information or direction.
 - The employer directs the employee not to work.
 - The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure.
 - An employee will not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave.
 - The measures would be **retroactive to January 25, 2020**

Toronto Public Health:

[City of Toronto Response to COVID-19](#)

- **Toronto: 104 positive cases.** [Updated 03-18-20]
- There are indications of community transmission
- [Statement from Toronto's Medical Officer of Health: March 17, 2020 at 3:45pm](#) [Updated 03-18-20]

Public Health Ontario:

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance](#)

- **Ontario: 205 cases** confirmed positive as of March 18th at 10:30am [Updated 03-18-20]

Public Health Agency of Canada:

[Canada.ca/coronavirus website](#)

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)
- [Travel Advice and Advisories](#)
 - An official global travel advisory is in effect: **Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada** until further notice
- **Canada: 569 confirmed cases** as of March 18 at 9:30pm [Updated 03-18-20]

World Health Organization:

[WHO COVID-19 Website](#)


- COVID-19 outbreak can now be described as a pandemic
- [WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 16 March 2020](#) [Updated 03-17-20]
- [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Report – 57](#) Information reported by March 16, 10am CET [Updated 03-18-20]
 - Canada: 424 cases **(Updated by PHAC to 569 on March 17 at 8:00pm)** [Updated 03-18-20]
 - Globally: 179,111cases [Updated 03-18-20]
 - USA: 3503 cases **(Updated by the CDC to 4226 on March 17 at 4pm)** [Updated 03-18-20]

Symptom Chart:

Symptoms of COVID-19, cold, influenza

Symptoms	COVID-19	Influenza (Flu)	Cold
Dry cough	+++	+++	+
Fever	+++	+++	-
Stuffy nose	-	++	+++
Sore throat	++	++	+++
Shortness of breath	++	--	--
Headache	++	+++	-
Body aches	++	+++	+++
Sneezing	--	--	+++
Exhaustion	++	+++	++
Diarrhea	-	++	--

+++ Frequent ++ Sometimes + Occasionally - Rare -- Not observed

 Source: WHO, CDC

*Being in close contact with someone who does not have COVID-19, but was exposed to someone with COVID-19, does not require specific public health follow up. ([Toronto Public Health](#))