

CEO/Registrar COVID-19 Update

➤ **Vigilance in the 3rd wave**

BAO

Bereavement
Authority of
Ontario

Carey Smith
CEO/Registrar

April 30, 2021



Agenda

1. Death/Case rates:
 - World / Canada / Ontario
2. Tracking COVID in our industry
3. COVID restrictions
4. Don't stockpile
5. Transfers covered
6. Electronic Warrants – Toronto
7. ON Reg. 30/11 *FBCSA*
8. Mother's Day at Cemeteries
9. Fee waiver survey results
10. Vaccination news
11. Questions

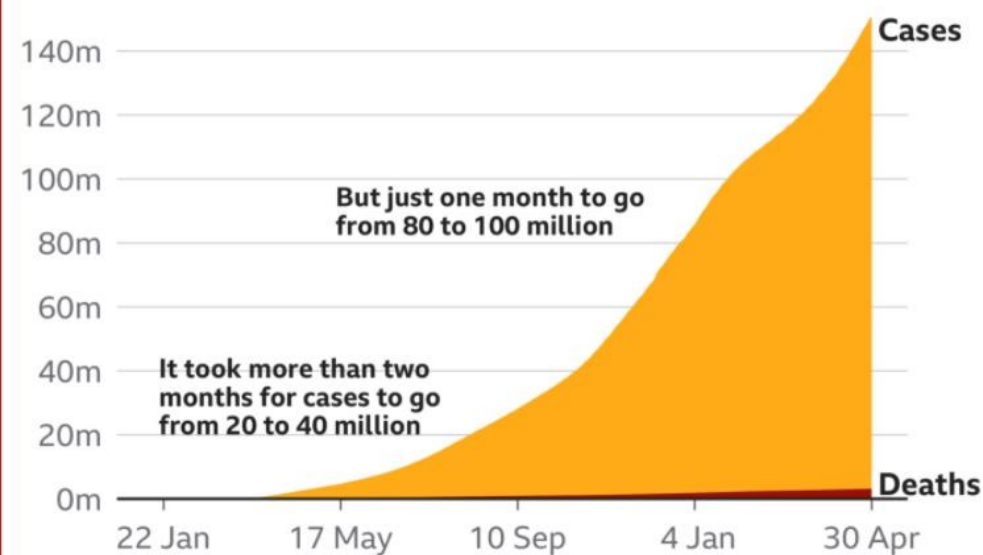
Coronavirus around the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, national public health agencies, 30 Apr **BBC NEWS**

The US, India and Brazil have seen the highest number of confirmed cases, followed by France, Turkey and Russia.

