



# COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Ottawa - UPDATE

Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health

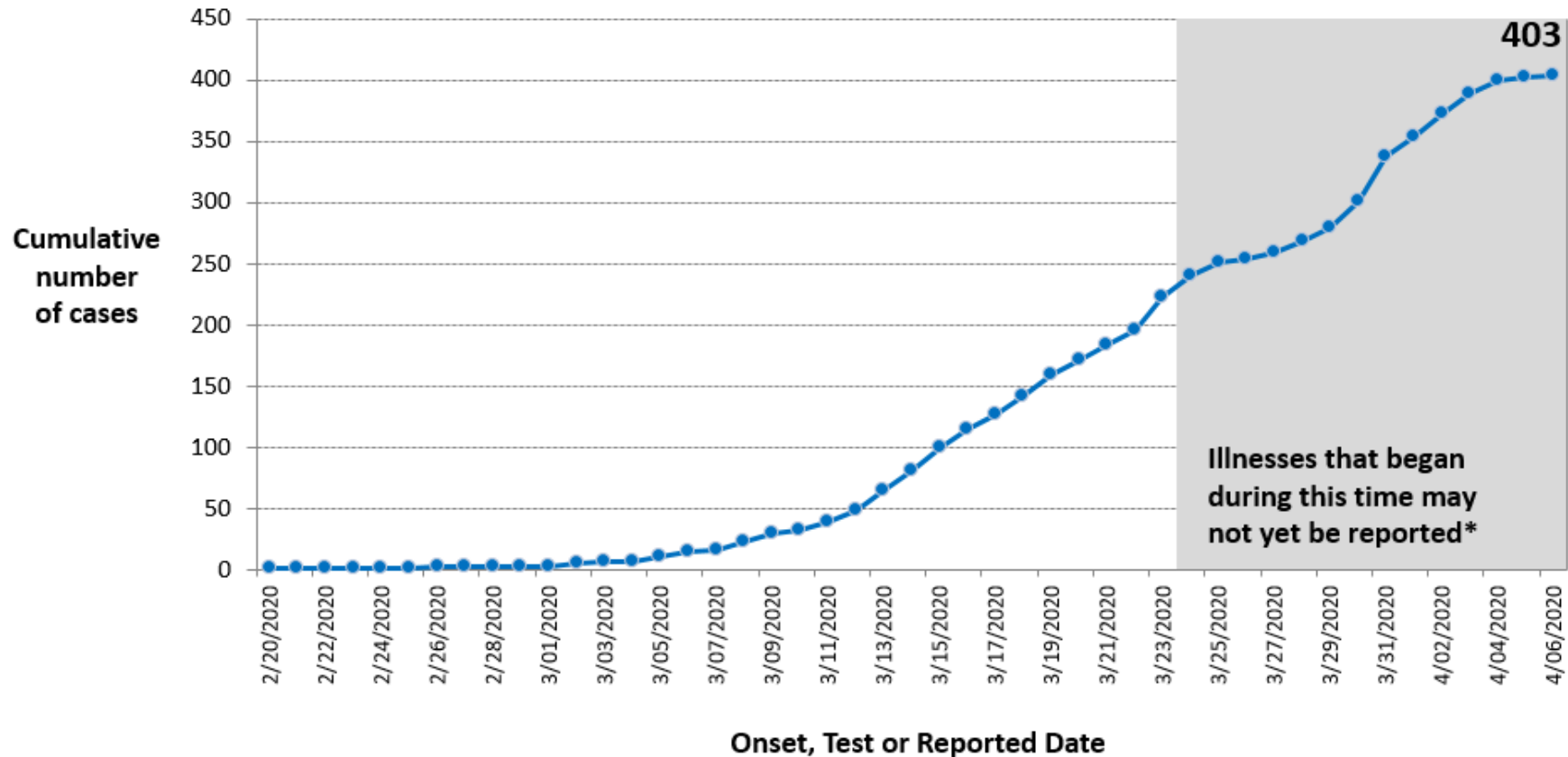
April 8, 2020

# Overview

- Case increases and severity
- Models show importance of physical distancing
- Increasing health care capacity and community supports
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Supporting the Community



