

## **COVID-19 Pandemic** Response in Ottawa - UPDATE

Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health City of Ottawa, March 25, 2020



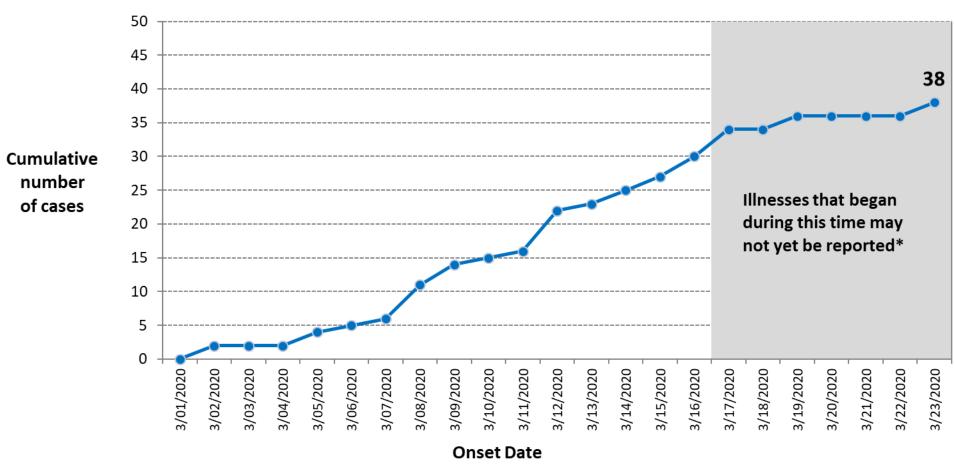


## Approach to COVID-19 Response in Ottawa

- Disease Control Situation in Ottawa
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Supporting Society
- Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Learning from others
- Next steps / Recommendations



### **Disease Control - Current Situation in Ottawa**



Data as of 9:30 am, March 24, 2020

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Onset date is the earliest of symptom onset, testing, and reporting to OPH

\*Symptomatic cases occurring in the last approximately 7 days are likely under-reported due to the time for individuals to seek medical assessment and for availability of testing and test results

## Disease Control – COVID-19 Pyramid

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Cases

(N=38)

Cases undergoing diagnosic testing (N=635 Probables)

Symptomatic cases, recommended for testing

Symptomatic cases

Infected cases symptomatic, asymptomatic, & incubating

Ottawa population

## Disease Control – Ottawa Public Health (OPH) Response

### **Organizational Redeployment to Support**

- Case and Contact Tracing (~1,500 people)
- Enhanced Phone line (>12,000 calls)
- Surveillance Efforts
- Communications through web, social media, media availability
- While maintaining essential public health services, such as safe food and water, immunization

## Disease Control – Clinical Care Command Centre (C4)

#### The Ottawa Hospital Leads

- Ottawa Public Health and municipal Emergency Operations Centre connected
- Reports regionally to Ontario Health East

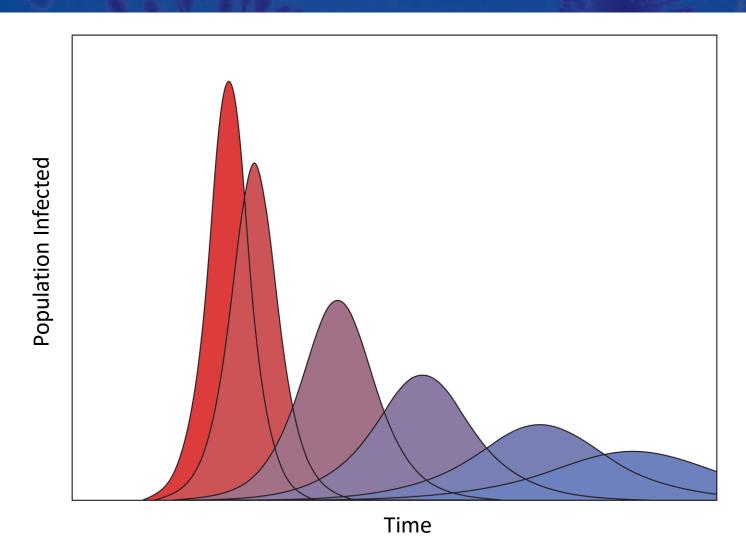
#### Optimizes acute-care hospital capacity

