

Covid-19 National Data Update
By Nelle Maxey March 20, 2020

I checked all jurisdictions' sites and found no difference from the data given below with 2 exceptions: Nova Scotia reports 1 new probable case (now 10), and [Ontario](#) is much more current than the national data chart below with reports of 301 confirmed cases.

[National Data](#) as of March 19 evening report

Current situation

Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19 as of March 19, 2020, 6:30 pm EDT

Province, territory or other	Number of confirmed cases	Number of probable cases
British Columbia	271	0
Alberta	146	0
Saskatchewan	8	12
Manitoba	17	0
Ontario	258	0
Quebec	121	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	2
New Brunswick	7	4
Nova Scotia	5	9
Prince Edward Island	2	0
Yukon	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	0
Nunavut	0	0
Repatriated travellers	10	0
Total cases	846	27

A detailed [epidemiologic summary](#) is available.

The notes, previously below this chart, have been moved to the [epidemiologic page](#). That page has completely changed as of last night. Here are the new contents:

On this page

- [Geographical distribution](#)
- [Temporal distribution](#)
- [Demographics](#)
- [Symptoms and severity](#)
- [Probable exposure setting](#)
- [Provincial and territorial reporting](#)

Geographical distribution shows a map (Figure 1) for **725 probable and confirmed cases** given in ranges for quick visual comparison. The chart on the Current Situation above is more useful however as it gives the actual numbers, rather than ranges (1-15, 16-50, etc.).

Temporal distribution has two figures. Both of these are for **337 cases**, rather than for confirmed and probable cases of 725 shown on the map or the 873 shown in the Current Situation chart above.

Footnote 1 explains (emphasis mine): *“This figure is based on cases for which a case report form has been received by the Public Health Agency of Canada from provincial partners.”* This means that the data on the epidemiologic pages (except for the map) is based on approximately 39% of confirmed and probable cases (N=873) reported in the Current Situation chart.

Figure 2 is a bar chart of total confirmed cases over time. It does not show outcomes—recovered or died—so does not reflect the current case load.

Temporal distribution

The date of symptom onset of the first case of COVID-19 in Canada was January 15, 2020. As seen in Figure 2 and Figure 3, cases have continued to occur since that date.

Figure 2. Cumulative COVID-19 cases (n=337 ¹) in Canada by date of symptom onset ² as of March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM EST.

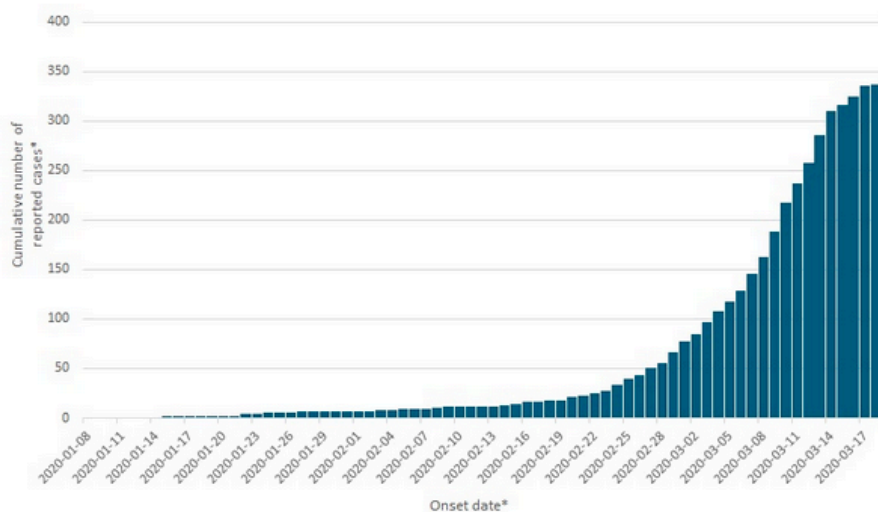
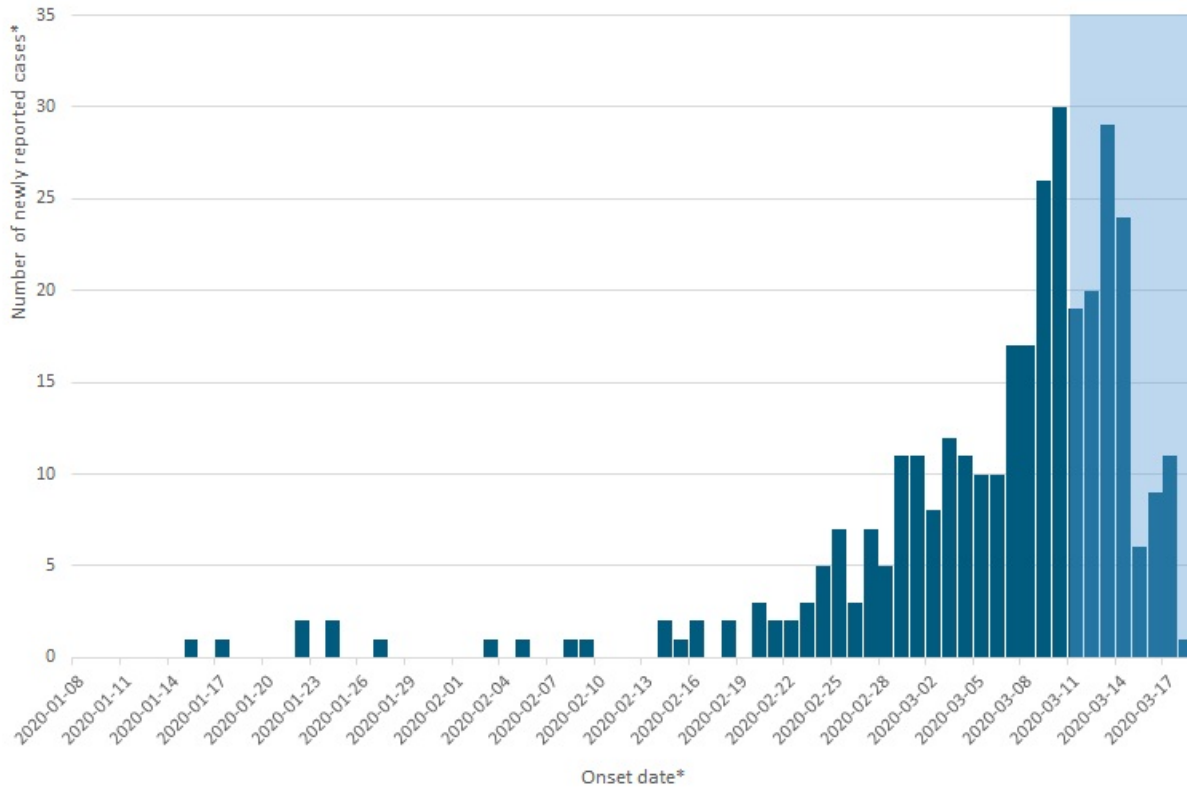


