

# Lessons from the Frontlines: Responses to Recent Coronavirus Cases in Commercial Office Buildings

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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# Agenda

1

Welcome and  
Introduction

2

Public Health  
Guidance

3

Lessons from 25  
York Street, Toronto

4

Lessons from 6880  
Financial Drive,  
Meadowvale, Mississauga

5

Questions and  
Answers

6

Concluding  
Thoughts





# Welcome from BOMA Canada



**Benjamin Shinewald**  
President and CEO, BOMA Canada





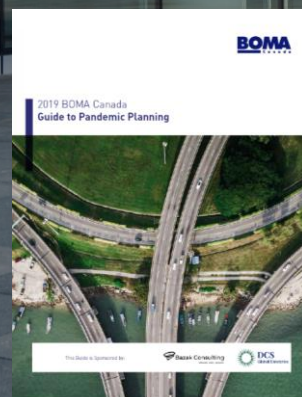
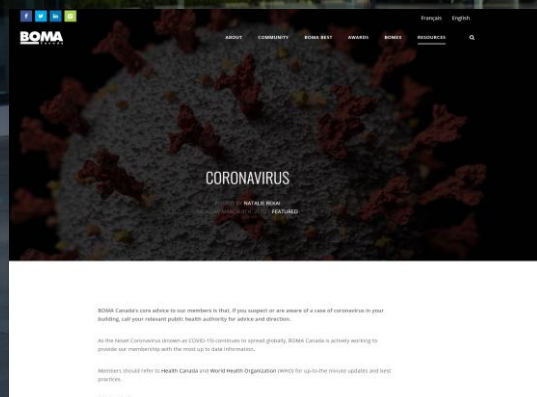
**Please contact relevant public health authorities for medical/public health advice. Neither BOMA Canada nor the individuals presenting herein are providing such advice.**







# [bomacanada.ca/coronavirus](https://bomacanada.ca/coronavirus)



# **2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): From an emerging novel infectious disease to planning for a pandemic response**



**Dr. Vinita Dubey**  
**Toronto Public Health (TPH)**

March 2020



1. What is COVID-19?
2. Current global situation
3. Roles of different levels of public health in Canada
4. Public Health Advice
5. Pandemic Stages
6. Planning for a pandemic- businesses
7. Other resources

# What is COVID-19?

- A new (novel) strain of coronavirus initially identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- Coronaviruses:
  - Large family of viruses found in both animals and humans.
  - Usually associated with mild illness (similar to the common cold) but can also cause more severe illness (eg. SARS, MERS).



# Symptoms

- Symptoms:
  - More frequently noted
    - Fever
    - Dry cough
    - Shortness of breath
  - Less frequently noted
    - Muscle aches
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Diarrhea

