



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

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Ford says Ontario taking steps to prepare for potential second wave of COVID-19 in the fall

TORONTO

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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People line up at a mobile COVID-19 assessment centre, in Toronto, on June 2, 2020.

FRED LUM/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Premier Doug Ford says his government is taking steps to prepare for a potential second wave of COVID-19 in the fall.

Mr. Ford has provided no details of the plan, but says the province's health system is better off now than in the early stages of the pandemic.

The Premier made the comments during a visit to a Cambridge, Ont., business that is manufacturing personal protective equipment.

Ontario's hospitals are warning the province it must prepare the health-care system for a potential second wave of COVID-19 that could hit during flu season.

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2:09

Premier Doug Ford says his government is preparing for potential second wave of COVID-19 this fall. Ford says the province is making arrangements in anticipation of a possible case surge and acknowledged it could come during flu season.

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The Ontario Hospital Association says the government must develop a contingency plan to ensure regional service and staffing plans are in place ahead of a possible surge.

OHA president Anthony Dale says if a potential second wave collides with flu season, it will add significant pressure to hospital operations.

The call comes in reaction to the government's decision to move most of Ontario to Stage 3 of reopening later this week.

Mr. Dale said moving to Stage 3 will represent a heightened risk for the province and it must be prepared to respond.

Meanwhile, Ontario is reporting 111 new cases of COVID-19, along with one new death owing to the disease.

The total number of cases as of Tuesday now stands at 36,950, which includes 32,785 marked as resolved and 2,723 deaths. The province is also reported 122 newly resolved cases on Tuesday.

Ontario completed more than 16,744 tests for the novel coronavirus over the previous 24 hours.

The numbers of people in hospital, in intensive care and on ventilators because of the virus all increased slightly.

Health Minister Christine Elliott said 28 of Ontario's 34 public health units were reporting five or fewer cases.

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1:12

Officials in Windsor-Essex are asking the province or Ottawa to take over the response to large COVID-19 outbreaks in farms.

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