Global coronavirus cases pass 150 million

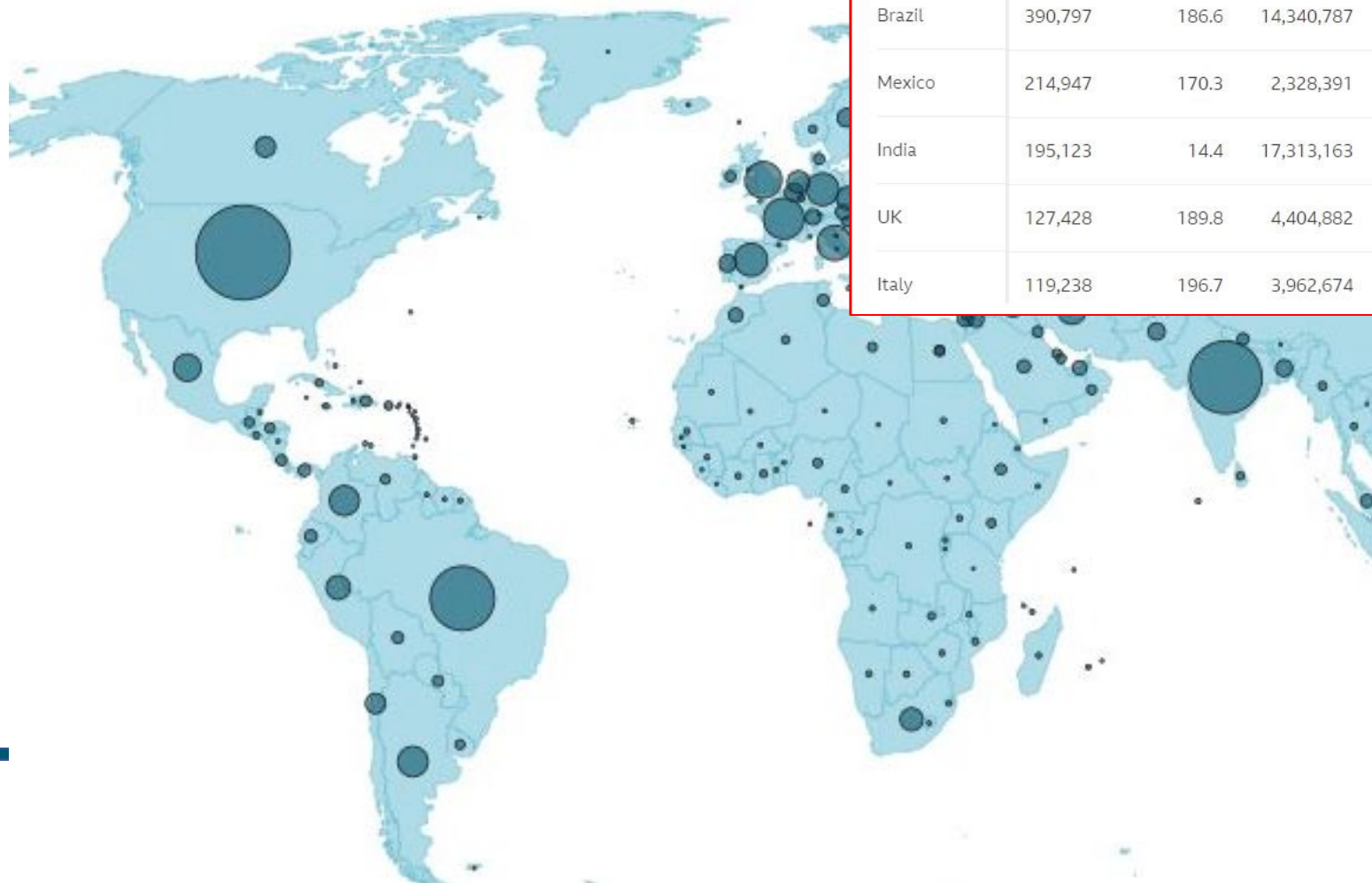


Source: Johns Hopkins University, data to 30 Apr

BBC

The world

150,536,843 cases
3,166,029 deaths



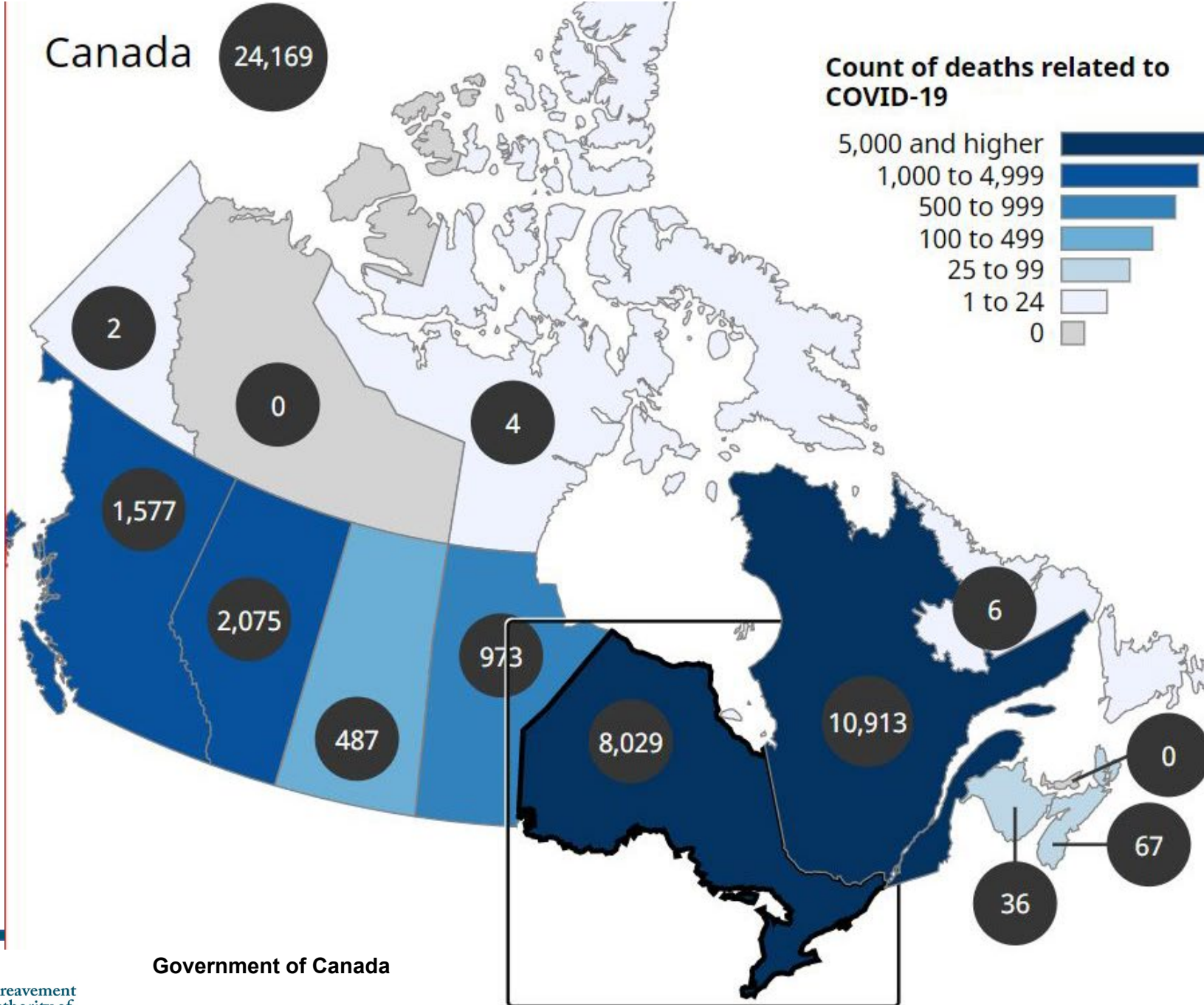
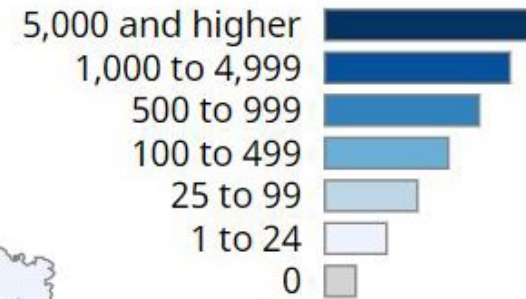
*Deaths per 100,000 people

Filter: The world

Country	Deaths	Death rate*	Total Cases
US	569,772	174.2	31,937,111
Brazil	390,797	186.6	14,340,787
Mexico	214,947	170.3	2,328,391
India	195,123	14.4	17,313,163
UK	127,428	189.8	4,404,882
Italy	119,238	196.7	3,962,674

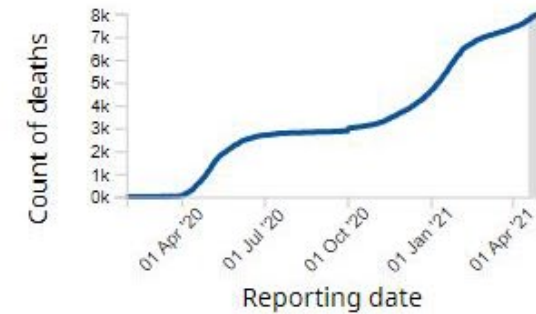
Canada 24,169

Count of deaths related to COVID-19



The count of deaths related to COVID-19 in **Ontario** was **8,029** as of April 29, 2021.