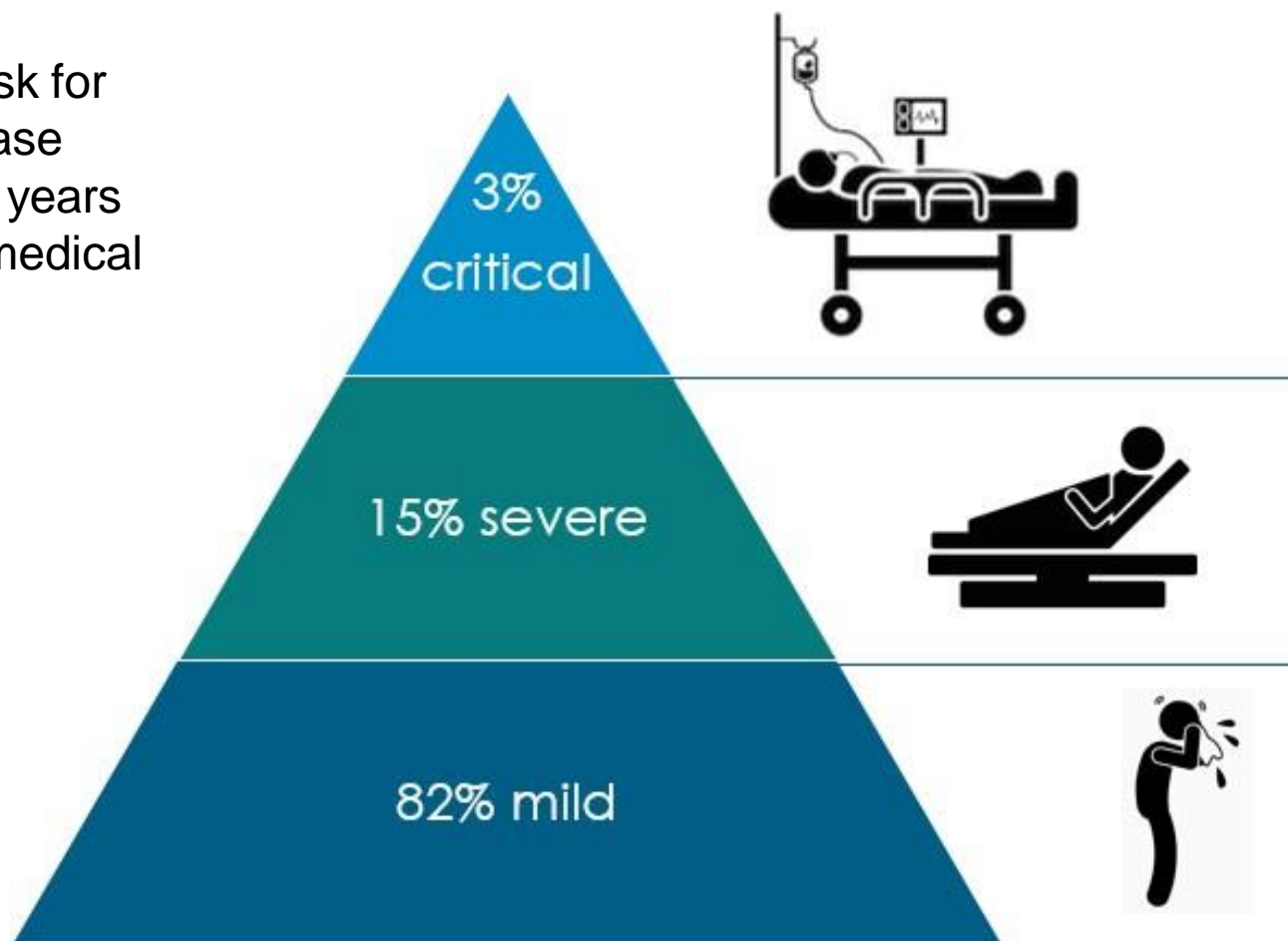


Source: SCDHEC, 2019

# Clinical Severity

Increased risk for  
severe disease

- Age > 50 years
- Chronic medical condition



Source: China NHC, 2020



# Transmission/Spread

In general, for coronaviruses, spread occurs through:

- Respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze.
- Touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.
- Close, prolonged personal contact such as living in the same household

No evidence, to date, of airborne spread.



Source: SCDHEC, 2019

# Testing/Treatment

- Diagnosed by a healthcare provider:
  - Signs and symptoms and laboratory testing (swab in nose)
  - Travel history or contact with someone having or suspected of having COVID-19 is also important.
- No antiviral or antibiotic or specific treatment
- No vaccine



- Follow-up of cases and suspected cases of COVID-19
- Contact tracing and management
  - **Close contact – within 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer**
  - Household contacts
  - Assess risk at other settings like school, work, sports teams, conferences, etc

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# Current Situation

As of March 15, 2020:

- Global Situation – 153, 517 cases
  - China: 81,048 cases;
  - Outside of China – 77,469 cases
  - 80% of cases from 4 countries- China, Iran, Italy, South Korea
  - Other countries in Europe increasing rapidly
- North America:
  - United States – 1,678 cases; 41 deaths
  - Canada - 304 cases, 1 death

WHO situation reports can be accessed at:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

