

COVID-19

An Update to the Board of Health



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May 7, 2020

1. How Toronto Public Health Responded to COVID-19
2. Measures Taken by All Levels of Government
3. Overview of COVID-19 Data
4. Planning for the Future and the Recovery Phase

- In January 2020, a new coronavirus named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was identified as the cause of an outbreak originating in Wuhan, China. The disease caused by this virus is named COVID-19
- Since January 25 when the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Toronto, the spread of the coronavirus quickly became a local, provincial, and national emergency due to the health, social and economic impacts
- Toronto Public Health's role in supporting the City of Toronto, the Toronto Board of Health, institutions, and the public includes monitoring, preventing and controlling the spread of infectious disease in the City

Toronto Public Health's response to COVID-19:

- ✓ Issued a **class Order** under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to emphasize the significance of self-isolation for those diagnosed with COVID-19 or those at high-risk of COVID-19 infection
- ✓ Put in place intense **case and contact tracing** of COVID-19 cases, including the launch of a new system (CORES) to support more timely follow-up of cases
- ✓ Implemented a plan to **manage outbreaks in institutions**, such as long-term care homes and shelters on an ongoing basis
- ✓ Developed a strong **education and compliance** campaign to enforce public health measures and implemented a **hotline** to answer COVID-19 inquiries from the public

Public Health Response Metrics To Date

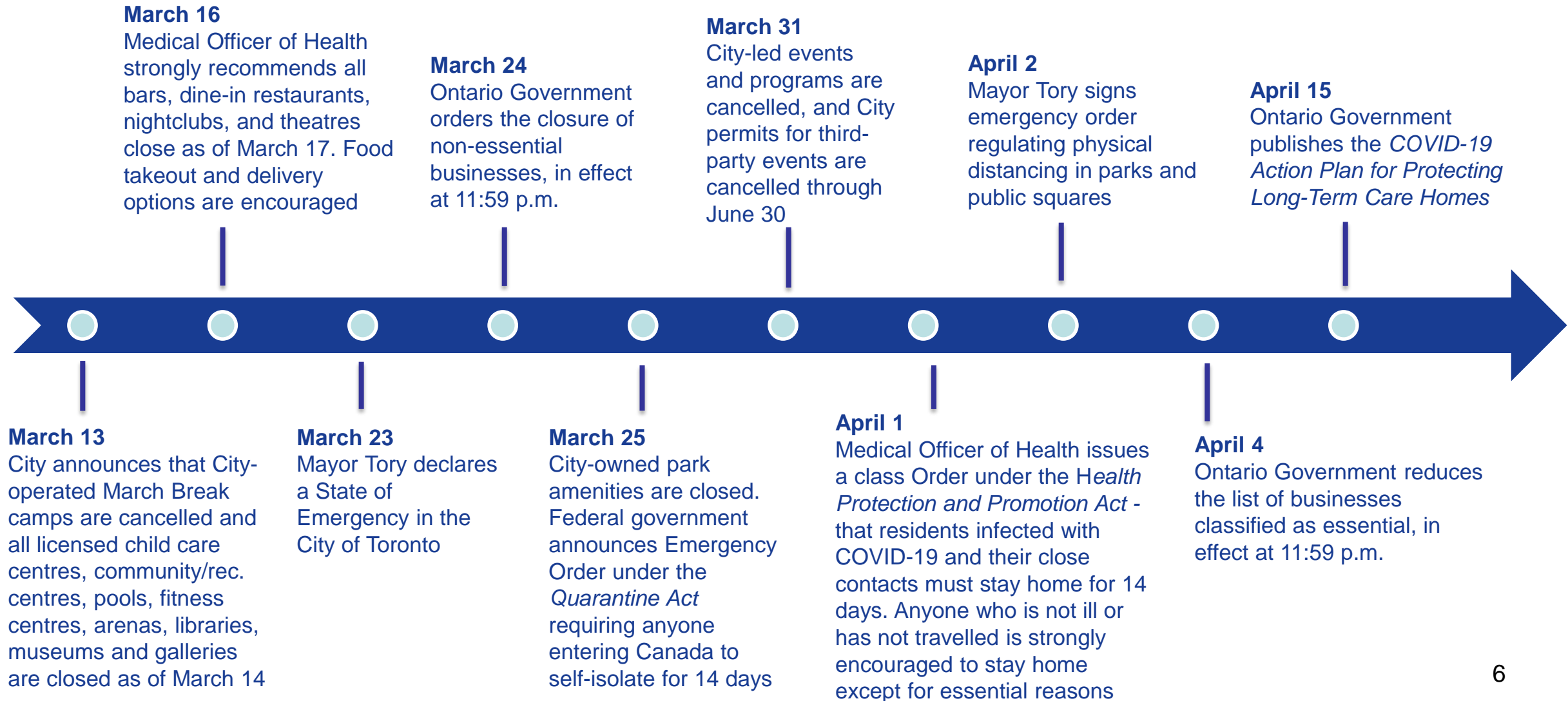
**Investigated
Approximately 6,665
COVID-19 Cases**