Ontario



Play

.csv

Government of Canada

COVID-19 Deaths in Ontario

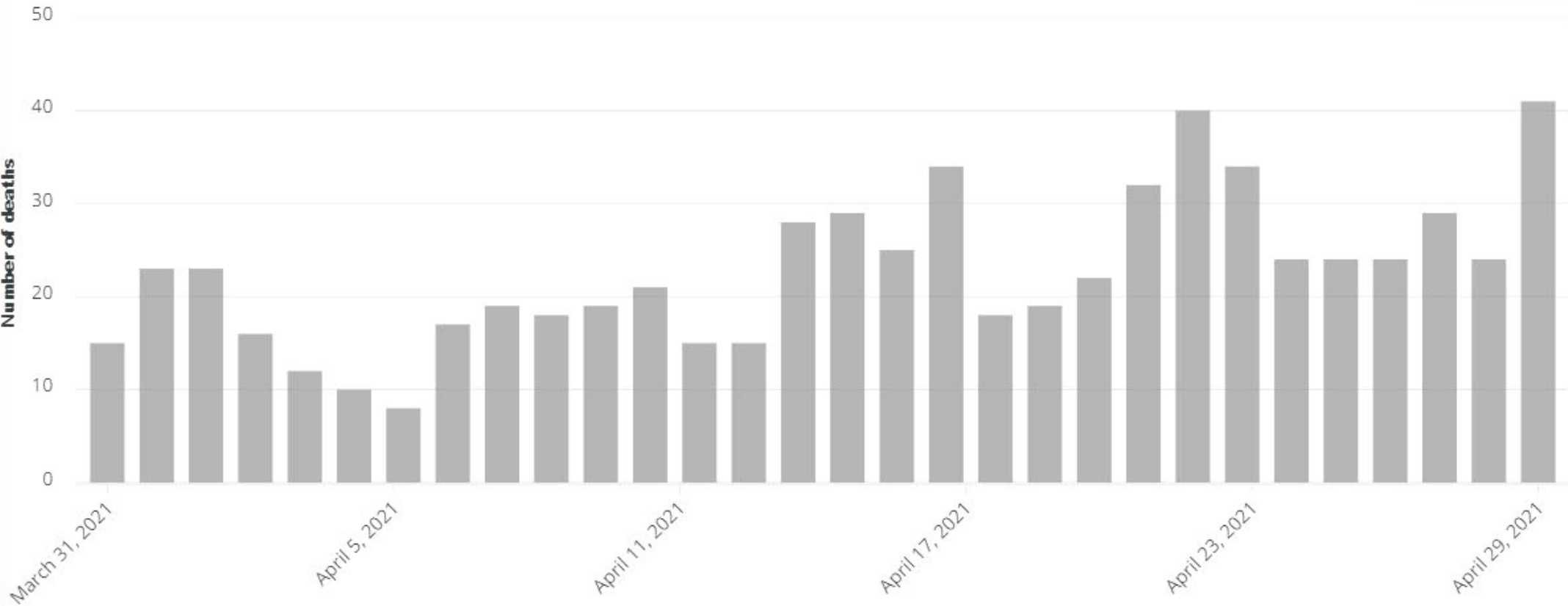
Government of Ontario

Daily Cumulative

Number of deaths reported each day.

Graph Table Past 30 days ▼

Download ▼



COVID-19 Cases in Ontario

Daily

Cumulative

Government of Ontario

Number of new cases reported each day. [Learn why some numbers may not currently match what a Public Health Unit has reported.](#)

Graph

Table

Past 30 days ▼

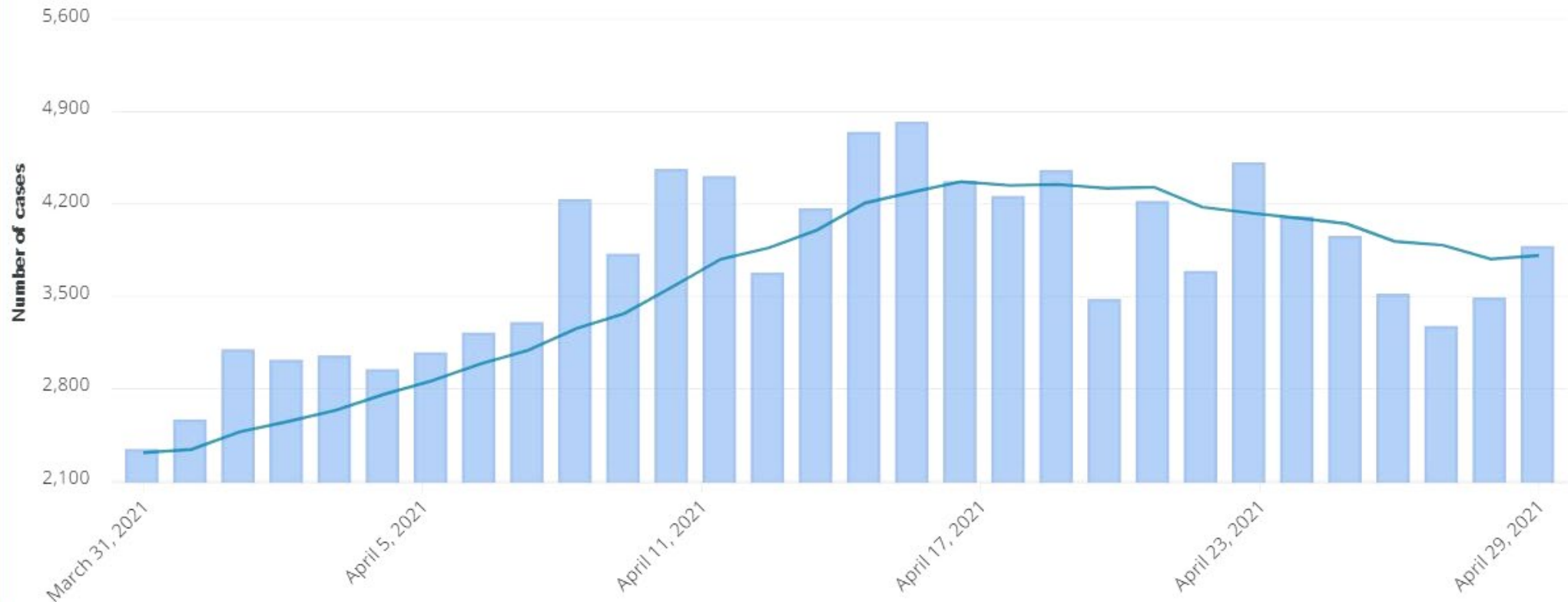


New cases



7-day average

Download ▼



How COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Ontario break down by age group

