



# COVID-19 Epidemiology Update

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH. Report compiled on May 27, 2020, 11:00 am

## Contents

Purpose .....	1
Summary .....	1
Cases Over Time.....	1
Case Characteristics.....	4
Severity of Cases .....	6
Exposure Settings of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases.....	9
Outbreaks .....	10
Data Notes & Sources .....	11
Data Tables .....	12

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has transitioned to a new case management and reporting system. This transition will position OPH to better manage COVID-19 case volumes, facilitate remote work options for the case management team, and continue to uphold provincial reporting obligations. To support the transition, OPH is currently conducting quality assurance to validate the data in the new system.

## Purpose

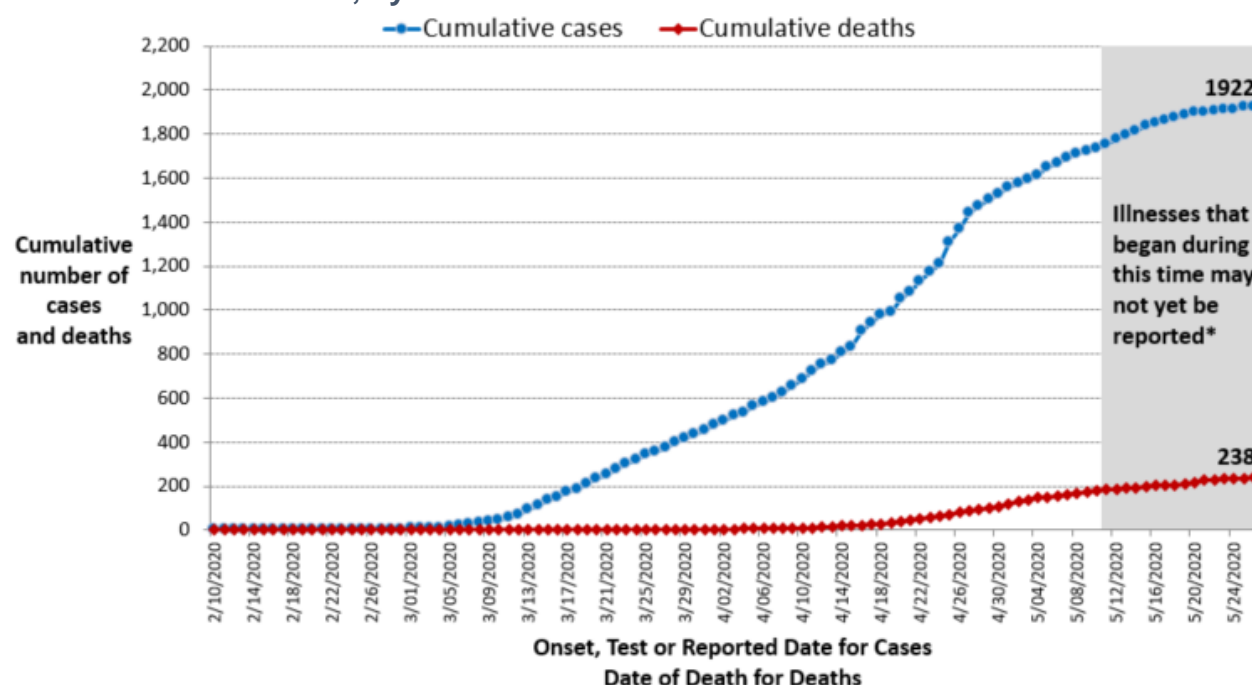
This daily report provides an epidemiologic summary of COVID-19 activity in Ottawa to date. The report includes the most current information available from the COVID-19 Ottawa Database (COD) and the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) as of 2:00 pm May 26, 2020.

## Summary

- 1,922 laboratory-confirmed cases, including 238 deaths, have been reported in Ottawa.
- This includes 14 new cases and 3 new deaths since the previous report.
- 38 Ottawa residents with COVID-19 are currently hospitalized.
- There are 19 ongoing outbreaks in [institutions](#).