# Ottawa Cases Increasing

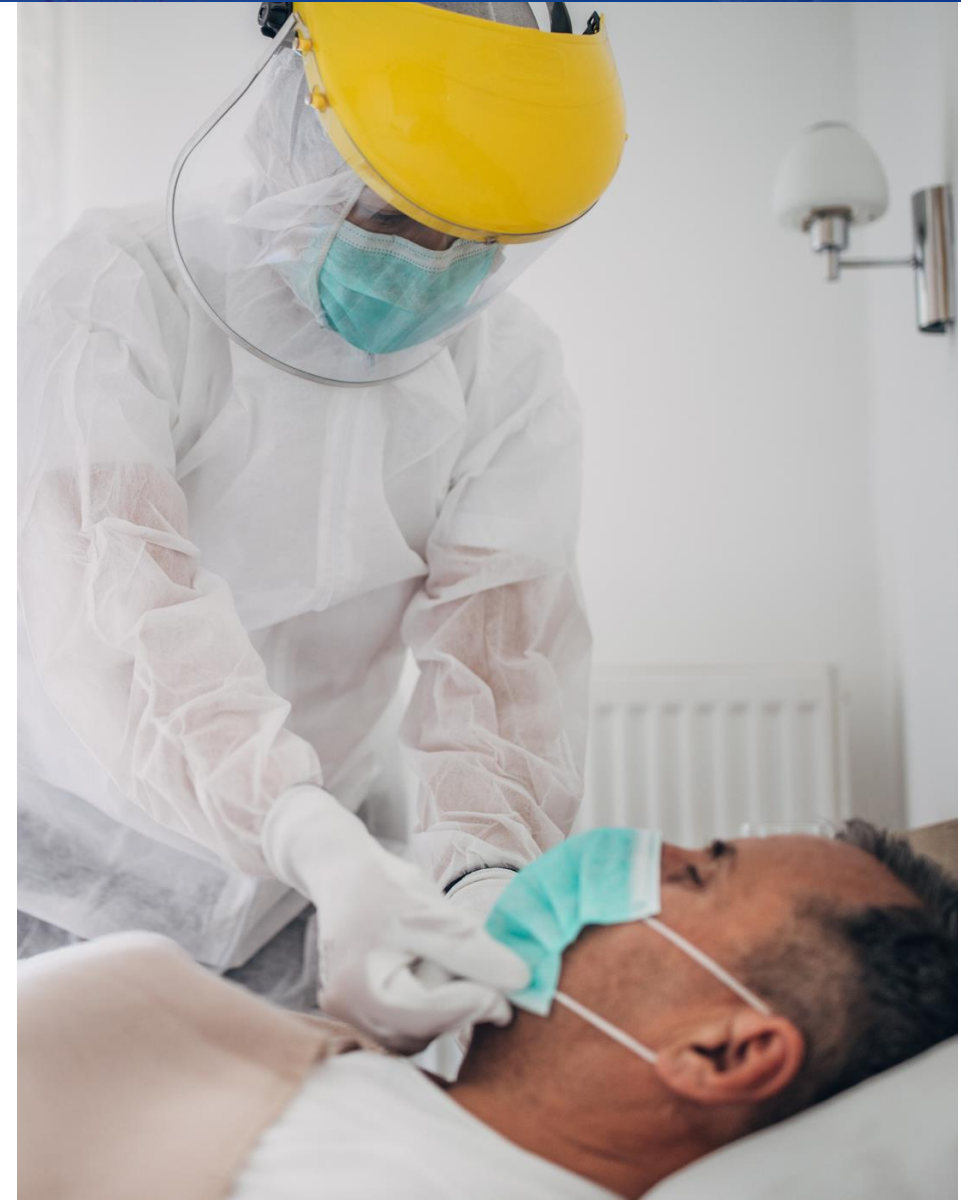


Data are from iPHIS and chart review of individuals with CoV-positive laboratory results, extracted at 4:00 pm on April 6, 2020. The numbers may differ from other sources, as data are extracted at different times.

\*Symptomatic cases occurring in the last approximately 14 days are likely under-represented due to the time for individuals to seek medical assessment and for availability of testing and test results.