Age	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Under 20	68,665	291	3
20-29	93,336	671	16
30-39	71,739	1,110	33
40-49	64,493	1,693	79
50-59	65,082	3,055	289
60-69	41,098	4,024	755
70-79	21,047	4,523	1,577
80-89	15,092	4,268	2,867
90+	8,196	1,923	2,315
Unknown	113	3	1
TOTAL	448,861	21,561	7,935

Total cases and deaths between Jan. 15, 2020 and April 26, 2021.

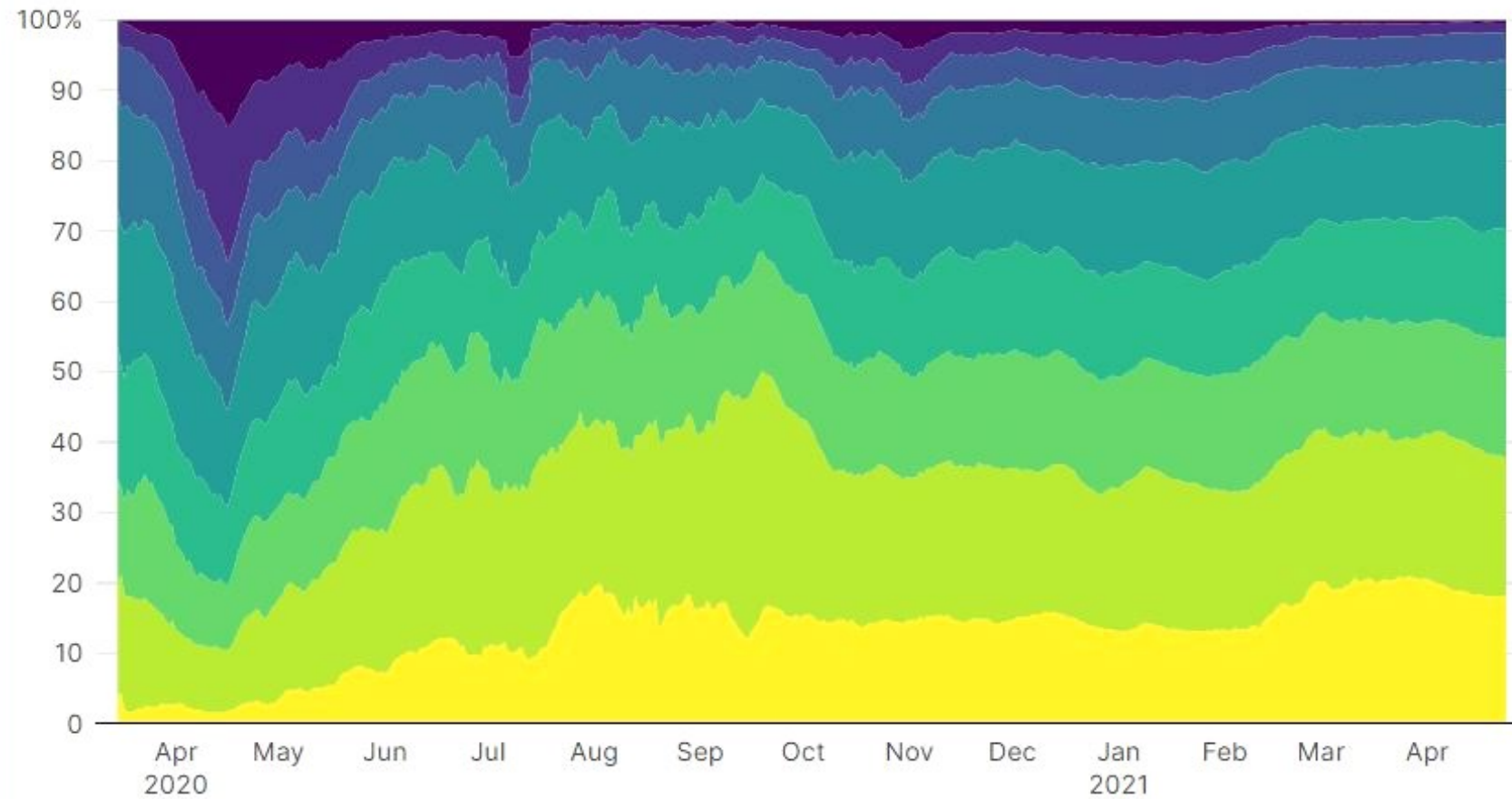
SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

TORONTO STAR

Ontario's pandemic has been getting younger, both in terms of cases...

The share of COVID-19 cases over time in Ontario by age group.

