

# CEO/Registrar COVID-19 Update

## ➤ Modified EDR

**BAO**

Bereavement  
Authority of  
Ontario

**Carey Smith**  
CEO/Registrar

Jan. 13, 2021



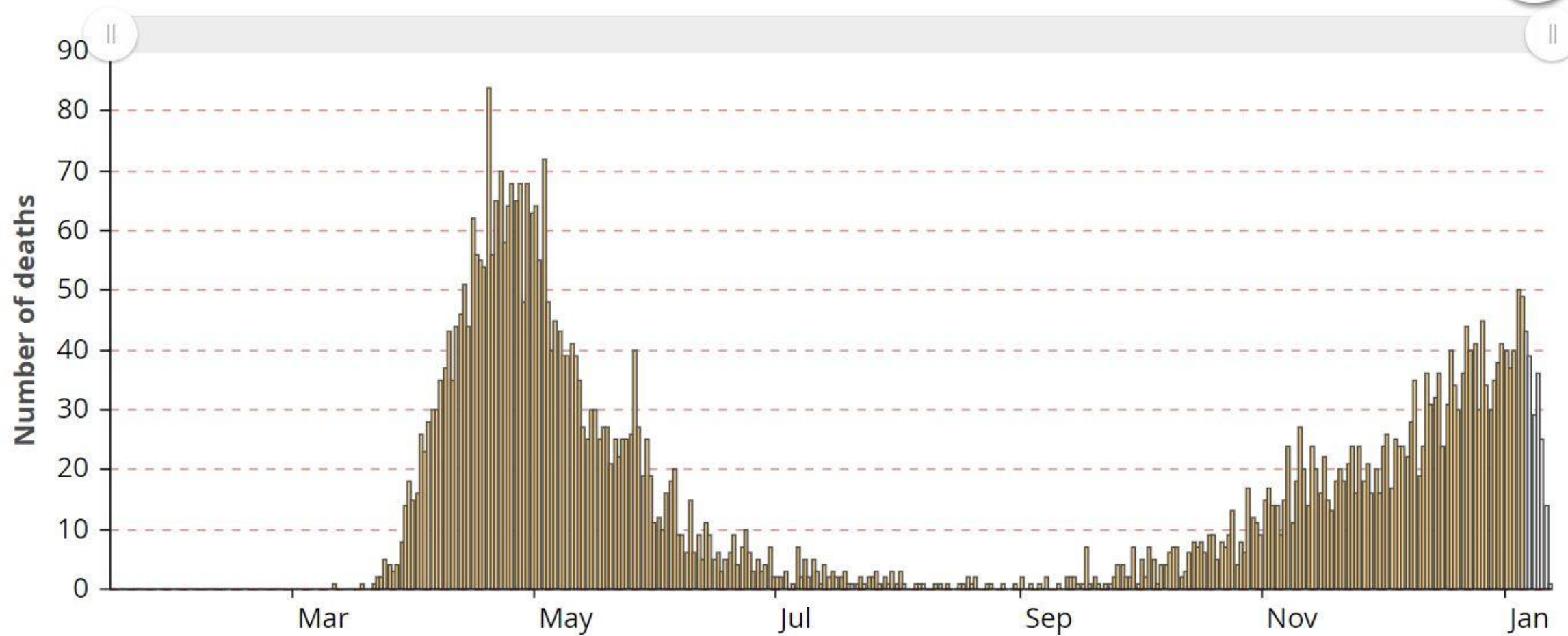
# Agenda

1. Death rates: Ontario; Canada; World
2. Modified **E**xpedited **D**eath **R**esponse
  - a) 10 max – still in place
  - b) Funeral homes and transfer services
  - c) Cemeteries - Winter burials
  - d) Crematoriums and Hydrolysis
3. Licensee renewal / fee waiver
4. Questions

