



ANISHINABEK NATION

COVID-19 Update - April 27, 2020

Indigenous

- The First Nations Health Manager Association (FNHMA) has been holding weekly virtual town hall meetings to provide credible information and updates to Indigenous communities across Canada. FNHMA CEO Marion Crowe said the information series had 13 000 live viewers Thursday. The virtual meetings are held every Thursday at 1 p.m., EDT, at ihtoday.ca/townhall until May 21.
- This week, the FNHMA town hall will allow viewers to hear information about the Assembly of First Nations COVID-19 Task Force that has been established.
- Canada's Indigenous Services Minister said on Saturday that First Nations communities across the country have seen an increase in novel coronavirus cases in the last week. Since April 24, there have been 95 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in First Nations communities on reserve and 14 infections in Nunavik Inuit communities.
- An article from Friday said that Members of Gull Bay First Nation (GBFN) were hoping to have a separate COVID-19 facility constructed by today. The construction of the facility comes after six people in the community tested positive for COVID-19.

Provincial

- Ontario pork processor Conestoga Meats will halt operations for the next week in response to concerns over COVID-19 among its workforce.
- Provincial parks and conservation reserves will now be fully closed until at least May 31. The closure includes car camping, backcountry camping and day-use opportunities, as well as all public buildings and access points.
- Ontario's public schools will remain closed until May 31 at the earliest.
- On Sunday, Ontario saw the lowest increase in cases in almost two weeks.
- Provincially, there are nearly 180 outbreaks of COVID-19 in seniors' homes. Four of these facilities have more than 100 confirmed cases.
- The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) has said that the government rejected multiple offers by the province's physicians last week that would have increased doctor-led medical support in long-term care homes.
- The provincial government has announced a \$4 per hour raise over the next four months for front-line workers who are helping in the fight against COVID-19. Workers will also receive a monthly bonus of \$250 if they work more than 100 hours in a month over the next four months.
- Ontario issued an emergency order early Saturday that immediately opens allotment and community gardens, declaring the gardens essential.
- According to medical experts, Ontario is still experiencing the peak of our curve in cases.



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- Premier Ford released a framework for reopening the economy today, however it does not currently include any hard dates. This framework considers factors including virus spread and containment, health system capacity, public health system capacity, and incident tracking capacity.
- Ontario's framework for reopening the economy consists of three stages:
- Stage 1: Opening select workplaces that can meet public health requirements, with the example of curbside pickup. Non-urgent surgeries can begin to resume.
- Stage 2: Opening more outdoor spaces and workplaces, such as service and retail industry, based on risk assessments.
- Stage 3: When government will consider reopening all workplaces and relaxing restrictions on large gatherings.
- Minister Elliott said today that in order to begin easing restrictions, we will first need to see fewer cases and higher hospital capacity. We must also ensure that public health can contact new cases within a day of tracking.
- To date, there have been 18,000 submissions through the Ontario Together portal. This has led to 9,000 emergency supply leads, and approximately \$175 million in purchases of personal protective equipment.
- Ontario is currently completing approximately 12,500 tests each day.

Federal

- The application for the federal wage subsidy program opened today, and had already seen over 10 000 applicants by the end of the morning. The first payments should begin to arrive on May 7.
- According to Prime Minister Trudeau's daily press conference on Saturday, Ottawa will provide a \$62.5 million aid package to help the country's fish and seafood processors protect workers from COVID-19 and ensure they can continue to keep the seafood market alive.
- Those who need the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for another month must go online and reapply.
- Ottawa is working with provinces and territories to increase wages for essential service workers.
- Different provinces and territories will be able to move at different paces in their plans to reopening the economy. There will, however, be national guidelines.

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