Under 20 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90+



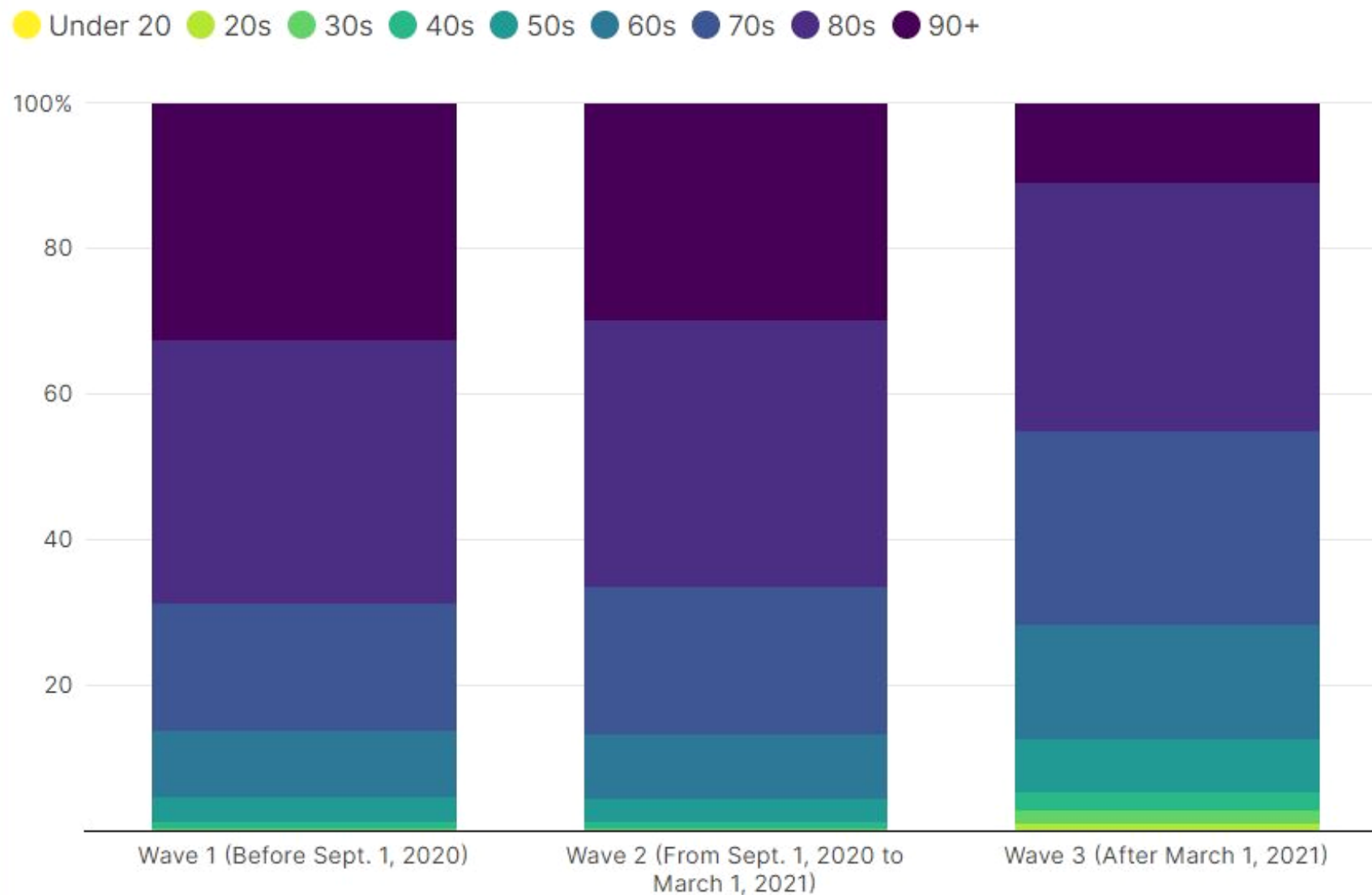
New cases per day presented as a 7-day rolling average.

SOURCE: ONTARIO GOVERNMENT • [GET THE DATA](#)

TORONTO STAR

...and in terms of deaths

The share of COVID-19 deaths in Ontario by age group over the three waves.



Tracking COVID in our industry

What we asked

All licensed operators must notify the BAO and your local public health unit if and when:

- **Your facility experiences COVID-19 infections; or**
- **Your staff test positive for the coronavirus.**

In addition, operators must also report any and all previous COVID infections to the BAO.

- BAO Notice April 22, 2021

Why we asked

- Understanding the current **3rd Wave** pandemic and overall COVID picture in our sector
- Collection of data for the BAO for future analysis - when another pandemic occurs
- Have available for government
- **To show you** – So we can all keep the purpose of precautions front and centre in our industry, as warehouses and other workplaces shutdown in Peel, Toronto, Simcoe...

Thank you for sending your COVID-19 numbers and dates of occurrence.

Month	<u>Staff</u> infected	<u>Mourners</u> infected	Location & breakdown
March-April 2020	2	2	▪ GTA 2- <u>S</u> 2- <u>M</u>
September 2020	2	0	▪ GTA 2- <u>S</u>
October 2020	2	1 or more	▪ GTA 2- <u>S</u> *1- <u>M</u> or more
November 2020	4	1	▪ GTA 4- <u>S</u> 1- <u>M</u>
December 2020	6	2	▪ GTA 4- <u>S</u> 1- <u>M</u> ▪ SouthwesternON-Kitchener 2- <u>S</u> 1- <u>M</u>
January 2021	5	6	▪ GTA 4- <u>S</u> 6- <u>M</u> ▪ SouthwesternON-Niagara Falls 1- <u>S</u>
February 2021	3	3	▪ EasternON-Kingston 3- <u>S</u> ▪ GTA 3- <u>M</u>
March 2021	13	5	▪ CentralON-Lindsay 1- <u>S</u> 1- <u>M</u> ▪ GTA 12- <u>S</u> 4- <u>M</u>
April 2021	14	2	▪ SouthwesternON-Brantford 2- <u>S</u> ▪ GTA 9- <u>S</u> 2- <u>M</u> ▪ EasternON-Ottawa 2- <u>S</u> ▪ CentralON-Orangeville 1- <u>S</u>

- 17 emails received in response to Registrar's Notice April 22, 2021
- 13 confirming case numbers
- 4 asking questions
- *1 or more = Family reported COVID infection, but number not recorded

Current restrictions – Max 10

➤ The return of Max 10 – Registrar's Directive – Effective April 19

Max #	Who / Where
10	Funeral attendees
10	Inside or outside
10	Combined total for entire facility
10	At cemetery for a funeral service
10	Regardless of venue

Plus

10 not counting funeral or cemetery staff

Cleaning/disinfecting between each visitation/funeral service

No cycling or lining up people

Physical distancing of 2 metres

Wear a mask

Don't stockpile – Swift dispositions are vital

- We all know what can happen if/when deaths go beyond capacities
- Never think “it can't happen here.”