# COVID-19 Death rate in Ontario

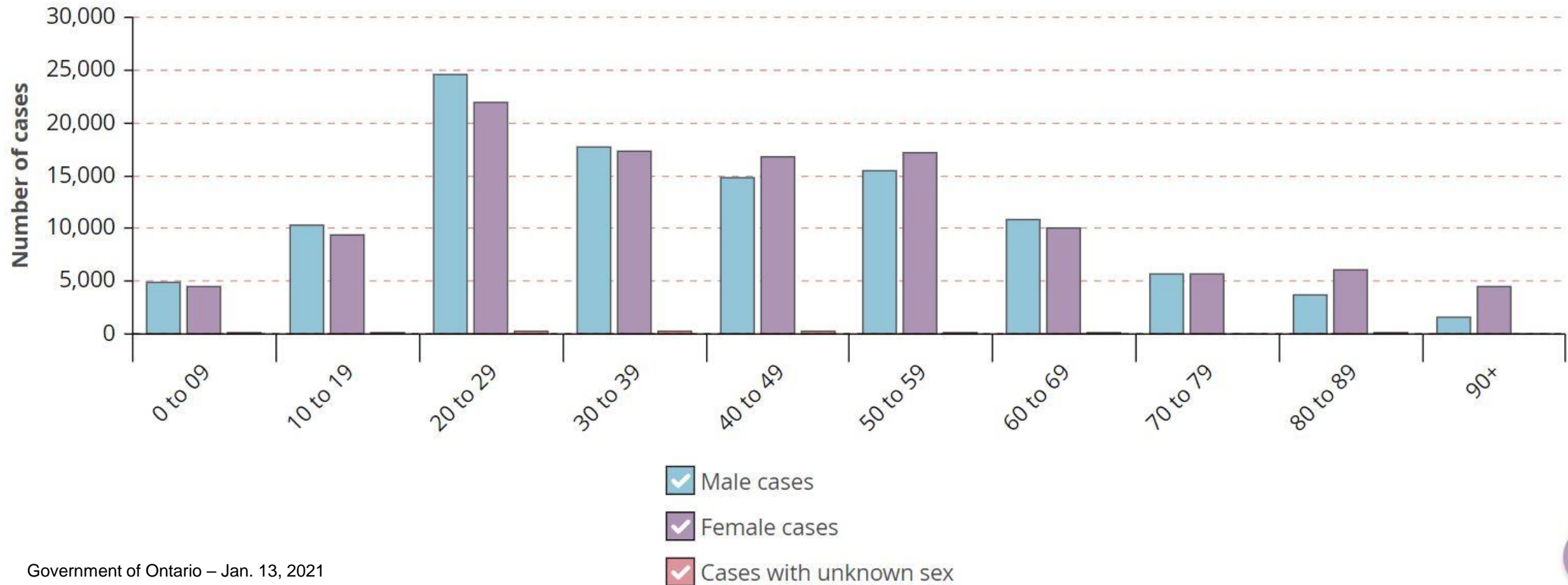
## Count of COVID-19 deaths in Ontario

Government of Ontario – Jan. 13, 2021



# COVID-19 Cases Ontario

Counts of COVID-19 cases by age group and by sex in Ontario



Government of Ontario – Jan. 13, 2021

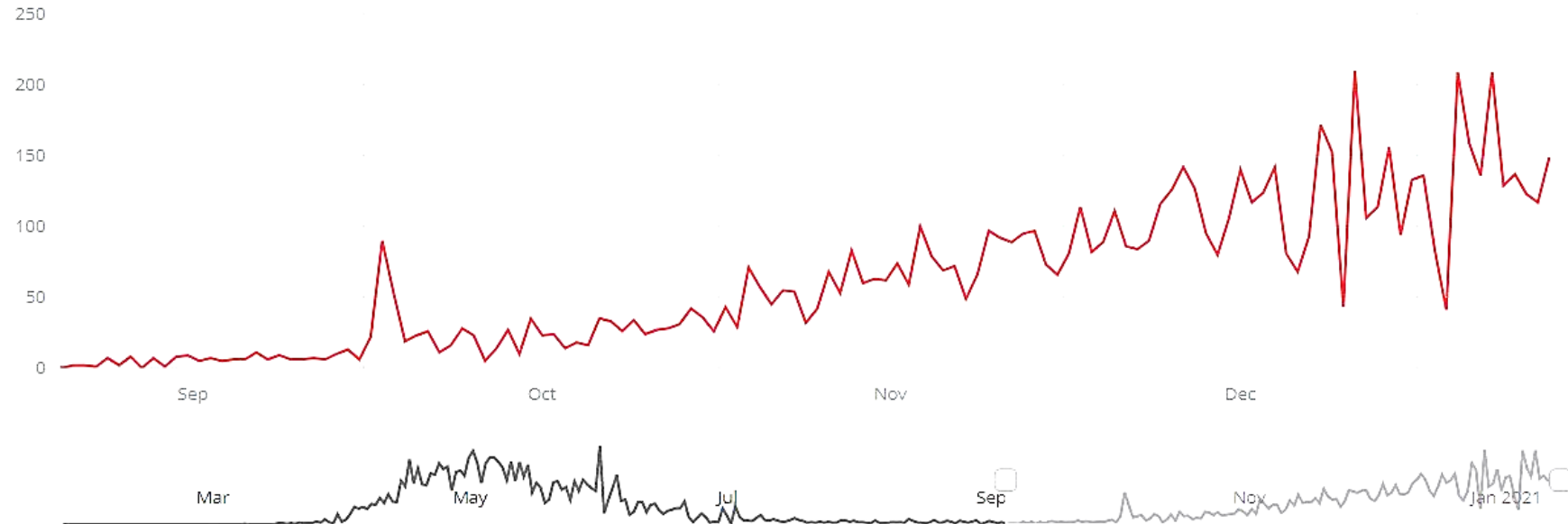
# COVID-19 Death rate in Canada

## Daily deaths

**Note:** Daily provincial data is not always received by the Public Health Agency of Canada over the weekend and holidays. This can result in a spike in cases when the numbers are reported.

View as chart

View as table



Select a region to display:

