

Registrar's COVID-19 Update:

Directive on Masks / Preparing for the Second Wave...

BAO

Bereavement
Authority of
Ontario

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July 9, 2020



Agenda

1. Directive:
Masks mandatory in many jurisdictions
2. BAO Attendance Guidance (recap)
3. Safety
4. Preparing for the Second Wave
5. Discontinued - **Expedited Death Response**
6. Questions

Masks/face coverings at Indoor Funerals & Visitations



❖ **Mandatory: Wearing of masks or face coverings**

- All staff and attendees
 - ✓ Cloth masks
 - ✓ Paper disposable masks
 - No need for N95s
 - ✓ Face coverings
- In specific jurisdictions
 - The list will change as the pandemic changes
 - This week many municipalities set their own bylaws/rules
 - Masks requirement must be included in funeral & visitation notices



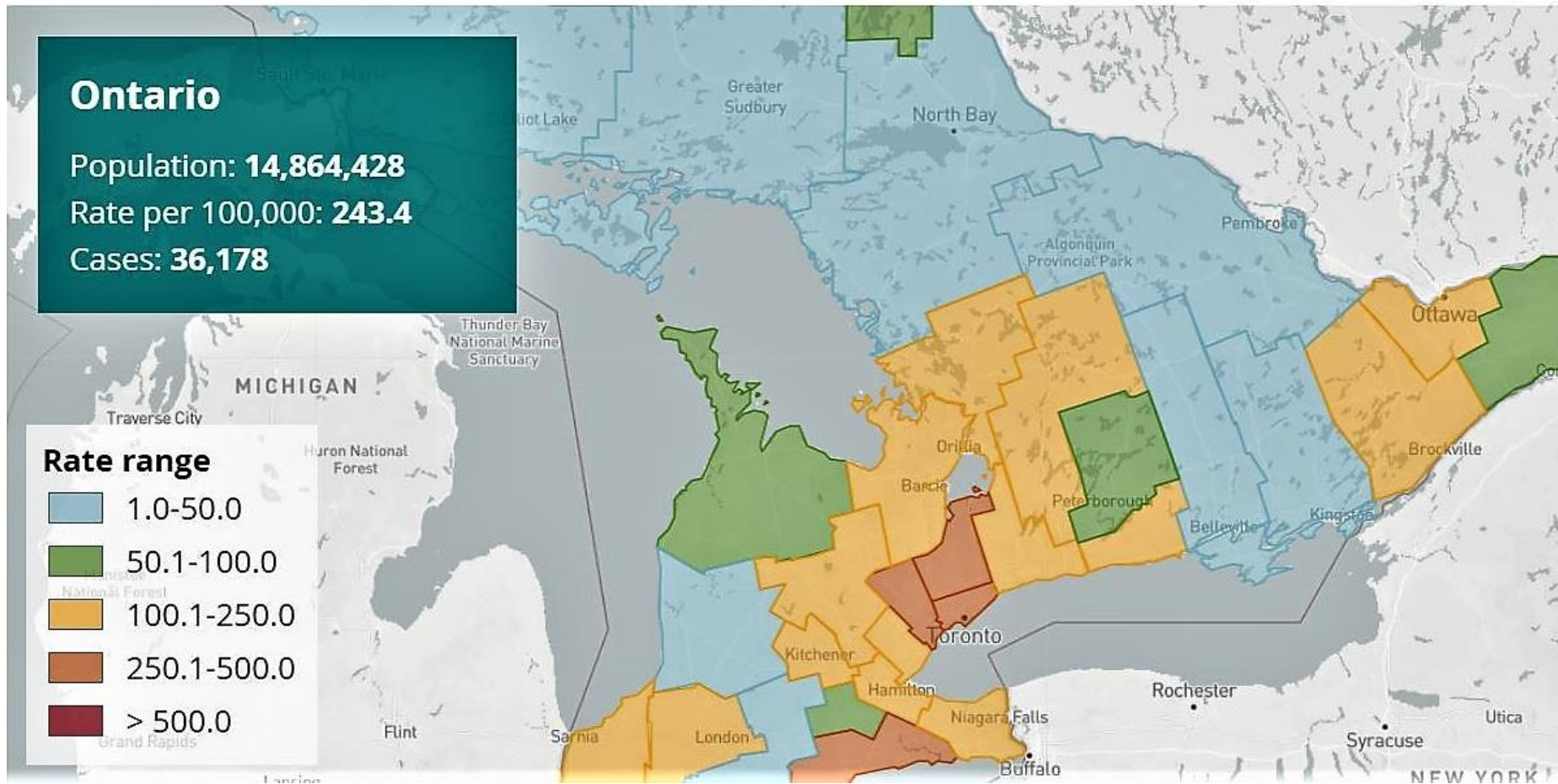
Masks/face coverings

Mandatory in these Ontario Health Unit jurisdictions



Counts and rates of COVID-19 cases in Ontario

July 8, 2020



Public Health Ontario Map

- ❖ Windsor-Essex County
- ❖ Chatham- Kent
- ❖ Lambton
- ❖ Middlesex-London
- ❖ Haldimand-Norfolk
- ❖ Niagara
- ❖ Hamilton
- ❖ Region of Waterloo
- ❖ Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
- ❖ Halton