➤ NEW DELHI (AP) April 26, 2021 — Delhi has been cremating so many bodies of COVID-19 victims that authorities are getting **requests to start cutting down trees in city parks for kindling**, as a record surge of illness is collapsing India's tattered health care system. Outside graveyards in cities like Delhi, which currently has the highest daily cases, ambulance after ambulance waits in line to cremate the dead. Burial grounds are running out of space in many cities as glowing funeral pyres blaze through the night.

MONTREAL GAZETTE

Death in the time of COVID-19: overwhelmed morgues, busy funeral staff

“Every night when I get home, I cry. Those people didn't have to die in those horrible conditions.”

Matthew Lapierre • Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Apr 21, 2020 • April 21, 2020 • 4 minute read • [Join the conversation](#)



Jean-Charles Cardinal of J.J. Cardinal funeral homes laments that the bereaved have been robbed of parts of the grieving process. “People need the warmth of the human touch.” PHOTO BY PIERRE OBENDRAUF /Montreal Gazette


Refrigerated trailers sit conspicuously in hospital parking lots across the city. Nurses, doctors and patients pass, usually without a sideways glance.


Transfers covered by Government of Ontario

Memo from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario (OCC)

CORONAVIRUS | News

Toronto family forced to pay to bring uncle's body back after hospital transfer to Ottawa

 Omar Sachedina National Affairs Correspondent, CTV National News
@omarsachedina | Contact

 Brooklyn Neustaeter CTVNews.ca Writer
@bneustaeter | Contact


Published Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:00PM EDT
Last Updated Thursday, April 29, 2021 9:24AM EDT

TORONTO — A Toronto woman says her family was forced to pay a private company to bring her uncle's body home after he was transferred to a hospital in Ottawa and later died there of COVID-19.

"We don't know anyone in Ottawa, we don't have family there. All of our family is here. His support system is here," Jaime Nguyen said in an interview with CTV National News.

Nguyen's uncle died of COVID-19 a week ago, taking his last breath alone and in a hospital hours away from his loved ones.

OCC Memo: "...The Province of Ontario recognizes there are **financial implications related to these transfers in cases where the patient has died** and must be returned to their home community. In the event of a tragic outcome following transfer of a COVID-19 ICU patient, any funeral establishments and/or Transfer Service Operators contracted to transfer a deceased person from a hospital outside of the deceased person's home community back to their community may submit an invoice to recover the fees associated with this transfer. However, it is clear that this financial burden should not be incurred by families.

Office of the Chief Coroner Ontario Forensic Pathology Service	Bureau du coroner en chef Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario	Ontario 
Forensic Services and Coroners Complex 25 Morton Shulman Avenue Toronto ON M3M 0B1	Complexe des sciences judiciaires et du coroner 25, Avenue Morton Shulman Toronto ON M3M 0B1	
Telephone: (416) 314-4040 Facsimile: (416) 314-4030	Téléphone: (416) 314-4040 Télécopieur: (416) 314-4060	
DATE:	April 29, 2021	C21-34
MEMORANDUM TO:	All Licensed Funeral Establishments and Transfer Service Operators	
FROM:	The Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario	
RE:	Return transportation following the death of COVID-19 patients who have been transferred for ICU care in a location outside of their home community	

This is a cost that the Ministry of Health has acknowledged it will cover.

For these cases, Funeral Establishments and Transfer Service Operators should submit their invoice to the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC). **Invoices should be submitted to occ.inquiries@ontario.ca and billed at the rates that would ordinarily be paid for a coroner transfer....**"

Electronic Warrants - Toronto

Memo from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario

Coming soon –

- **Electronic Warrants for Postmortem** and **Warrants to Bury** will start to be used for Death Investigations in **Toronto** of the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) for Ontario.
- These documents will therefore not be transferred with the body to the Forensic Pathology units.
- BAO licensees will be alerted to attend at scenes as they have in the past.
- Licensees will receive **electronic documents** accordingly for **Medical Certificates of Death** and **Warrants to Bury** from coroners or the forensic pathology units.
 - ❖ The change to an electronic process for the documents is all part of the implementation of an integrated case management solution for Death Investigation cases in Ontario by the OCC at the Ministry of the Solicitor General.
- Kingston was the first area to have this – Effective March 1, 2021

Changes coming: ON Reg. 30/11 *FBCSA*

Message from the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

➤ July 1, 2021

Licence display requirements

The changes, which come into force on July 1, 2021, will:

- Remove the requirement that cemetery, crematorium, funeral establishment, and transfer service operators (bereavement service operators) display their licence or a copy of it near the main entrance of their establishment.
- Require that every bereavement service operator who maintains or makes use of a website to promote, or to enter contracts for, the sale or provision of a licensed supply or service to make available in a clearly visible place on that website their licence number and a description of their type of licence.

Changes coming: ON Reg. 30/11 *FBCSA*

Message from the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

➤ July 1, 2021

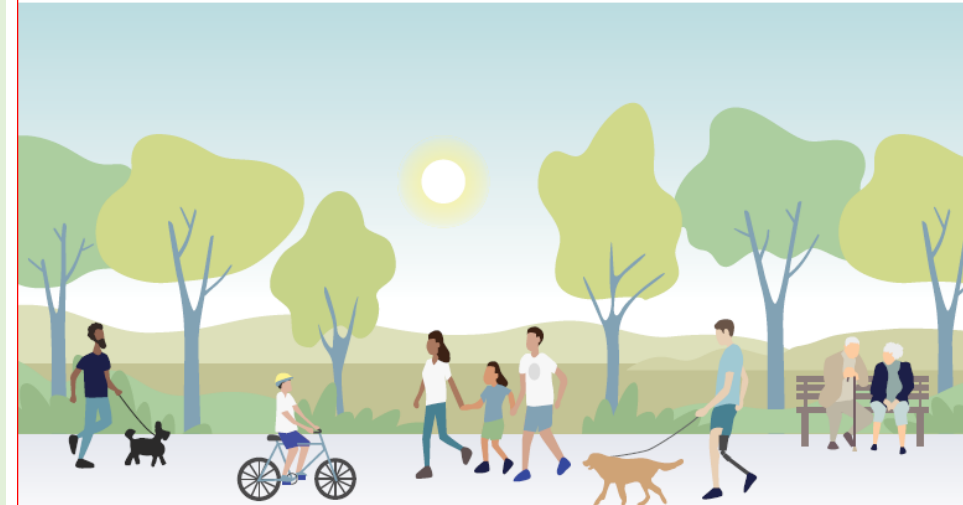
Price list and BAO Consumer Information Guide