CDC's report: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

PHAC: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

# Current Situation- Most of the world has cases now – what began in one province in China

## Global Map

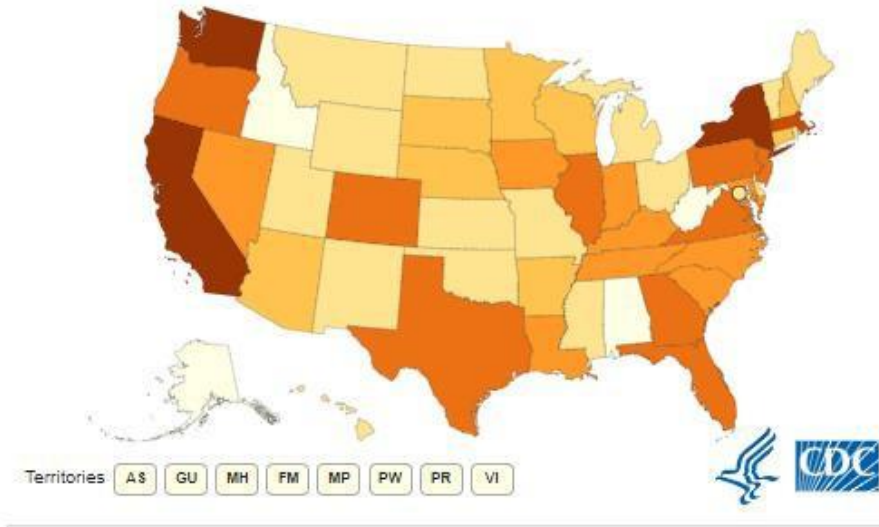
*As of 12:00 p.m. ET March 14, 2020*





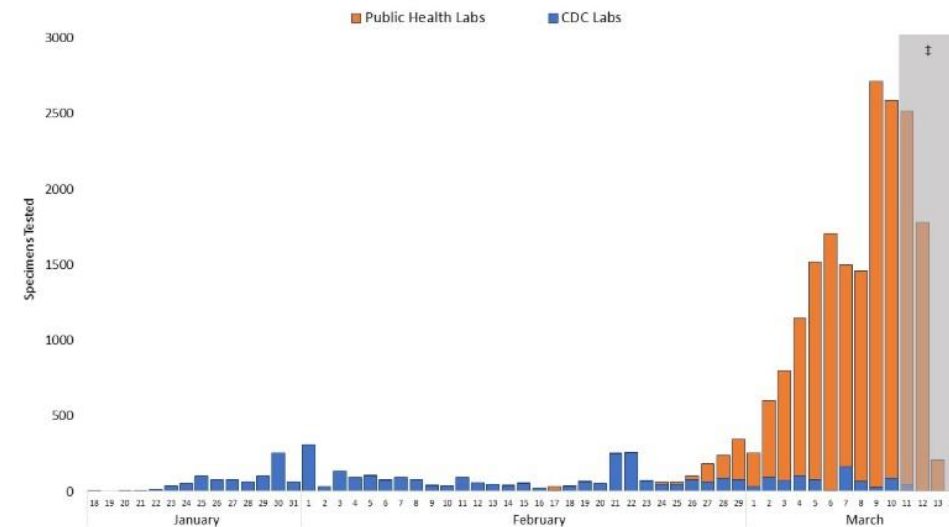
# Current Situation- The USA- 1215 cases March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC\*



- 3 states with increased activity
- Testing in the USA only increased in March

Number of specimens tested for SARS CoV-2 by CDC labs (N=4,069) and U.S. public health laboratories\* (N=18,644)†



Source:: CDC, 2020 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/testing-in-us.html>

From onset of illness occurred between January 15 and March 13, 2020

- 51% of cases are female
- 31% of cases are 60 years old and over
- 13% of cases have been hospitalized
- 1 person has died of COVID-19
- 74% of cases are travellers
- 6% are close contacts of travellers
- 20%- investigating or no known source

# Change in case counts in 12 days in Canada

## As of March 3

30 confirmed cases in Canada.