## Cases Over Time

**Figure 1. Cumulative epidemiological curve of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19, by the EARLIEST of symptom onset date, test and reported; and deaths from COVID-19, by date of death**

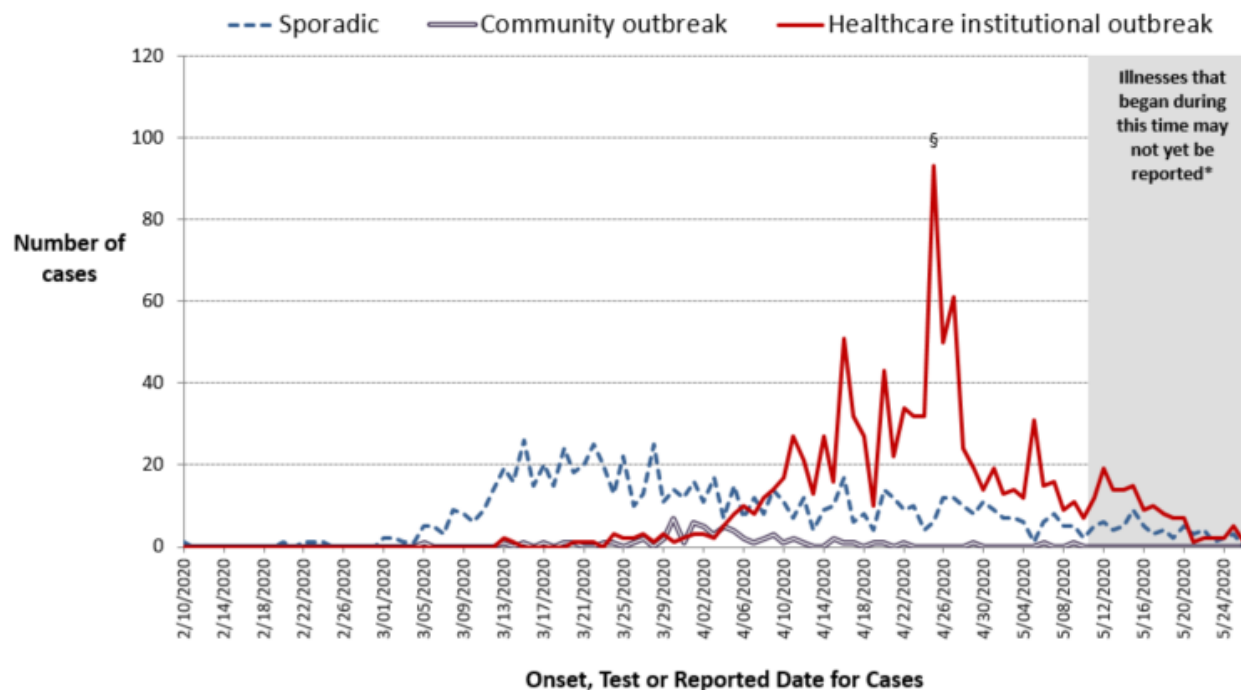


### Notes:

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. As the case is investigated and more information is available, the dates in the graph are updated.
3. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.
4. A patient's exposure may have occurred up to 14 days prior to onset of symptoms.
5. \*Symptomatic cases occurring in approximately the last 14 days are likely under-reported due to the time for individuals to seek medical assessment, availability of testing, and receipt of test results.
6. Since data represent a snapshot in time and case investigations are in progress, there may be some instances where a date of death is not yet entered in the COD database. In these instances, the date of death is captured as the reported date.



**Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19, by the EARLIEST of onset, test, and reported date, by outbreak association<sup>†</sup> (n=1,922)**