The changes, which come into force on July 1, 2021, will:

- Require that every bereavement service operator who maintains or makes use of a website to promote, or to enter contracts for, the sale or provision of a licensed supply or service to make available in a clearly visible place on that website:
 - A free, printable electronic version of the operator's price list; and
 - A link to the [Consumer Information Guide](#) prepared by the Registrar of the BAO.

BAO | Bereavement
Authority of
Ontario

**Consumer
Information
Guide**



A Guide to Death Care in Ontario
Everything you need to know.

Changes coming: ON Reg. 30/11 *FBCSA*

Message from the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

➤ January 1, 2022

Cemetery care and maintenance funds and accounts

The changes, which come into force on January 1, 2022, will:

- Permit non-commercial cemetery operators to access the capital portion of a cemetery care and maintenance fund or account to increase the capacity of a cemetery. This is subject to approval from the Registrar of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), under the condition that the capital is paid back into the trust fund or account.
- Increase minimum care and maintenance fund/account contribution amounts. (See the [table sent in the Notice.](#))
- Require the Minister to review the prescribed care and maintenance fund/account contribution amounts every five years.



May 9: Mother's Day at cemeteries

Please inform families

- **One-household-plus-one**
- Current COVID-19 provincial restrictions prohibit:
 - ❖ “All outdoor social gatherings and organized public events
 - ❖ **Except** for with members of the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or a caregiver for any member of the household.”
- **The provincial restriction applies to cemeteries**
 - Our Notice to you is going out Monday



May 9: Mother's Day at cemeteries

- Cemeteries have the right to control access and may limit numbers access further
- Cemeteries can opt to close to the public outright for safety concerns, as many did last year on Mother's Day
- The BAO will not, and can not, order cemeteries to stay open to the public

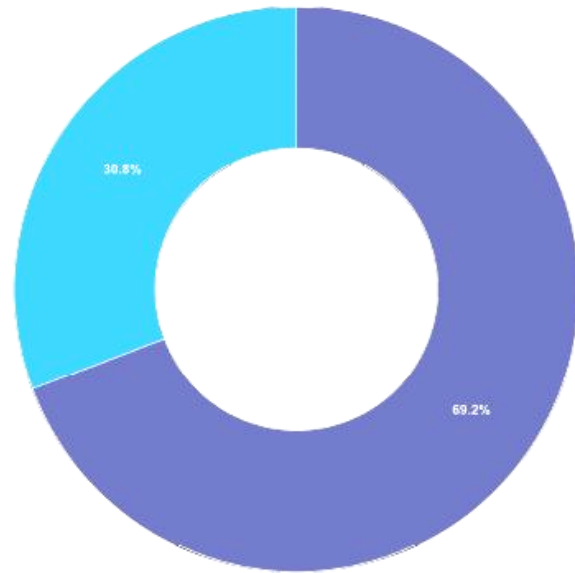


Fee waiver survey

April 14-22, 2021 – Thank you

Q1 Please select your licence type:*

Licence type



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

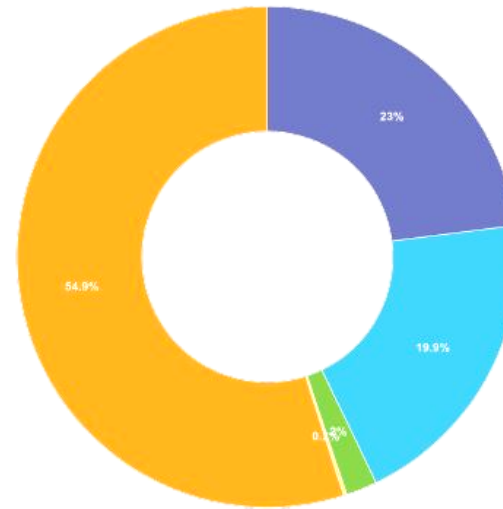
Choice

Total

- Personal licence
- Licence to operate a business

Q2 If you hold a licence to operate a business, please select the applicable organization type:*

Business type



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

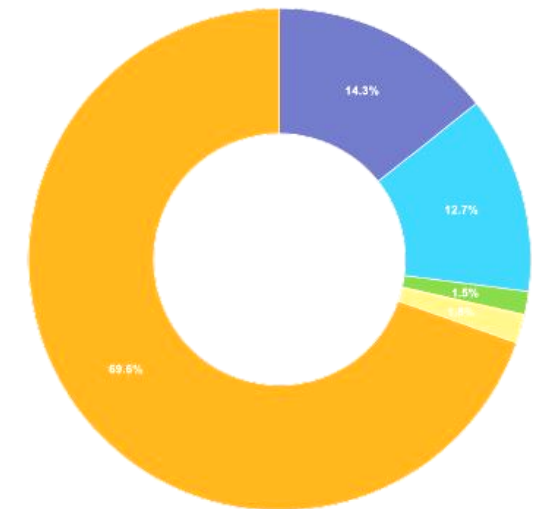
Choice

Total

- Cemetery operator
- Funeral establishment operator
- Crematorium operator
- Alternative disposition - hydrolysis operator
- Not applicable

Q3 If you hold a licence to operate a business, please select the applicable organization size:*

