

CEO/Registrar COVID-19 Update

➤ Omicron actions

BAO

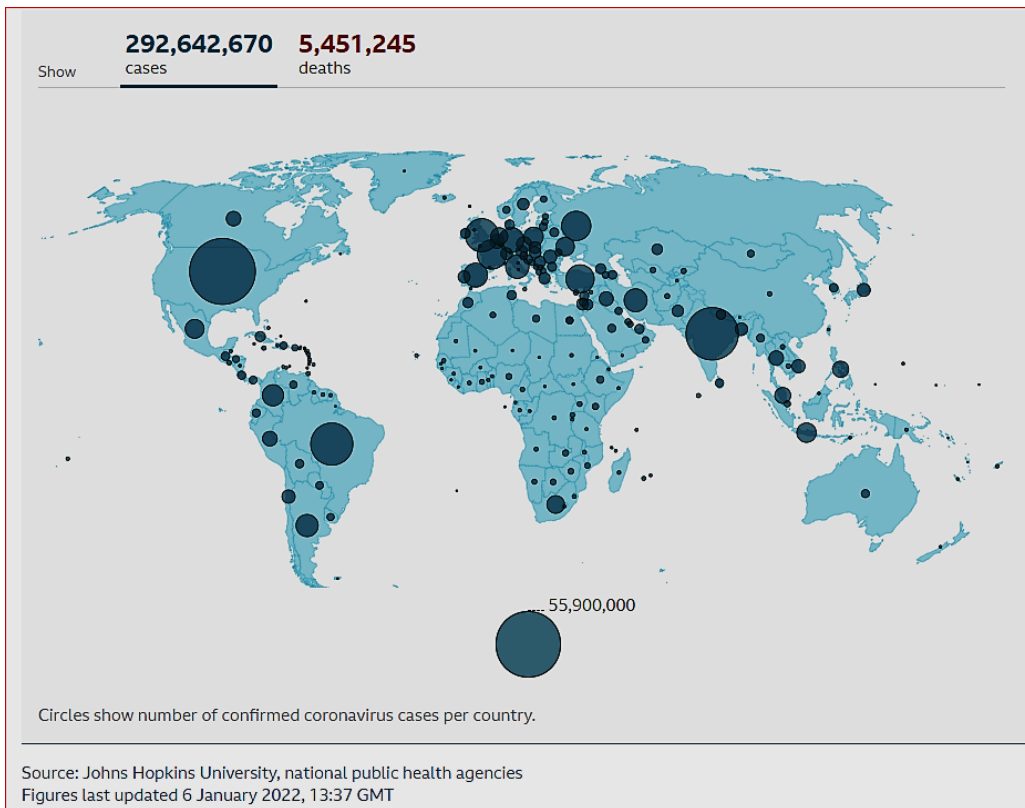
Bereavement
Authority of
Ontario

Carey Smith
CEO/Registrar

Jan. 7, 2022



World COVID cases



Coronavirus around the world

Total reported deaths

5.4 million

Latest daily figure

5,844

new deaths

56-day trend



Total confirmed cases

292.5 million