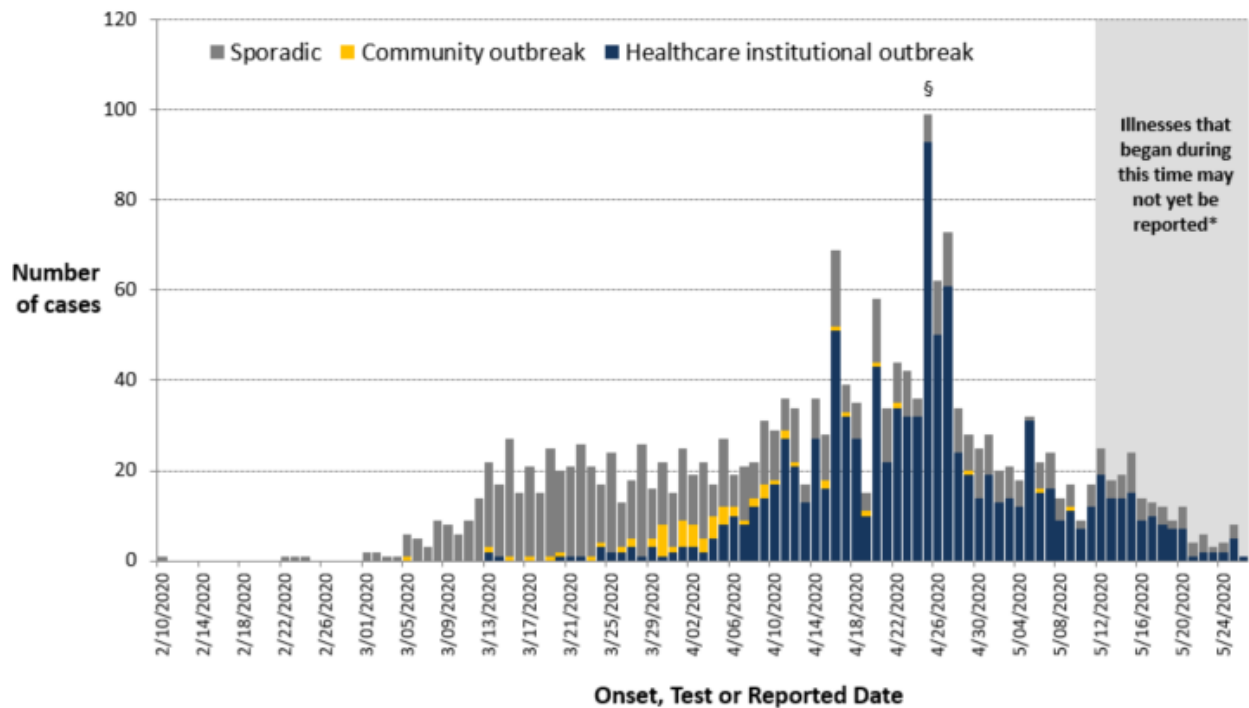
**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. As the case is investigated and more information is available, the dates in the graph are updated.
3. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.
4. <sup>†</sup>Cases are associated with a specific, isolated community outbreak; a healthcare institutional outbreak; or no known outbreak (i.e., sporadic).
5. A patient's exposure may have occurred up to 14 days prior to onset of symptoms.
6. \* Symptomatic sporadic cases occurring in approximately the last 14 days are likely under-reported due to the time for individuals to seek medical assessment, availability of testing, and receipt of test results.
7. Healthcare institutions include long term care facilities, retirement homes, and hospitals.
8. § Surveillance testing for COVID-19 began in long term care facilities on April 25, 2020.
9. The province has had to limit testing to priority groups. Since only a small fraction of all the persons who were infected with the COVID-19 virus were tested, the number of reported confirmed community cases underestimates the actual number of infections. Information on overall infection rates in Canada will not be available until large studies on COVID-19 antibody presence in blood serum are conducted. Based on available information, the actual number of infections may lie from 5 to 30 times or more than the reported number of cases.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richterich P. Severe underestimation of COVID-19 case numbers: Effect of epidemic growth rate and test restrictions. *medRxiv*. April 2020: 2020.04.13. doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.13.20064220



**Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19, by the EARLIEST of onset, test and reported date, by outbreak association<sup>†</sup> (n=1,922)**