Business size



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

Choice

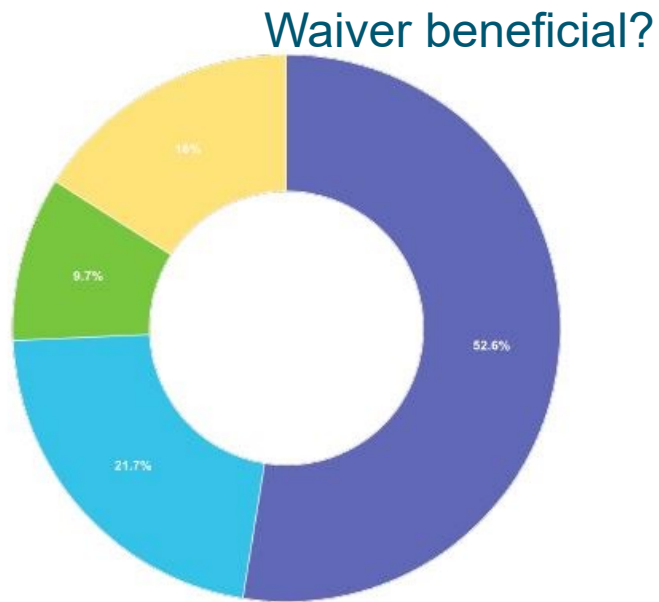
Total

- Micro (1-4 employees)
- Small (5-50 employees)
- Medium (51-100 employees)
- Large (100+ employees)
- Not applicable

Fee waiver survey

April 14-22, 2021 – Thank you

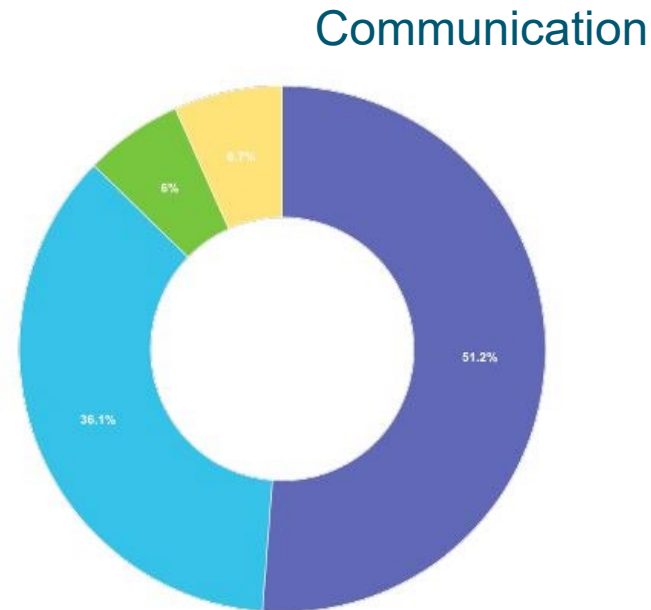
Q4 Has the provincial government's COVID-19 relief fee waiver to BAO licensees been beneficial to you?*



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

Choice	Total
● Yes, very beneficial	740
● Yes, somewhat beneficial	306
● No, not beneficial	137
● Not applicable	225

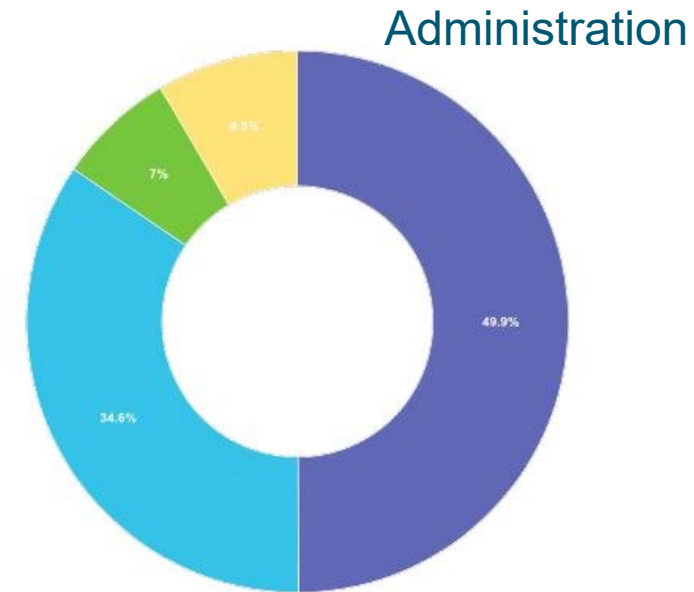
Q5 Do you think that the BAO did a good job communicating with the bereavement sector regarding the fee waiver (e.g., announcing the fee waiver, responding to questions related to the fee waiver)?*



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

Choice	Total
● Yes, excellent	721
● Yes, satisfactory	508
● No, they did not	85
● Not applicable	94

Q6 Do you think that the BAO did a good job administering the fee waiver (e.g., ensuring licence was renewed without payment of fees, issuing refunds)?*



Answered: 1408 Unanswered: 0

Choice	Total
● Yes, excellent	703
● Yes, satisfactory	487
● No, they did not	99
● Not applicable	119

Government vaccination news

CP24

A week-by-week breakdown of who can get a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario in May



Published Thursday, April 29, 2021 1:22PM EDT

The province has released their “anticipated schedule” for COVID-19 vaccinations for the month of May.

People in these groups can book an appointment using the provincial booking system once they become eligible.

Individual public health units and hospitals may offer other booking opportunities through mobile and pop-up clinics in hot spots.

Those in public health units not using the provincial portal will have to refer to their region’s own booking systems.

Here is the province’s anticipated vaccine breakdown:

Week of May 24

Who is in group 1 of those who cannot work from home?

This includes elementary and secondary school workers, workers who respond to critical events, people in enforcement, inspection and compliance roles such as law enforcement, workers in childcare, foster care agency workers, agriculture and farm workers, **and funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.**

Here is the *Government of Ontario* website link for booking an appointment for your COVID-19 vaccination:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

We have no further information on this.

Questions

Thank you

- **Your vigilance and professionalism are appreciated.**
- This presentation and video of it will be sent to you tomorrow and posted on our BAO website.
- TheBAO.ca/covid-19-update-links/
- Registrar's Updates do not count as part of continuing education.