Latest daily figure

2.3m

new cases

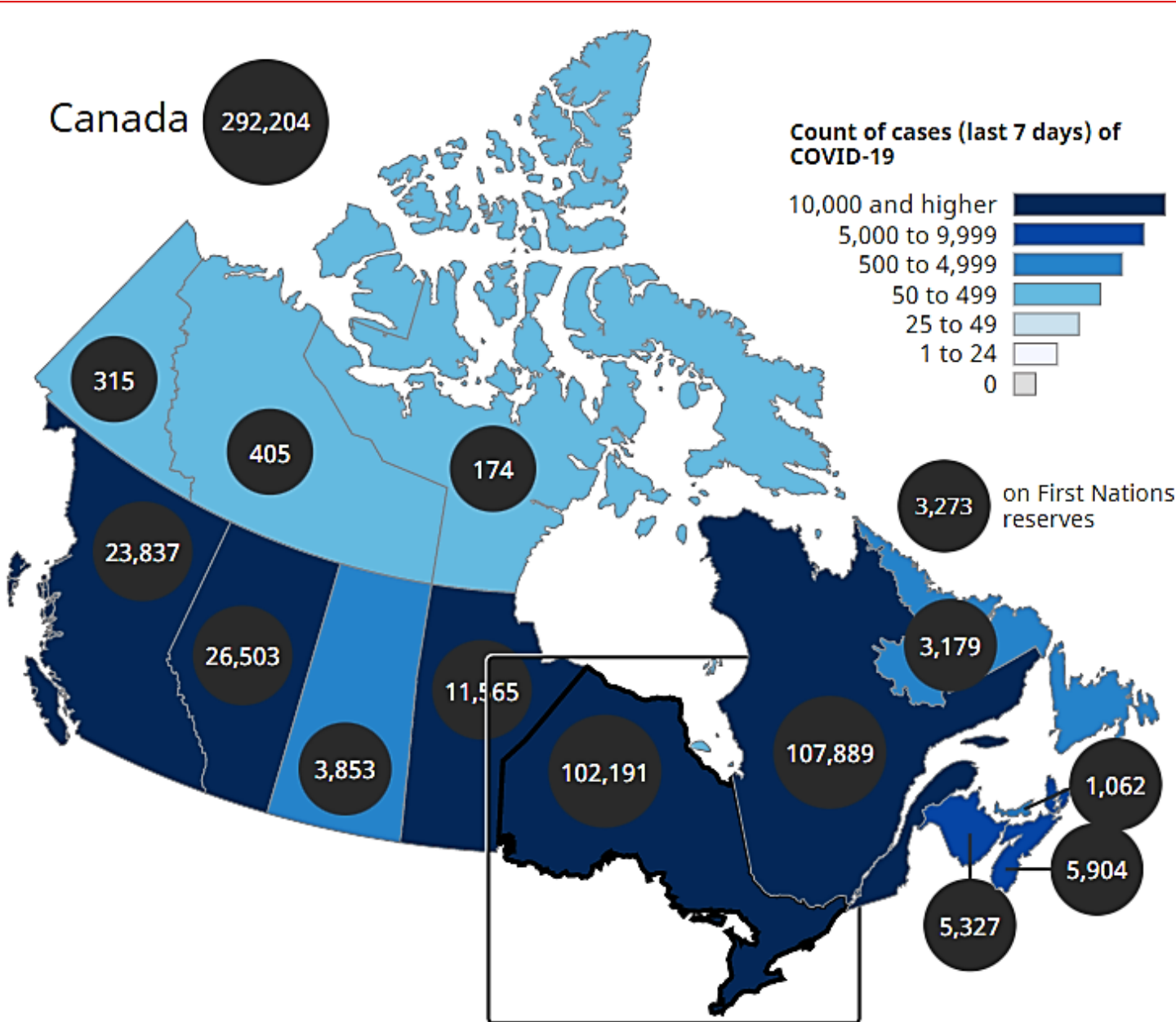
56-day trend



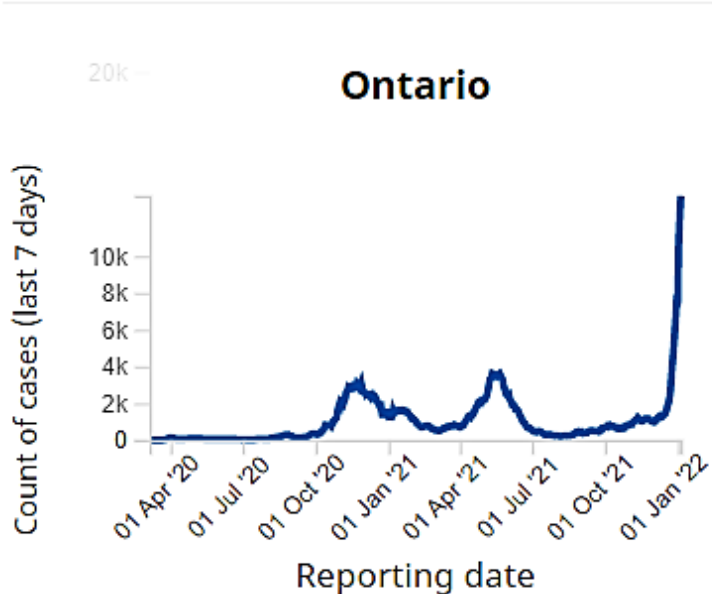
Source: Johns Hopkins University, national public health agencies, 4 Jan

BBC NEWS

Canada and Ontario COVID cases



The count of cases (last 7 days) of COVID-19 in **Ontario** was **102,191** as of January 5, 2022.