Figure 3 (next page) is the epidemiologic curve of newly reported cases. It appears to be flattening a bit prior to social distancing, border closures and other measures instituted recently having time to take effect. However, new case numbers are likely to continue to move up and down (hopefully with lower highs as new cases diminish).

Clicking on “long description” below the figure reveals a chart of dates and new cases numbers. This is a most welcome edition. The last date is March 18 (2 days ago) with only 1 report shown. So, that last bar on the chart will definitely increase as both BC and Ontario have reported new cases not yet shown.

Figure 3. Newly reported COVID-19 cases (n=337^{Footnote 1}) in Canada by date of symptom onset^{Footnote 2} as of March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM EST



Data note: The shaded area represents a period of time (lag time) where it is expected that cases have occurred but have not yet been reported nationally.

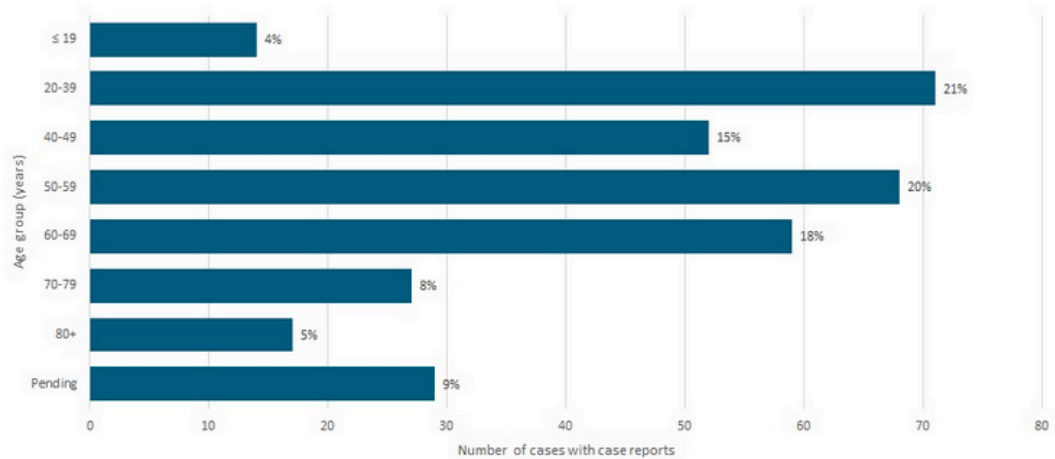
The **Demographics** section now has an AGE chart, another very welcome addition to the data. This confirms our suspicion yesterday on inspecting the Ontario age data that people of all ages are receiving positive tests, and far more cases are positive in younger and middle age adults. This is due to travel-acquired infections and close contacts at the moment.