**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. As the case is investigated and more information is available, the dates in the graph are updated.
3. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.
4. <sup>†</sup>Cases are associated with a specific, isolated community outbreak; a healthcare institutional outbreak; or no known outbreak (i.e., sporadic).
5. A patient's exposure may have occurred up to 14 days prior to onset of symptoms.
6. \*Symptomatic cases occurring in approximately the last 14 days are likely under-reported due to the time for individuals to seek medical assessment, availability of testing, and receipt of test results.
7. Healthcare institutions include long term care facilities, retirement homes, and hospitals.
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9. The number of reported confirmed community cases underestimates the actual number of infections. Information on overall infection rates in Canada will not be available until large studies on COVID-19 antibody presence in blood serum are conducted. Based on available information, the actual number of infections may lie from 5 to 30 times or more than the reported number of cases.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Richterich P. Severe underestimation of COVID-19 case numbers: Effect of epidemic growth rate and test restrictions. *medRxiv*. April 2020: 2020.04.13. doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.13.20064220



## Case Characteristics

**Table 1. Age, gender and occupation (health care worker or first responder) of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19**

Measure	Number	Percentage
Case count	1,922	-
Change from previous report	14	1% increase
Age, median (range)	56 years (4m-105y)	-
Age		
0-9 years	23	1%
10-19 years	50	3%
20 to 29 years	218	11%
30 to 39 years	245	13%
40 to 49 years	254	13%
50 to 59 years	277	14%
60 to 69 years	229	12%
70 to 79 years	179	9%
80 to 89 years	259	13%
90+ years	188	10%
Unknown	0	0%
Gender		
Female	1146	60%
Male	776	40%
Unknown	0	0%
Health care workers and first responders	526	27%

**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. As the cases are investigated and more information is available, the number of health care workers and first responders is updated.
3. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.



**Table 2. Age, gender and occupation (health care worker or first responder) of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19 who have died**

Measure	Number	Percentage
Cumulative cases	1,922	
Cumulative deaths	238	12%
Change from previous report	3	1% increase
Age, median (range)	86 years (39-105)	
Age		Percent of deaths among cases in each age group*
0-9 years	0	0%
10 to 19 years	0	0%
20 to 29 years	0	0%
30 to 39 years	1	<1%
40 to 49 years	0	0%
50 to 59 years	6	2%
60 to 69 years	17	7%
70 to 79 years	36	20%
80 to 89 years	93	36%
90+ years	85	45%
Unknown	0	0%
Gender		Percent of deaths among cases in each gender*
Female	126	11%
Male	112	14%
Unknown	0	0%
Healthcare workers and first responders	1	<1%

**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. \*The percent of deaths by age group uses the number of cases (Table 1) for each age group as the denominator. The percent of deaths by gender uses the number of cases in that gender group as the denominator. The percent of deaths by occupation is calculated using the total number of cases in that occupation as the denominator.
3. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.