- ❖ Peel
- ❖ Toronto
- ❖ York
- ❖ Simcoe-Muskoka
- ❖ Durham
- ❖ Haliburton-Kawartha- Pine Ridge
- ❖ Leeds-Grenville-Lanark
- ❖ Ottawa

Why wear a mask or face covering?



❖ **COVID-19 loves mass indoor gatherings.**

- It spreads among people who are in close contact with one another (within about two metres or six feet).

❖ **The nature of funerals makes physical distancing difficult, if not impossible.**

- Funerals are about mourning, comforting, consoling; there are hugs, tears, and runny noses.

❖ **COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected.**

Why wear a mask or face covering?



- ❖ **It is spread by respiratory droplets** when someone speaks, coughs or sneezes.
- ❖ **Masks and cloth face coverings provide a simple barrier** to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air.
- ❖ **Recent research shows that wearing a mask significantly helps in preventing the spread of the virus.**

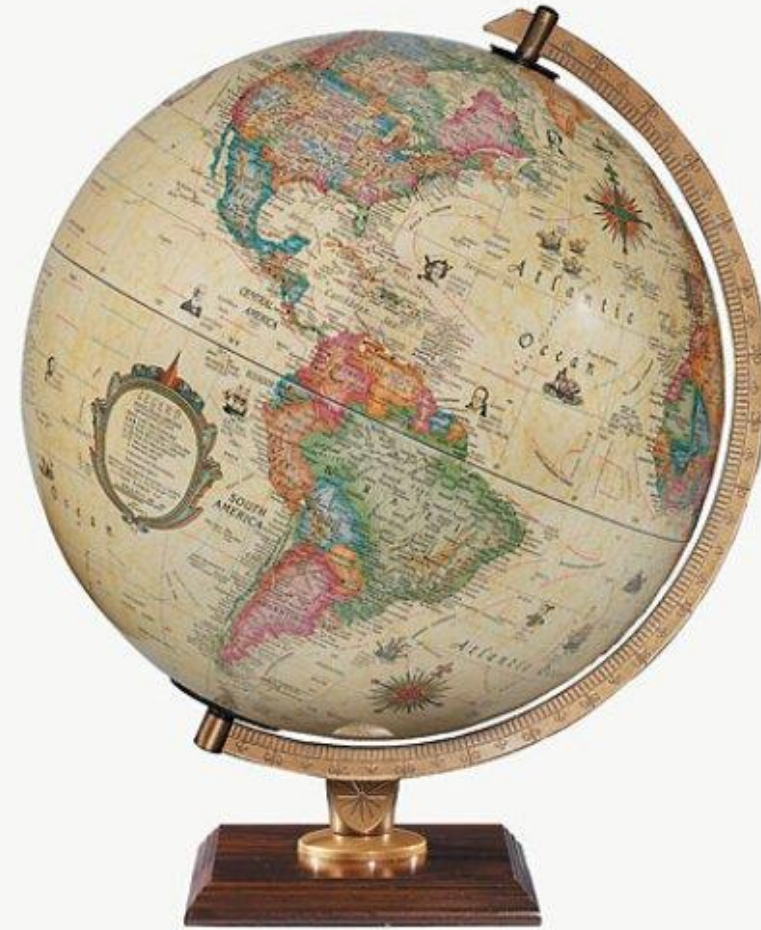
Why wear a mask or face covering?



- ❖ The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.
- ❖ The *higher the level of community transmission* in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering. - CDC

How does the BAO come up with this stuff?