[▶ Play](#)
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Registrar's Directive: New temporary rules for funeral services

❖ *Effective Wednesday, Jan. 5, this Registrar's Directive replaces and supersedes previous COVID-19 directives. These measures will be in effect for 21 days (until Jan. 26, 2022.)*

❖ **Staffing**

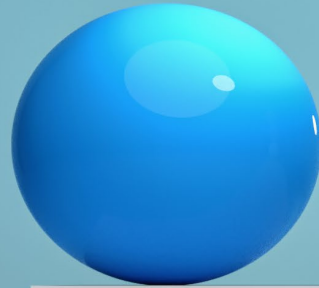
Different from our past practice, the strategy to protect funeral staff is based on these principles:

- ❖ Use as few staff as possible to conduct services. There is no longer a minimum staff requirement.
- ❖ Have as little contact with families and guests as possible.
- ❖ Segregate staff into teams, if possible, to prevent cross-transmission. If one team is infected and off-line, the other team remains available.
- ❖ Upgrade PPE, specifically masks, to N95 or equivalent if available.

It's about ensuring capacity to provide deathcare

First Wave:

Handling surging death numbers
Stable number of funeral workers



Omicron:

Handling typical death numbers
Shortages of funeral workers



Registrar's Directive: New temporary rules for funeral services

Indoor Funeral Services

- ❖ **Attendance** at funerals and visitations limited to **50 per cent capacity** of a particular room with physical distancing of two metres, regardless of vaccination status
- ❖ **Visitations** of no more than 50 per cent capacity of a particular room may be held
 - But must be pre-scheduled and conducted by appointment to prevent line-ups or congestion.
- ❖ **Face coverings** are required to be worn by everyone
- ❖ **Physical distancing** of two metres must always be maintained
- ❖ **Staff** must be actively screened for infection, and all **guests** must be passively screened

Registrar's Directive: New temporary rules for funeral services

Indoor Funeral Services

- ❖ **Thorough cleaning** and disinfection procedures must be conducted on an on-going basis and specifically between funerals and visitations
- ❖ **Food and beverages are prohibited**; however, box lunches can be made available for guests to take away off the premises. On-site coffee and beverage dispensers should be disabled
- ❖ **Only two people** plus funeral staff may attend **in-person arrangements** conferences. Others may attend virtually or via phone.
- ❖ **Funerals are not to be delayed more than five days**, and decedents must be picked-up from the provincial morgue as soon as possible

Registrar's Directive: New temporary rules for funeral services

Cremation

- ❖ Cremation witnessing is limited to a maximum of five persons plus staff

Outdoor / Graveside Services

- ❖ **Outdoor** funerals and graveside services are limited to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance
- ❖ **Physical distancing** of two metres must always be maintained
- ❖ If a funeral licensee has been contracted to provide services at the cemetery, **then the funeral director is responsible** to ensure that the services are provided in accordance with this directive, such as ensuring physical distancing
- ❖ **Drive-Thru** visitations, as per the June 10, 2020 directive, continue to be permitted and encouraged
- ❖ All bereavement sector businesses may provide additional restrictions at their facilities
 - **The BAO supports this as usual.**

Notice to the Profession:

Registrar authorizes colleges to make students available to work

- **Registrar has authorized Humber College and Collège Boréal** to make their students available to work in the bereavement sector prior to the completion of their studies
- Funeral and transfer service providers requiring temporary assistance with staffing are urged to contact:
 - ❖ **Michelle Clarke**, Program Co-ordinator & Professor, Funeral Service Education Programs, **Humber College**: michelle.clarke@humber.ca
 - or
 - ❖ **Camille Lemieux**, Professeur / Coordonnateur, **Collège Boréal**: Camille.Lemieux@collegeboreal.ca
- This is a temporary measure to address exigencies created by Omicron

Questions

Thank you

- **Your vigilance and professionalism throughout the pandemic are minimizing the risk to families and your staff.**
- A video of this presentation will be sent to you tomorrow and posted on our BAO website.
 - ❖ **COVID** - [TheBAO.ca/covid-19-update-links/](https://www.thebao.ca/covid-19-update-links/)
 - ❖ **FAQ** - [TheBAO.ca/covid-19-faq-for-bereavement-licensees-and-grieving-families](https://www.thebao.ca/covid-19-faq-for-bereavement-licensees-and-grieving-families)
- PS - Registrar's Updates do not count as part of continuing education.