Ensures people are cared for in the right place by the right providers

### • Multi-sector participation across the health system including:

- Testing and assessment/care centres
- Long-term care home plan
- Sourcing and redistributing personal protective equipment
- Self-isolation centre for marginalized population

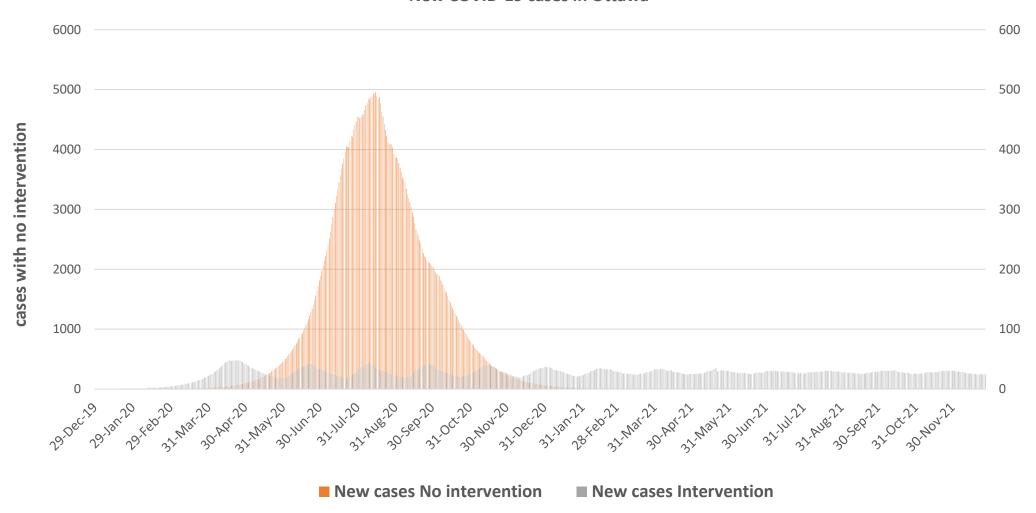
# Non-pharmaceutical Interventions – Effect of Interventions on Epidemic Curve



## Non-pharmaceutical Interventions – Surveillance Projections

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#### New COVID-19 cases in Ottawa



cases with intervention

### All NPIs Combined Make A Difference

- Personal NPIs
  - Wash hands, cover cough, self-isolate if ill, traveled
- Population level NPIs
  - School closures
  - Telework if possible
  - Physical Distancing
  - Closing of non-essential businesses
- Police role in Enforcement of Provincial Order
- Goal: change the social norm to limit transmission

## **NPIs - Social Distancing**

## What is Physical (Social) Distancing?



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Keep a distance of 2m when going out

Avoid large gathering

Work from home if possible

Avoid visiting elderly friends or relatives

Conduct meetings or visits virtually to household members

### **Supporting Society**

- Need to address harm caused by COVID-19 and response
- Federal and Provincial
  - Support for workers and families (EI)
  - Supports for business and economic sustainability
- City of Ottawa
  - Human Needs Task Force: focus on food security, isolated people at risk, older adults, children
- OPH plays a role in community mental health promotion
  - "It's OK to not be OK"
  - Distress Centre

### **Pharmaceutical Interventions**

- Vaccine key for population protection
  - development often takes over 12 months
- Anti-viral treatments still being studied



### **Learning From Other Countries**

### Countries that are further ahead have:

- Early and strong messaging and efforts on NPIs, including physical distancing
- Mass testing of residents
- Significant case and contract tracing
- Use of technology: surveillance, contact tracing
- Coordinated health care system



### **Next steps / Recommendations**

- Assertive, targeted messaging from OPH and City on physical distancing and other NPIs
- Ensure support for increasing healthcare system capacity
- Continue to mitigate harms
- Create new surveillance sources to evaluate response