



Update – April 21, 2020

1) Mid-Pen Transit Service suspending Saturday service

- Due to decreased demand, Mid-Pen Transit is temporarily suspending Saturday service until after the May long weekend, at which time the situation will be reassessed.
- By taking this action, transit operators are provided an extra day off each week for their health and well-being, which will help ensure that the service can continue during weekdays for the foreseeable future.
- Monday to Friday service will continue, with the buses running the usual Saturday schedule until at least Tuesday, May 19.

2) Health Experts Say the COVID-19 Outbreak Has Likely Peaked in Ontario

The Ontario government released updated COVID-19 modelling yesterday, which shows that the enhanced public health measures, including staying home and physically distancing from each other, are working to contain the spread of the virus and flatten the curve.

- The wave of new community spread cases of COVID-19 in Ontario appears to have peaked.
- Outbreaks in long-term care and congregate settings continue to be a major concern. Concerted actions are underway to protect vulnerable people in these settings.
- Ontario is now trending toward a best case scenario rather than a worst case scenario and has significantly improved its standing as compared to March modelling.
- The province has avoided a significant surge in cases. Total cumulative cases are forecast to be substantially lower than worst case or even moderate case scenarios projected by previous models.
- While several hundred new cases are identified daily in Ontario, hospitals across the province have not been overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak as a result of capacity planning and the public health measures currently in place. The rate of growth day-over-day is declining.
- To further reduce the number of cases and deaths, it remains critical that Ontarians continue to adhere to public health measures, including staying home and practicing physical distancing if they must go out for essential reasons only.

To read the full media release, visit: [Outbreak may have peaked in Ontario](#)

3) Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – Support for You

- This is a difficult time for everyone, but there are services available if you or someone you know needs help. The SMDHU has a Support for You web page that lists resources available, including mental health support for adults, children and youth.

For more information, visit: [Support for You](#)

4) Canada and Ontario supporting agri-food sector supply chain during COVID-19

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1 million in new funding to connect workers with in-demand jobs in the agri-food sector to keep the nation's supply chains strong and store shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Funding will be cost-shared by the Province.
- The Partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors.
- This targeted intake began accepting applications on April 17, 2020. Eligible applications will be received and assessed on a continuous basis, while funding is available.
- The Ontario agri-food sector supports more than 837,000 jobs in Ontario and contributes more than \$47.5 billion each year to the province's economy.

To read the full media release, visit: [Support for Agri-Food Sector Supply Chain](#)



5) Dogs join fight against COVID-19 by learning how to detect the virus

- In yet another example of how dogs are superior to cats, a medical charity in England that has trained dogs successfully to detect malaria, is now working with dogs to help them identify COVID-19.
- “The aim is that dogs will be able to screen anyone, including those who are asymptomatic and tell us whether they need to be tested. This would be fast, effective and non-invasive and make sure the limited NHS testing resources are only used where they are really needed,” said Dr. Claire Guest, a behavioural psychologist and principal member of the Medical Detection Dogs charity.

To read the full CTV report, visit: [Dogs one-up Cats once again](#)

(The video on the page is not about this story)

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care.

Remember to pre-screen daily when entering any Town building.

Any changes within a department will now be provided to Randy to be included in an update and copied to HR@midland.ca for tracking.