- ❖ We constantly monitor and review the CDC, PHO, NFDA and news sources from around the globe to give you the latest and most reliable guidance; and anticipate future issues (such as future events)
- ❖ We consult with the BAO's advisory committees and associations to understand the impact on your operations
- ❖ We consult with the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) Ontario when necessary



Funerals/visitations are CDC's higher-highest risk gatherings

- ❖ **Higher risk:** Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.
- ❖ **Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

Elements of preventing COVID transmission



- ❖ Handwashing
- ❖ Physical distancing
- ❖ Face covering
- ❖ Cleaning and disinfection practices
 - *Just like our posters say*

BAO COVID-19 posters for funeral homes (& en français)

To protect your family and funeral staff:

***Everyone must be
at least 2 metres apart.**



(2 metres = 6 feet)

***Except for people in the same household.**

Thank you.

COVID-19 Safety – Ready...together

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To protect your family and funeral staff:

Clean your hands.



Thank you.

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To protect your family and funeral staff:

**Everyone must
wear a mask.**



***mask or face covering**

Thank you.

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BAO Attendance Guidance *recap*: Funerals and Visitations

❖ This Guidance supports the BAO's June 13 Revised Registrar's Directive

- "...**Subject to certain conditions**, the COVID-19 maximum attendance restriction allows for **30 per cent capacity for indoor funerals and visitations, and 50 attendees for outdoor funeral services.**"
- ❖ **Note:** Max-10 Registrar's Directive remains in place, with the new '30% indoor / 50 attendees outdoor' allowance being exemptions if – and only if – the ***conditions*** of the June 13 Registrar's Directive are met.
 - The '***conditions***' are as follows in the next slides



Indoor or Outdoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ For indoor or outdoor funeral and visitation gatherings, the **funeral director (FD) is responsible** for all family and visitors, and their adherence to all current measures in government laws/restrictions and BAO Registrar's Directives, Notices and Guidance, including those which occur in a place of worship.
 - All persons attending the gathering must remain at least two metres (six feet) apart from each other and from persons conducting the funeral, unless they are members of the same household.



Indoor or Outdoor Funerals & Visitations

- ❖ For every 10 people, there must be at least one funeral home staff member to monitor and ensure physical distancing of two metres.
- ❖ Continue logging/guest-booking of all family and visitors to each funeral and visitation for contact tracing purposes, in the event that this becomes needed.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer must be provided for visitors throughout funeral home facilities.



Indoor Funerals & Visitations

❖ Remember - **30 per cent capacity is diminished by physical distancing, pews and furniture.**

- Therefore, each funeral home must calculate how many people can actually be accommodated, while complying with the two-metre physical distancing rule. This will likely be much less than a venue's posted occupancy capacity.
- The number of people permitted includes clergy, officiants and musicians, but does not include funeral home staff.



- Examples - A room of 200 square metres (2,150 square feet) has an Ontario Building Code capacity of 190 people. However, 30 per cent capacity and physical distancing will reduce the total number permitted to 36 people. Similarly, a 25x25 square foot room has a normal capacity of 60 people, but the 30 per cent rule and physical distancing will shrink that number to 10 people.



Cemeteries

- ❖ At the cemetery, for every 10 people there must be one staff member to monitor physical distancing (**FD is responsible**).
- Cemetery operators may choose to restrict graveside to family only, with physical distancing in place. This will continue to be supported by the BAO.



- ❖ Cemetery operators may continue to further restrict attendance, in addition to restrictions already in place by government and the BAO, including those in this Attendance Guidance. FDs should communicate these restrictions to the families in advance of the service.

Safety at all funerals & visitations: It can be done – and done well.

– Even at large funerals, when so many more are counting on it.



Preparing for the second wave



A second (or third) wave is a “statistical certainty”

– World-renowned infectious disease expert **Dr. Gabriel Leung**,
Dean of medicine at the University of Hong Kong

World history – “All eight pandemics (since the 1700s) were characterized by a second (and in some cases, a third) wave of illness.”