- 20 in Ontario
- 9 in British Columbia
- 1 in Quebec

### Local (Toronto) Situation

- 11 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases travel related or close contact
- At this time, no community spread

## As of March 15

304 confirmed cases in Canada.

- 142 in Ontario
- 73 in British Columbia
- All provinces have cases

### Local (Toronto) Situation

- 80 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases mostly travel related or close contact
- Cases from travel to USA
- Expecting local spread
- Mitigation measures in place

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/diseases-medications-vaccines/coronavirus/>



# Many have been tested in Ontario- most have been negative (March 15, 2020)

## Status of cases in Ontario

This web page will be updated with the most up-to-date information on the status of cases in Ontario, every day, seven days a week, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET.

The symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus, which can include fever and cough, are similar to other respiratory infections, including influenza. As a result, individuals who may simply have the flu are being tested out of an abundance of caution and in line with Ontario's robust detection protocols. This means that most individuals who are tested are unlikely to be infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus.

Negative <sup>1</sup>	7004
Currently under investigation <sup>2</sup>	1316
Confirmed positive <sup>3</sup>	140
Resolved <sup>4</sup>	5
Total number of patients approved for COVID-19 testing to date	8465

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# Current Advice – Prevention

- Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Source: SCDHEC, 2019

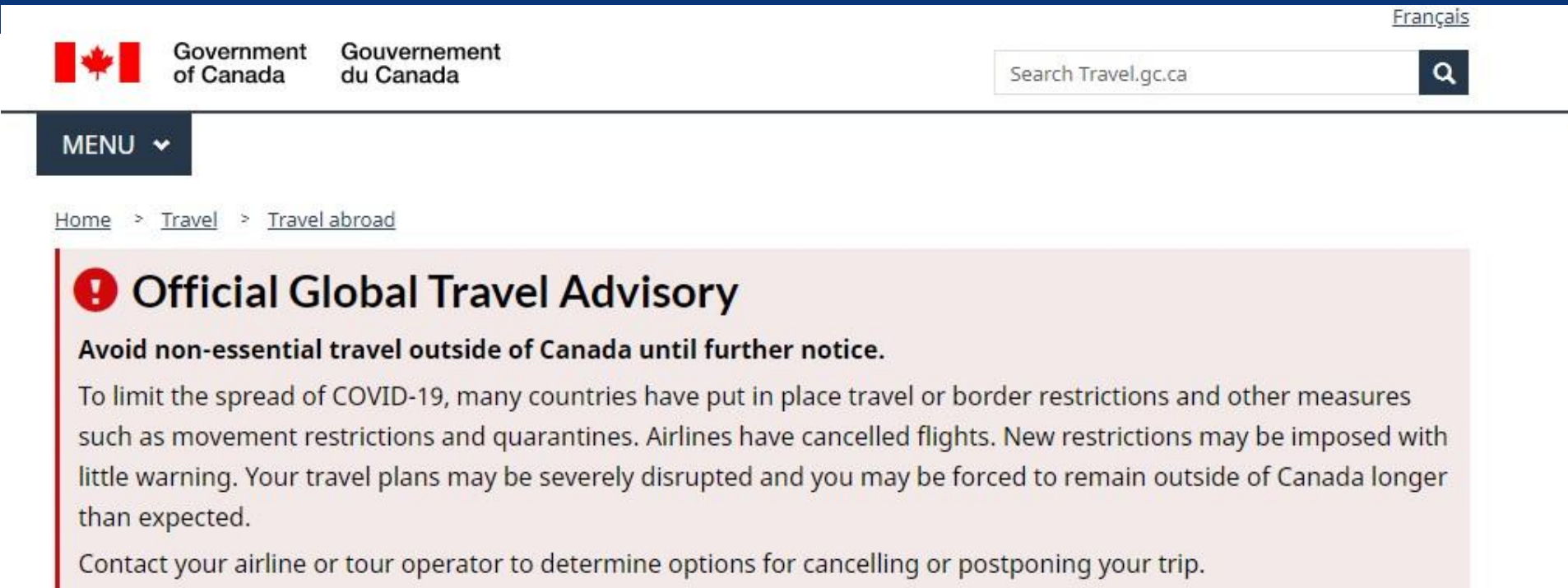


# Current Advice – Prevention

- Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
  - Follow routine infection prevention and control policies and procedures set out by your company or organization.