# Severity & Recovery

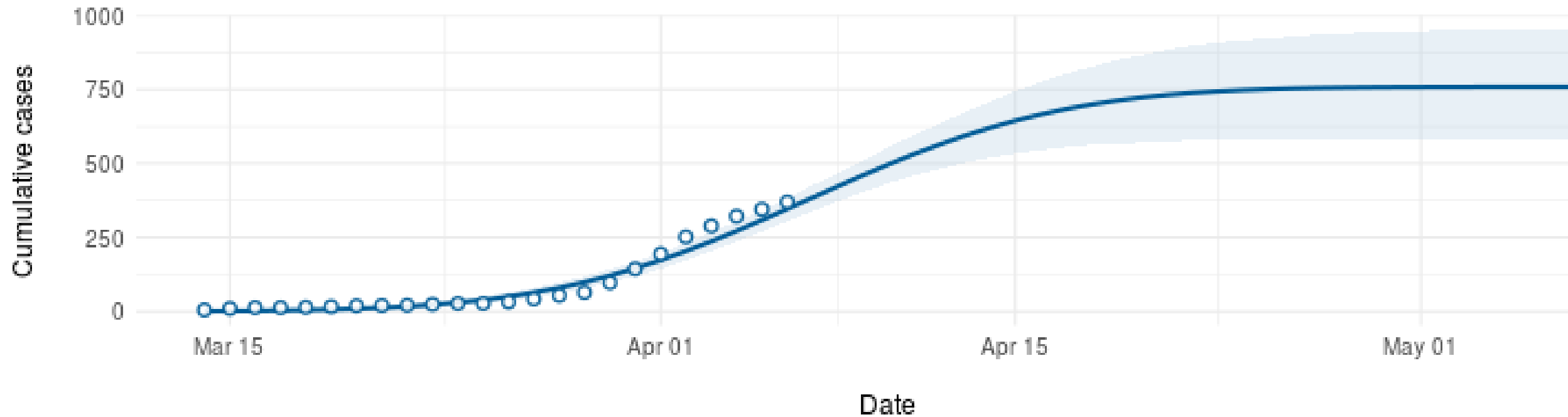
- Severity of Infections:
  - Cumulative hospitalized = 13%
  - Cumulative ICU = 5%
  - Deaths = 1%
- Recovered = 25%
- 10 Outbreaks in Institutions