## Severity of Cases

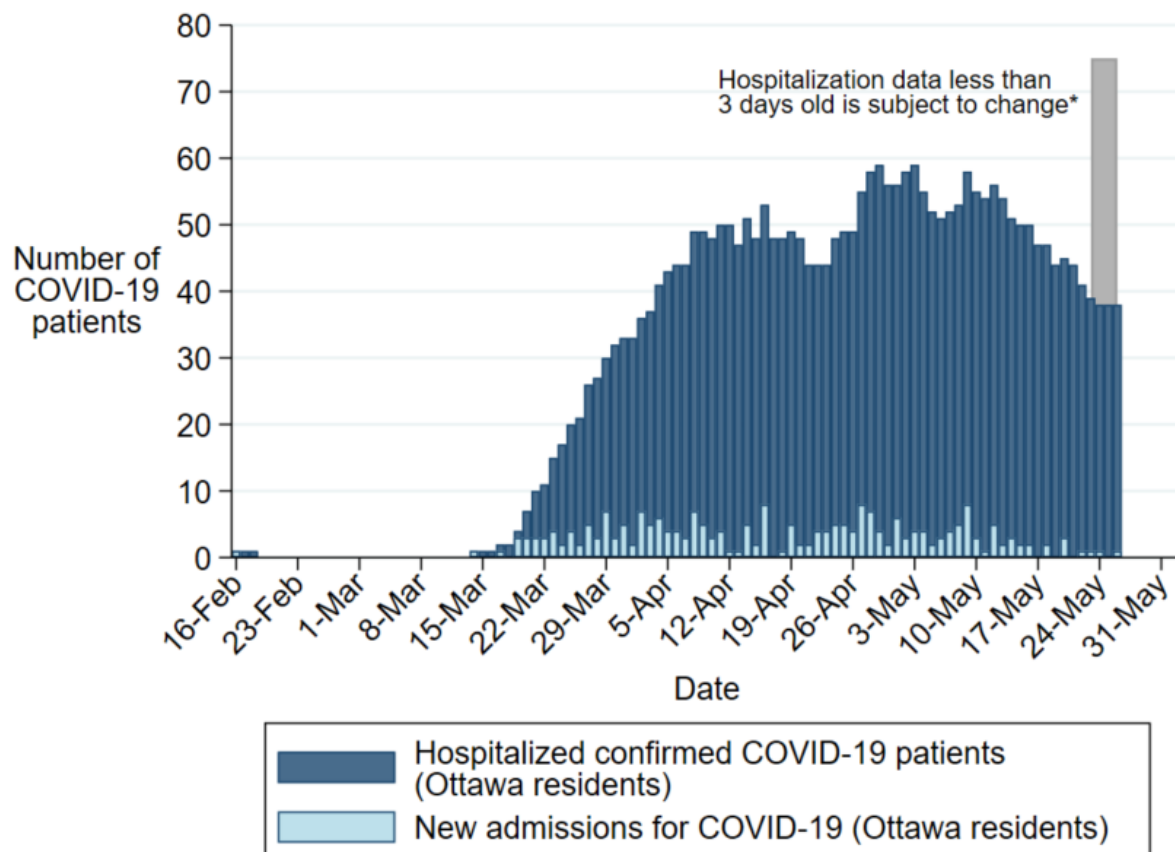
The data presented in Figure 4 and Tables 3-4 present information about Ottawa residents with COVID-19 who have been admitted to hospitals in Ottawa. These indicators help us monitor the level and severity of infection within the City.

Please consider the hospitalization data in this section to be preliminary. OPH is collaborating with local hospitals to receive daily electronic updates on hospitalizations for COVID-19 and we are conducting quality assurance work while incorporating this new data source. It is anticipated to provide more complete and accurate hospitalization data once it is fully incorporated.

The number of hospital admissions recorded in the past 3-5 days should be considered preliminary as hospital data are still being received and entered for this time period.



**Figure 4. Number of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19 newly admitted to hospital and number currently hospitalized, by day**



**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020 Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.
2. The dark blue bars represent the number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized. The light blue bars represent the number of newly hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
3. Data for this figure is available at [Open Data Ottawa](#) (Excel file).
4. \*There may be a data entry delay between the number of new admissions to hospital and the number of patients currently in hospital. Numbers may change based on the outcome of case investigations.
5. New admissions, discharges, deaths, and data entry lags contribute to daily fluctuations in the number of patients currently in hospital making comparisons to the previous day difficult. New hospital admissions and counts of currently in hospital may lag and are subject to change as the hospitalization information is tied to case investigation. Comparisons should not be made between the number of patients currently in hospital and new hospital admissions since hospitalization information is only updated once a patient is confirmed COVID-19 and admission information would then be updated retrospectively. For example, there can be a delay between when a patient is admitted to hospital, tested for COVID-19, and receive test results. If positive results are received, a case investigation begins and their hospitalization information is updated, resulting in a lag in the newly admitted and currently hospitalized information.
6. Patients who are admitted multiple times to hospital are only counted on their first admission date.