— CANADA

AB

BC

MB

NB

NL

NS

ON

PE

QC

SK

NT

NU

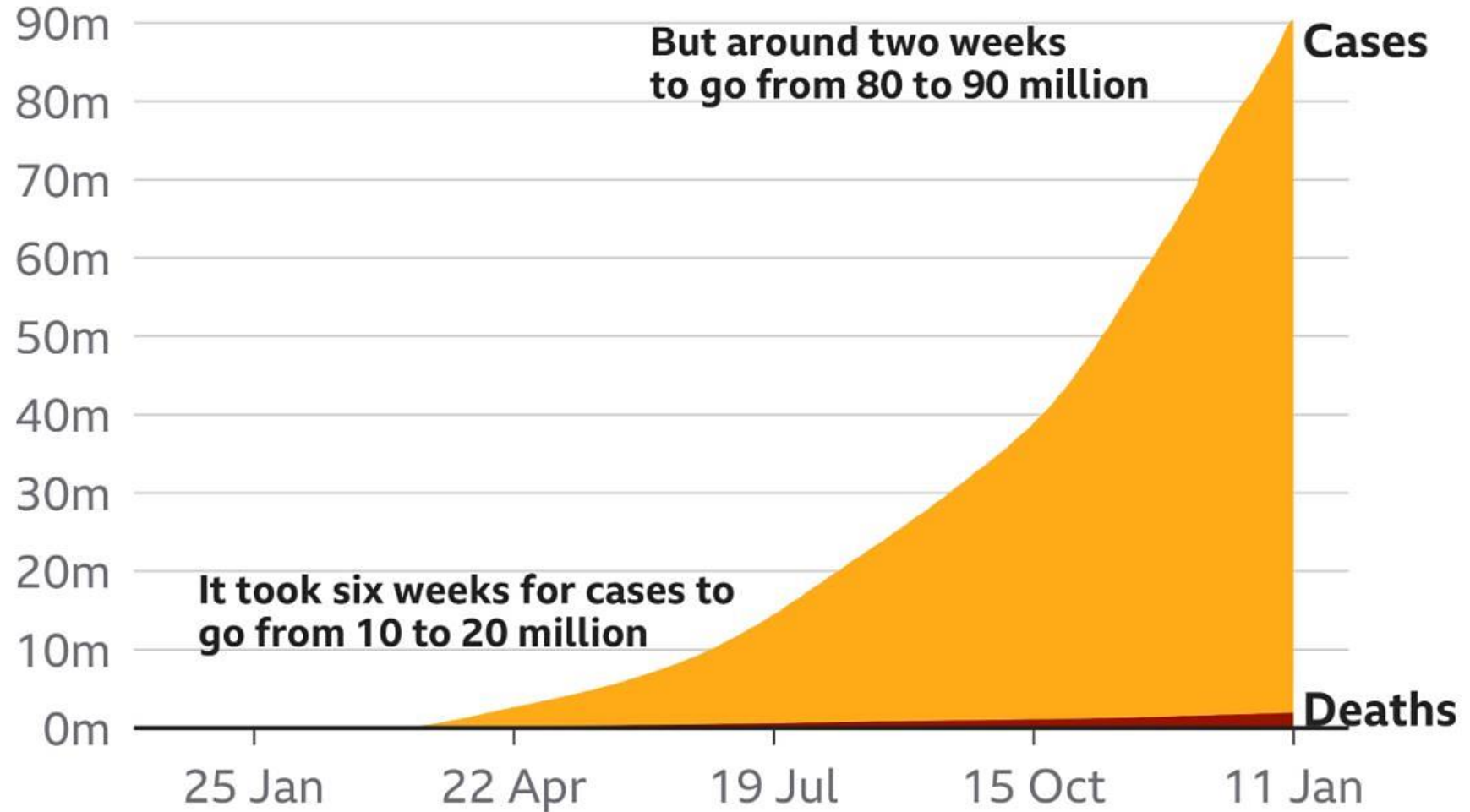
YT

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

Jan. 12, 2021

# COVID-19 Cases/Deaths World

## Global coronavirus cases pass 90 million



Source: Johns Hopkins University, data to 11 Jan





# COVID-19 Cases/Deaths around the World

## Coronavirus around the world

Total deaths

**1.9 million**

Latest daily figure

56-day trend

**8,428**

new deaths

Total confirmed cases

**90.3 million**

Latest daily figure

56-day trend

**609,066**

new cases

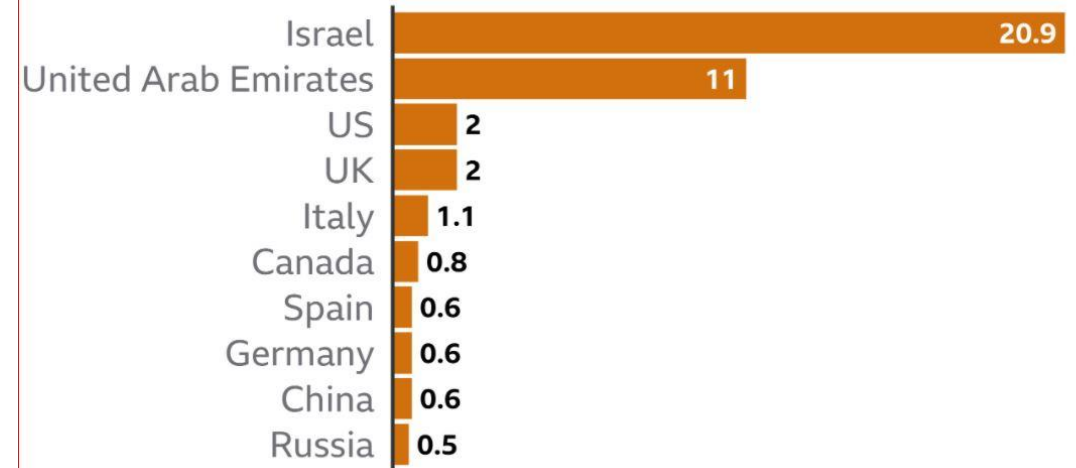
Source: Johns Hopkins University, national public health agencies, 11 Jan

**BBC NEWS**

The vaccination rate also indicates that COVID-19 will continue throughout 2021.

## Vaccination doses by population

Reported vaccine doses administered per 100 people in the 10 countries with the most vaccinations



Note: Total vaccinations refers to the number of doses given, not necessarily the number of people vaccinated

Source: Our World In Data, 11 January with latest available data by country **BBC**

# BAO Modified Expedited Death Response

## Factors that necessitated the **Modified EDR** Registrar's Directive

- ❖ Startling and steady increase in the death rate since Christmas/New Year's
- ❖ The Premier of Ontario declaration of a State of Emergency on Jan. 12
- ❖ Confident that you – the bereavement sector – have the capacity to continue provide professional care to grieving families
  - without the need for drastic or extraordinary measures, such as refrigeration trucks or make-shift storage facilities

That confidence is contingent on 2 factors:

1. That decedents are transferred from the place of death into the care of a funeral professional and then to disposition expediently
2. That the sector does not lose funeral homes or their staff due to infection



# BAO Modified Expedited Death Response

The following Modified EDR plan applies to all regions in the province of Ontario except:

- Northwestern Health Unit
- Thunder Bay Health Unit
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Algoma Health Unit
- Sudbury and Districts Health Unit
- Timiskaming Health Unit
- North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit

These regions will continue to operate as before,  
while following the latest Government of Ontario and BAO restrictions.