**Answered Over
29,000 Hotline Calls
From Residents**

**Investigated Over
1,800 Complaints**

Public health measures have been guided by the principles of establishing the greatest protections for our most vulnerable residents and maintaining critical, life-saving health care resources

Examples of Measures Taken by All Levels of Government Over Time



SUMMARY OF COVID-19 CASES IN TORONTO



All Cases

Case Count*	6,665
Recovered Cases	4,273
City Incidence Rate	244
Fatal Cases	504
Ever Hospitalized	1,006
Ever in ICU	239

Currently Hospitalized	391
Currently in ICU	99

As of May 5, 2020



CASES IN THE COMMUNITY	66%
Recovered Cases	2,818
Median Age At Time of Illness	50
Percent Female	53%
Percent Male	46%
Fatal Cases	128
Median Age of Deaths	79



CASES IN INSTITUTIONS**	34%
Recovered Cases	1,515
Median Age At Time of Illness	85
Percent Female	58%
Percent Male	37%
Fatal Cases	376
Median Age of Deaths	90

*Includes confirmed and probable cases

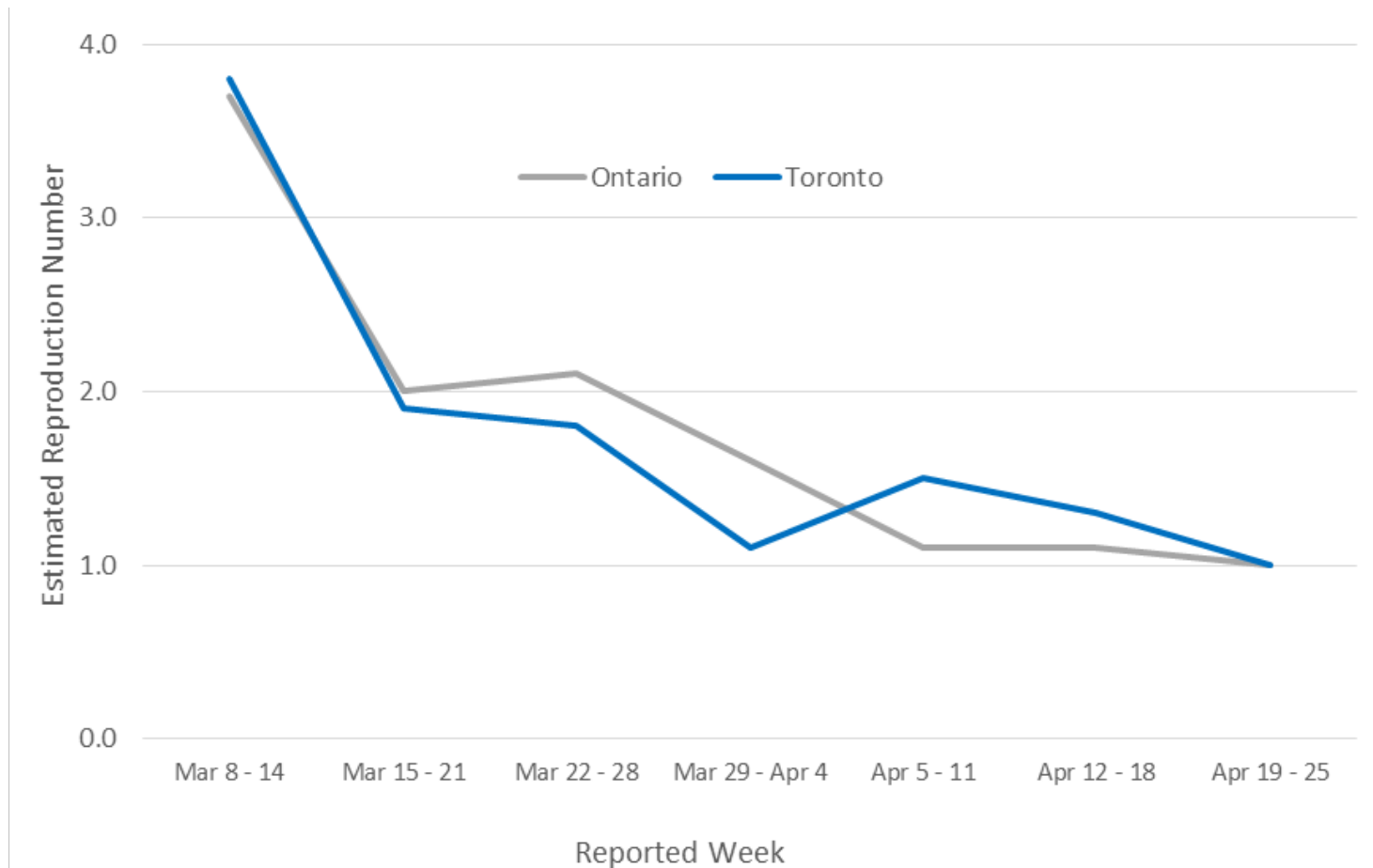
**Institutions include long term care homes, retirement homes, chronic care & hospitals