If community spread accelerates, age demographics will likely change. For example in BC, the infection has been carried into three long term care homes (LTCH). These elderly patients account for many cases and most of the hospitalizations and deaths. I am sorry to report that Ontario just reported 4 cases in an LTCH in Durham Ontario. Note that family interaction with LTCH residents is restricted under these circumstances. In BC we know that staff are reporting positive tests and that public health tracking of their contacts has discovered the second and third care home resident cases.

Demographics

Of the COVID-19 cases reported in Canada to date, approximately half (54%) are male. Approximately one third (31%) of cases are 60 years old and over (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Age distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=337) in Canada as of March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM EST



► [Figure 4 - Long description](#)

The actual numbers are given in the long description chart reproduced below.

▼ [Figure 4 - Long description](#)

Table 4. Age distribution of COVID-19 cases (n=337) in Canada, March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM EST

Age group (years)	Number of cases with case reports	Proportion of cases
≤ 19	14	4%
20-39	71	21%
40-49	52	15%
50-59	68	20%
60-69	59	18%
70-79	27	8%
80+	17	5%
Pending	29	9%

The Symptoms and Severity section, contains the notes on deaths and hospitalizations that were formerly included below the Current Situation chart.

Deaths: Across Canada, 10 deaths are reported: 8 in BC and 2 in Ontario. I note that as of March 19^t at 1 pm, Quebec has reported one death, which brings the total to 11.

Hospitalizations for the 337 confirmed cases are at 8%, which means **27 hospitalizations** in Canada. ICU admissions is comprised of 3% of 337 or **10 ICU beds in Canadian hospitals**.

Symptoms and severity

Commonly reported symptoms among reported cases include cough (80%), fever (55%) and shortness of breath (26%).

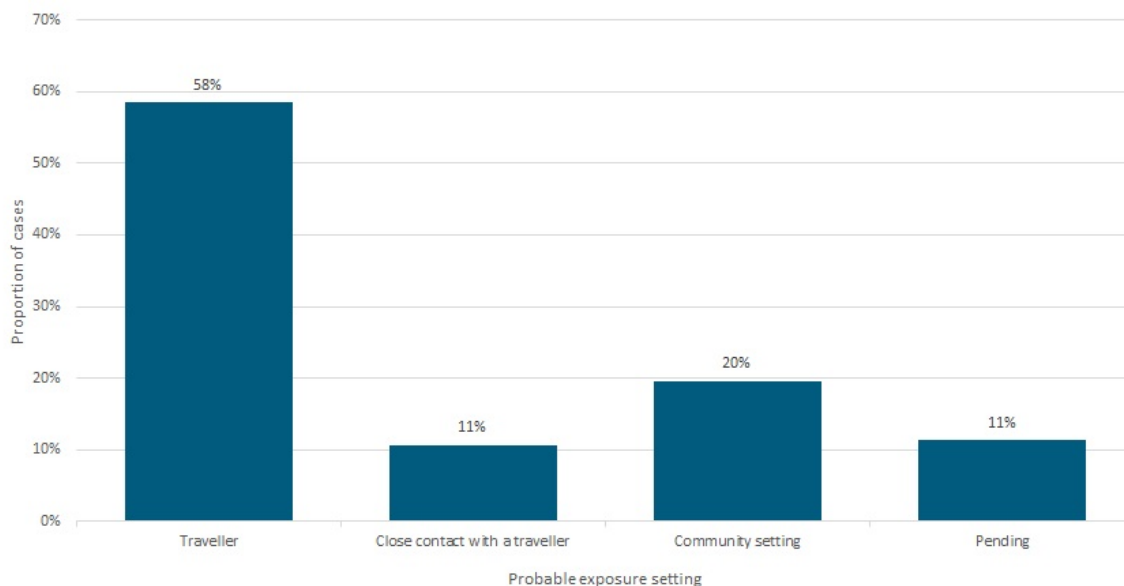
Based on case reports received to date, 8% of cases have been hospitalized but did not require admission to the ICU and 3% required ICU admission. Note that the Public Health Agency of Canada does not receive updates on case hospitalization status.

Ten people have died of COVID-19.

Probable exposure setting

At this time, the majority of cases were exposed outside of Canada or exposed to a traveller returning to Canada (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Probable exposure setting of COVID-19 cases (n=337) in Canada as of March 19, 2020, 8:30 AM EST.



To date, 69% of cases are due to travellers and their close contacts; 20% of cases are from community spread. With the USA border closed and travel overseas restricted, the percentage of these cases will diminish. Note community settings include long term care homes and hospitals where spread is likely.