# COVID-19 Mathematical Modelling

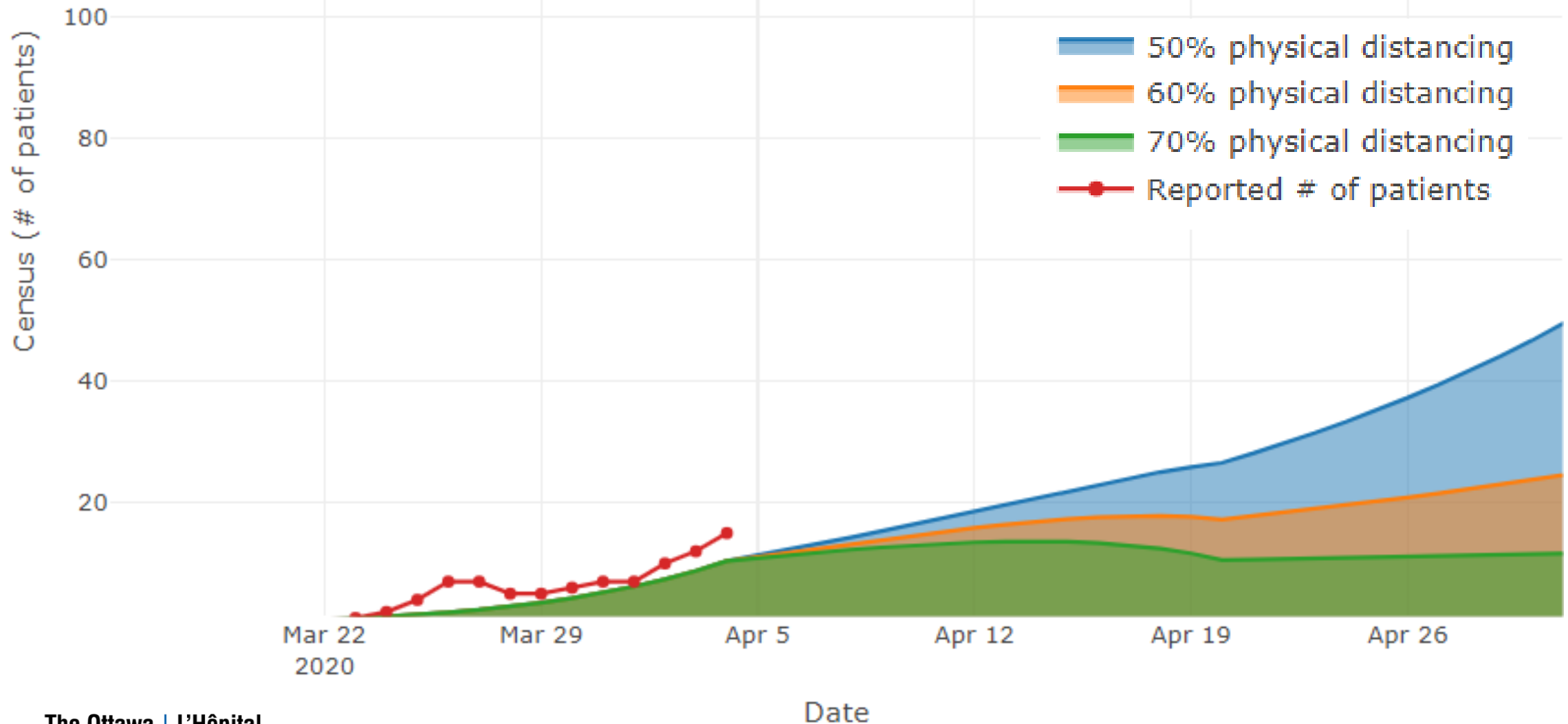
- Models are used to help plan for what could happen but should be used with caution.
- Ottawa Public Health is collaborating with experts at The Ottawa Hospital, University of Toronto and University of Guelph, and regional health partners.
- Just like the weather forecast, shorter term projections are more reliable.
- Experts modelled how the disease spreads based on observed data and what is known from other countries.
- Public health measures are very influential in flattening the curve.
- A section on modelling has been added at [OttawaPublicHealth.ca](https://ottawapublichealth.ca) including links to two local models that are publicly available.