# 10 max – still in place

## ❖ **10 is the max** number of funeral attendees

- Indoors or outside – regardless of venue
  - Including cemeteries, religious buildings (churches, mosques, synagogues...)
- Not counting funeral staff

## ❖ This continues to be in place for all funeral services in the province

❖ *Most other non-funeral gatherings in Ontario are limited to 5*

# Funeral homes and transfer services

1. Funeral/transfer staff must attend at **hospitals and long-term care (LTC)** facilities within six (6) hours of being advised that the decedent is ready for release.
2. Funeral/transfer staff will go inside the hospital/LTC if required and remove the decedent. (This is a change from the former EDR protocols in the first wave.)
3. Funeral/transfer staff are responsible for obtaining the Form 16 - Medical Certificate of Death (MCOD), completing a Form 15 (Statement of Death) and obtaining a Burial Permit. (There is no longer an electronic MCODE nor Coroner's call centre staff. We are working on a substitute.)
4. Funeral/transfer staff must make arrangements with the family within 24 hours of taking a body into care. Disposition must occur as soon as possible. There is to be no storing or "stockpiling" of decedents.

# Funeral homes: Keep families, your staff, yourself healthy

- 1. Remember to clean and disinfect** all equipment and surfaces rigorously.  
If something can't be cleaned or disposed of, don't use it
  - i.e. - A stretcher or body pouch cover
- 2. Use personal protective equipment (PPE)** at all times
- 3. Screen your staff**
  - Remember, people age 20-29 represent the largest number of infections by age group
  - 42% of COVID-19 positive people show no symptoms.
- 4. The restrictions for visitations and services remain in effect:**
  - **Max 10**, scheduled visitations with no cycling of guests
  - **15-minute cleaning break between** periods
  - **Guest logging for contact tracing** and **physical distancing** must be enforced
  - **Everyone must wear a mask or face covering**





# Cemeteries – Winter burials

- **All cemeteries have been directed to continue burials** provided that cemetery managers determine that ground conditions remain safe to do so
  - **Interments are to proceed without delay** to prevent storage and identification problems, and stockpiling
  - **Staff & equipment must be ready** to accommodate requests for interments, including ground burials, crypts in a mausoleum, crematoriums, and cremated remains in a columbarium
  - Frozen ground, or high-water tables are among factors that may prevent winter burials
- 
- ❖ **There is no need to change your cemetery bylaws**
    - ❖ This is an emergency measure ordered by the Registrar of the *Funeral Burial and Cremation Service Act, 2002*. *Cemeteries are an Essential Workplace – as declared by the Premier of Ontario.*
    - ❖ As usual, ensure you have the permission of the Interment Rights Holder for the deceased

# Crematoriums and Hydrolysis

- Crematoriums and hydrolysis facilities must operate at **full capacity** to accommodate demand in their area
  - This means they must operate for sufficient hours to prevent delays or backlogs
- Scheduled holds on cremations are prohibited





# Why are we doing this?

- ❖ **Maintains dignity & respect** of decedents & families; important for families to keep death care as “normal” as possible. All religions hold the body as sacred.
- ❖ **Moves decedents from healthcare to funeral sector** without delay placing them in the care of the best-trained and equipped professionals
- ❖ **Relieves burden on healthcare** – so they can care for the living
- ❖ **Limits movement/transfer of bodies** to prevent redundant handling
- ❖ **Reduces chance for mistakes** in identification and transfer
- ❖ **Avoids mass storage of decedents** in alternative facilities (trailers, arenas etc.)
- ❖ **Deathcare remains local** rather than centralized outside of a community

# Licence renewals / Fee waiver

- Fee waiver in place for this year
  - No personal or operator (business) licence fees to be paid
  - **Annual Licence Renewals are still a must**  
– **but no fee!**
- Our online licence portal is still being adjusted for this one-time change
  - So do not renew yet  
– as per our Dec. 9 Notice to the Profession
- Operator licence renewal paper forms were mailed by the BAO on Dec. 1
- Operators can complete and send their forms back to the BAO. Send them by:
  - Email - [licensing@thebao.ca](mailto:licensing@thebao.ca) or
  - Fax - 647-748-2645
- The operator wall-mount licences will be emailed to operators in coming weeks



# Thank you

- As usual, this presentation and video will be made available on our BAO website later today.
- [thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/](https://thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/)