†Gender was unknown or other for some cases

- An important component of our data story is understanding if COVID-19 is affecting certain groups in our community more than others, so we can better inform prevention strategies
 - Emerging evidence from other jurisdictions suggests that COVID-19 is impacting some ethno-racial groups and those with lower income levels more
- TPH has completed preliminary analyses looking at the overlay of case and hospitalization activity with characteristics at the small geographic area where our cases live
- Preliminary findings suggests similar trends to other jurisdictions and that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations were more commonly reported for those living in areas with more:
 - Low income earners
 - Recent immigrants
- To strengthen our understanding of how COVID impacts different people in our city, we will soon be asking all who test positive for COVID-19 about their race, income, household size, and Indigenous identity and First Nations status.

Reproduction Number

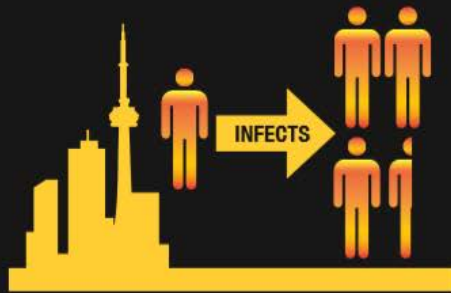
Estimated reproduction number by reported week, Toronto compared to Ontario, March 8 - April 25, 2020



Data source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Evolution of COVID-19 case growth in Ontario. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

THE POWER OF STAYING HOME & PHYSICAL DISTANCING

PAST



In mid-March, each person with COVID-19 in Toronto infected **3.5 other people** on average

PRESENT



With Stay at Home measures, each person with COVID-19 in Toronto infects **1 other person** on average

FUTURE



To stop the spread, we need a vaccine or herd immunity, so each person infects **less than 1 person** on average

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

Necessary Conditions for Recovery Phase Planning:

1. Evidence of good disease control through reduced transmission in the community at large and in congregate settings (long-term care homes and shelters)
2. Healthcare system capacity
3. Public health capacity

The approach to recovery needs to include:

- Gradual easing of public health measures
- Observation of the effects of easing measures before relaxing further
- Continuing some measures that will become part of how we live with COVID-19 ongoing
- Avoiding the reversal of changes, if possible
- Balancing protections of those who are most vulnerable while allowing for some degree of easing of public health restrictions for the wider community

- COVID-19 has created an unprecedented global health emergency, requiring a fulsome public health response.
- Moving from COVID-19 response to recovery will require a gradual easing of measures and will vary by sector.
- Decisions will be evidence-based and based on experience from other jurisdictions.
- Toronto Public Health will have three key roles in recovery going forward:

**Continue Managing
Community Cases and
Outbreaks in
Congregate Settings**

**Providing Public Health
Guidance to the City**

**Scaling Up Critical
Public Health Services**