– Report by Associate Medical Officer of Health Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Adapting to the new normal

Guelph's public health unit prepares for 2nd wave of novel coronavirus - Guelph | Globalnews.ca

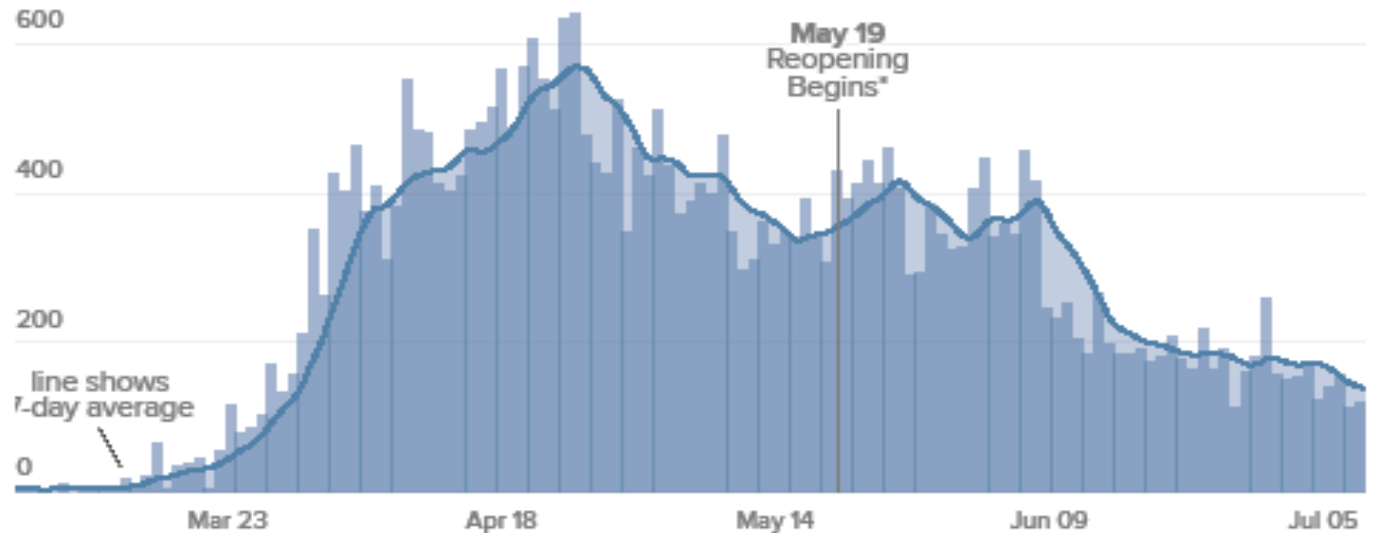
There are only 15 active cases in Guelph, including two patients in hospital.

Ontario

Cumulative

New

New confirmed cases by day (+118 today)



Ontario has **250 confirmed cases per 100k** residents.

** Retail outlets and some recreational services are allowed to reopen. Malls, hairstylists and restaurants remain closed.*

On June 7th, 223 cases were impacted by a reporting delay. Only 192 of 415 reported cases were new.

Last Updated: July 8, 2020 at 1:11:54 p.m. EDT EDT

Sources: [How we got the data](#)

Adapting to the new normal

- ❖ This is the new normal until a vaccine is widely available – we're unlikely to see significant changes in allowable practices
 - ❖ Regularize the processes you have in place now
 - ❖ The key to preventing a second wave is behaviour
-
- ❖ The next wave(s) may be focused on people and places that are vulnerable
 - ❖ Plan & prepare now
 - ❖ PPE, equipment, supplies, staffing

EDR discontinued

- served its purpose

- ❖ Notice to the Profession:
EDR discontinued in long-term care (LTC)
 - effective June 30
- ❖ **Transfer of decedents from LTC facilities returns to local processes** in place prior to the start of the EDR on April 14
- ❖ Timeframe and processes for LTCs and families **selecting and contacting a funeral home also return to local practices**, unless there is an outbreak at an LTC facility.



- ❖ Notice to the Profession:
EDR discontinued in **hospitals**
 - effective June 17
- ❖ Hospitals will no longer send EDR forms to the OCC in order to obtain a Medical Certificate of Death (MCOD).
- ❖ **Please remember that a hard copy of the MCOD must now be prepared by hospitals for funeral homes, as electronic copies from the OCC Team will no longer be provided.**
 - ❖ The timeframe and processes for hospitals and families selecting and contacting a funeral home will return to practices that existed prior to the EDR. Unless there is an outbreak at a hospital, funeral homes will return to their regular processes for transferring deceased patients.

Questions?

- ❖ **Thank you** all for adhering and adapting to Directives, Notices and Guidance
– keeping families and your staff safe.
- ❖ ***COVID19...Ready together*** info page
 - <https://thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/>