**Table 3. Severity of disease for Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19**

Measure	Number	Percentage
<b>All cases</b>	<b>1,922</b>	
Cumulative hospitalized	236	12%
Currently in hospital*	38	2%
Cumulative intensive care	59	3%
Deaths	238	12%
Resolved <sup>4</sup>	1,524	79%

**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.
3. Intensive care patients are a subset of hospitalized patients.
4. As per provincial practice, cases that are 14 days past symptom onset (if available) or 14 days past the episode date are classified as resolved for non-fatal cases that are not currently listed as hospitalized. Cases are also classified as resolved if the case is reported as “recovered” in the COD. This represents a change from reports prior to May 1, 2020 that relied solely on the classification in the COD/iPHIS and increases the number classified as Resolved.
5. \* New admissions, discharges, deaths, and data entry lags contribute to daily fluctuations in the number of patients currently in hospital making comparisons to the previous day difficult. New hospital admissions and counts of currently in hospital may lag and are subject to change as the hospitalization information is tied to case investigation. Comparisons should not be made between the number of patients currently in hospital and new hospital admissions since hospitalization information is only updated once a patient is confirmed COVID-19 and admission information would then be updated retrospectively. For example, there can be a delay between when a patient is admitted to hospital, tested for COVID-19, and receive test results. If positive results are received, a case investigation begins and their hospitalization information is updated, resulting in a lag in the newly admitted and currently hospitalized information.



**Table 4. Age of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19 that have been hospitalized (cumulative) and in intensive care (cumulative) (n=1,922)**

Measure	Cumulative Hospitalized		Cumulative Intensive Care	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Case count	236	12%	59	3%
Age, median (range)	71 years (24 to 102)		66 years (32 to 91)	
Age	% within age group*		% within age group*	
0 to 9 years	0	0%	0	0%
10 to 19 years	0	0%	0	0%
20 to 29 years	3	1%	0	0%
30 to 39 years	9	4%	3	1%
40 to 49 years	15	6%	6	2%
50 to 59 years	38	14%	15	5%
60 to 69 years	50	22%	16	7%
70 to 79 years	47	26%	12	7%
80 to 89 years	49	19%	6	2%
90+ years	25	13%	1	<1%

**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. \* The percent of cumulative hospitalizations and cumulative intensive care admissions by age group uses the number of cases in the respective age group as the denominator.
3. Intensive care patients are a subset of hospitalized patients.
4. Confirmed cases are those with a confirmed COVID-19 laboratory result as per the Ministry of Health Public health management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario. March 25, 2020 version 6.0.

## Exposure Settings of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

**Table 5. Exposures of Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19**

Exposure	Number	Percentage
Travel	172	9%
Close contact with a case or outbreak-associated	1,451	75%
Non-outbreak associated healthcare workers	74	4%
Community-acquired	185	10%
Undetermined	40	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,922</b>	