# Projected Cumulative Cases in Ottawa

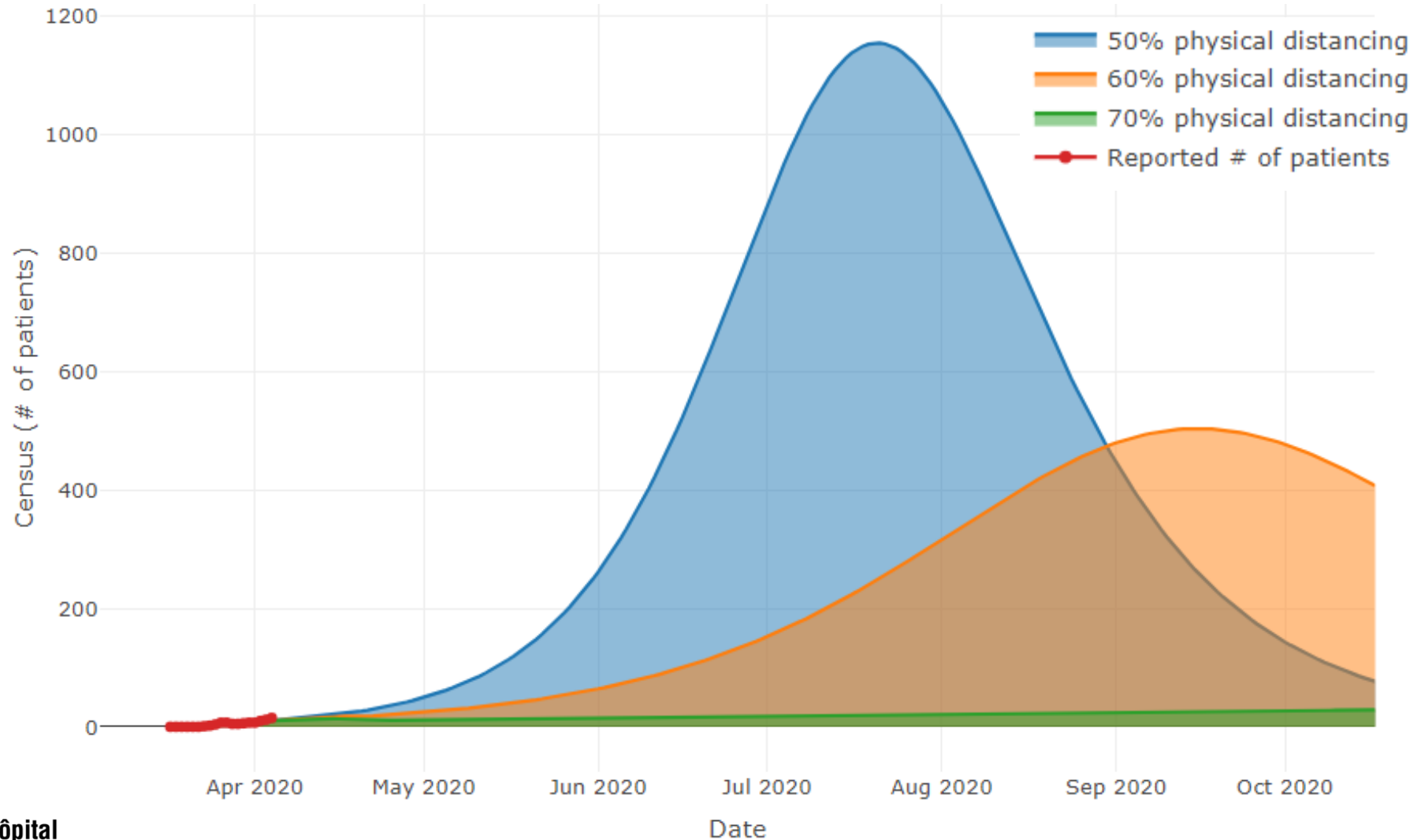


- Data as of 4:00pm, April 6, 2020
- App available at <https://cmmid.github.io/visualisations/inferring-covid19-cases-from-deaths>

# Projected ICU Hospitalizations, Ottawa



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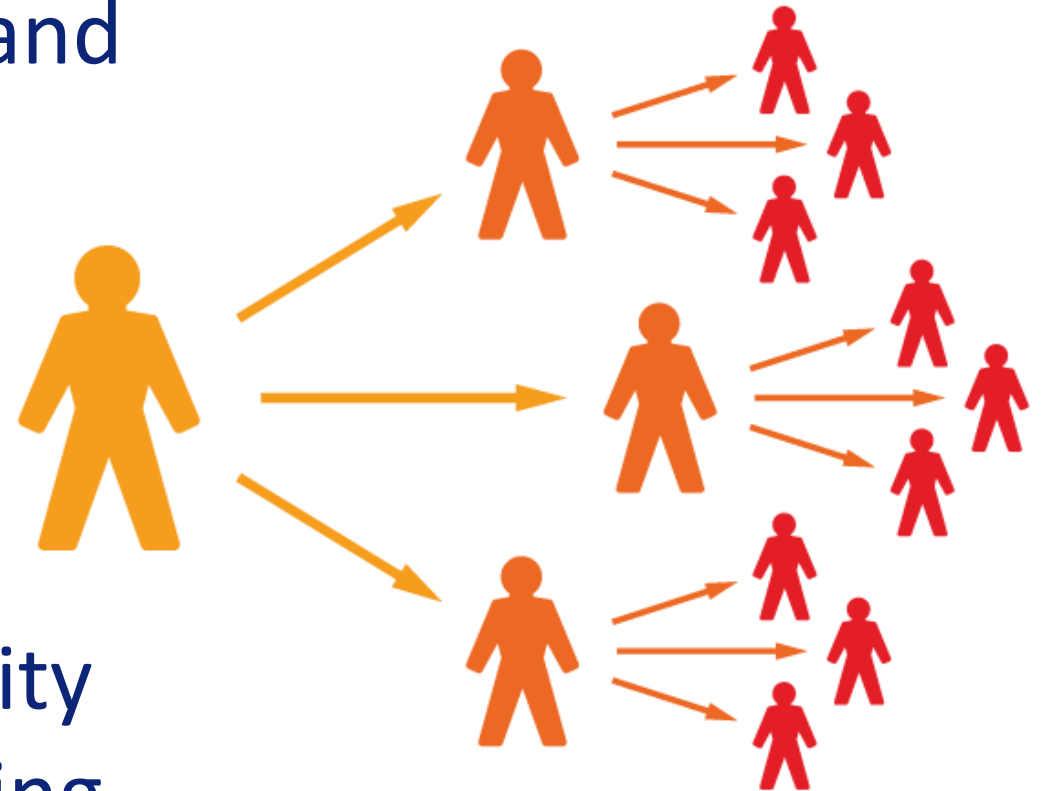
The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa

Data as of 4:00pm, April 6, 2020. Available at <https://613covid.ca/>



# Strengthened Case and Contact Management

- Managing confirmed cases and identifying their contacts
- Ensuring people self-isolate
- Identify clusters of cases and outbreaks
- Continuing to expand capacity with approx. 550 staff working on COVID-19



# Increased Health Care Capacity

- Brewer Park Assessment Centre
- Covid-19 Care Clinic
- Routhier Community Centre Isolation Centre
- Community Paramedicine Program
- Patient Flow Strategy
- Long Term Care and Community Care



# Increased Testing Capacity & Supplies

- Testing backlog being resolved
- Increased testing capacity locally and provincially
- Status on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Testing Swabs



# Use of Masks

- Commercially produced for healthcare sector
- Risk of infection if used incorrectly
- Support for homemade cloth masks
- Staying home and maintaining physical distancing remains important



# Ottawa Residents are Practicing Physical Distancing

- 85% Stay 2 meters away from people as much as possible
- 84% Socialize outdoors only (walks, yard) and/or remotely (phone, online)
- 79% Limit outings to essential shopping for food and other household supplies
- 79% Believe doing their part to prevent the spread of disease to others is important
- 76% Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth
- 71% Increased the number of times they wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- 59% Increase the number of times they clean surfaces in their home



# Concerns Expressed by Ottawa Residents

- Safety of those who are frail (79%)
- Mental health in household (61%)
- Physical health in household (61%)
- Household income (41%)



# Working with the Community

Liaising across sectors:

A word cloud of various community sectors and organizations. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape and vary in size and color. The colors include shades of blue, green, and dark blue. The words are: Events, Central, Mental Health Services Providers, LTC & Retirement Homes, City Departments, BIAS, Foodbanks, Childcare, business & food sector, Hospitals, Schools, Primary Care, Community Health & Resource, Transportation, Shelters, postsecondary institutions, Markets, and Faith Based Orgs.

Events Central  
Mental Health Services Providers  
LTC & Retirement Homes  
City Departments BIAS  
Childcare business & food sector  
Hospitals Schools Primary Care  
Community Health & Resource  
Transportation Shelters  
postsecondary institutions Markets  
Faith Based Orgs

# Meeting Human Needs

Human Needs Task Force  
lead by Community Social  
Services Department

5 areas of focus:

- Food security
- Transportation
- Isolation
- Donations and fundraising
- Volunteers





# Addressing Mental Health

- Maintaining online resources, positive coping strategies and linkages to crisis support
- Increasing awareness and uptake of support

- Targeting supports for: **Take Care of Your Mental Health, too!**

- priority populations
- those impacted by neglect and violence
- businesses and employees
- schools, students and families



# Continuing Our Efforts

- Increase health care capacity and surveillance
- Emphasis on physical distancing
- Ensure self-isolation when required
- Promoting virtual social interactions and mental health resources
- Expanding support to partners and the most vulnerable in the community
- Enforcement when necessary
- Public Engagement & Communications
  - April 9<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Ottawa virtual town hall