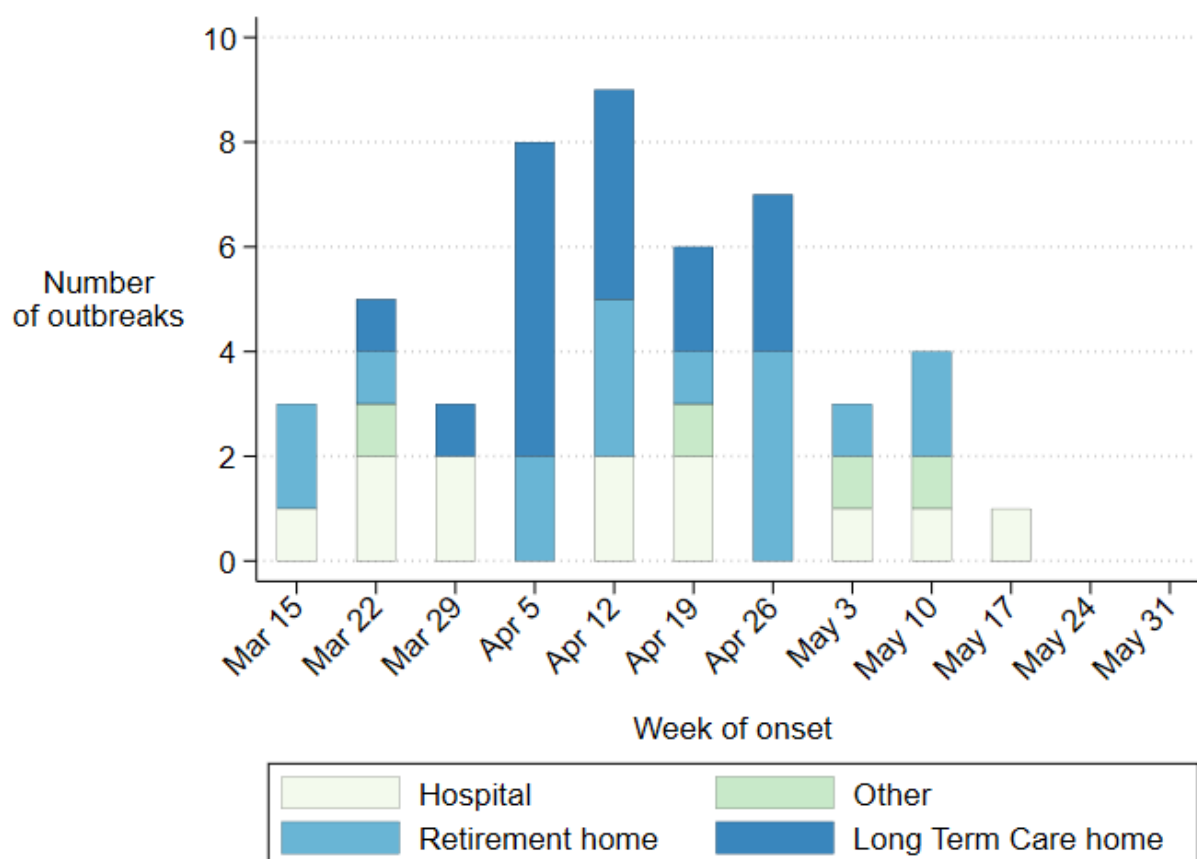
**Notes:**

1. Data are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on May 26, 2020.
2. This table has been restructured. Starting May 23, exposures are allocated using a hierarchy: Travel-related > Close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak-related > Healthcare workers not linked to an outbreak > Community transmission > Undetermined.



## Outbreaks

**Figure 5. Total number of COVID-19 outbreaks in Ottawa institutions<sup>3</sup>**



**Notes:**

1. Data from iPHIS as of 2:00 pm on May 26, 2020.
2. 30 outbreaks are closed and 19 are active. Investigation and data entry are ongoing.
3. These outbreaks reflect the definitions at the time they were declared open.
4. Institutions include long-term care homes, retirement homes, public hospitals, and other institutions (e.g. group homes, shelters, assisted living).



## Data Notes & Sources

Data extracted represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and may differ in previous or subsequent reports. These data sources are used:

- 1) Case information
  - a. Ottawa Public Health COVID-19 Ottawa Database (COD), extracted by Ottawa Public Health at 2:00 p.m. the day before posting.
- 2) Outbreak information
  - a. Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), extracted by Ottawa Public Health at 2:00 p.m. the day before posting.

iPHIS and the COD are dynamic disease reporting systems that allow for ongoing updates to data previously entered. Data extracted from these databases represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and can be different in previous or subsequent reports.

**Please use the following citation when referencing this document:**

Ottawa Public Health. COVID-19 Epidemiology Update. May 27, 2020. Ottawa (ON): Ottawa Public Health; 2020.

**For further information about COVID-19 in Ottawa,** visit [ottawapublichealth.ca](https://ottawapublichealth.ca).



## Data Tables

### Data Table for Figures 1, 2 and 3

Data for Figures 1, 2 and 3 are now available at [Open Data Ottawa](#) (Excel file).

### Data Table for Figure 5

Week of symptom onset	Number of outbreaks in Ottawa hospitals	Number of outbreaks in other Ottawa institutions	Number of outbreaks in Ottawa retirement homes	Number of outbreaks in Ottawa long term care homes
Mar 15	1	0	2	0
Mar 22	2	1	1	1
Mar 29	2	0	0	1
Apr 05	0	0	2	6
Apr 12	2	0	3	4
Apr 19	2	1	1	2
Apr 26	0	0	4	3
May 03	1	1	1	0
May 10	1	1	2	0
May 17	1	0	0	0
May 24	0	0	0	0