# March 15<sup>th</sup> travel health notices

A screenshot of the Government of Canada's Travel.gc.ca website. The header includes the Canadian flag, the text "Government of Canada" and "Gouvernement du Canada", a search bar with the text "Search Travel.gc.ca", and a "Français" link. Below the header is a "MENU" button. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Travel > Travel abroad". A prominent red warning icon is followed by the heading "Official Global Travel Advisory". The text below reads: "Avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice. To limit the spread of COVID-19, many countries have put in place travel or border restrictions and other measures such as movement restrictions and quarantines. Airlines have cancelled flights. New restrictions may be imposed with little warning. Your travel plans may be severely disrupted and you may be forced to remain outside of Canada longer than expected. Contact your airline or tour operator to determine options for cancelling or postponing your trip."

- Check travel restrictions and advisories from the Public Health Agency of Canada – **before and after travel**
- Information is always being updated

\*Advice may change upon return to Canada\*

- Self-isolate for 14 days
- If sick, stay home and call health care provider, public health, Telehealth
- Social distancing
- Avoid large gatherings
- Stay away from hospitals, elderly, those with chronic health conditions

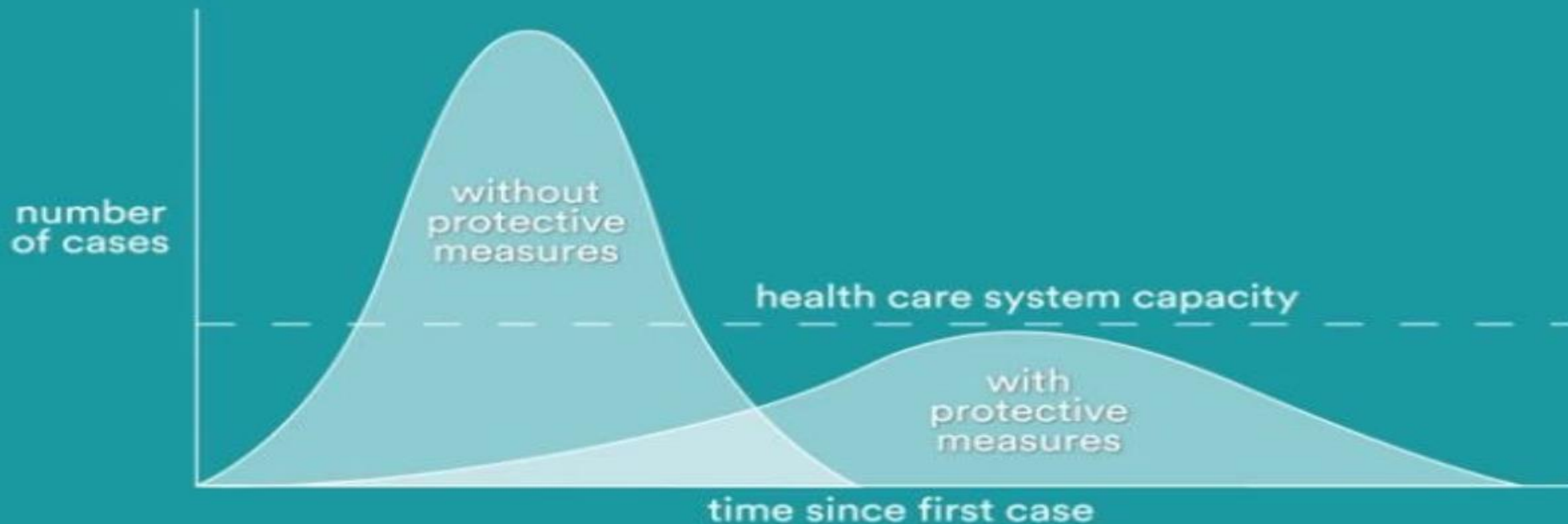


## Mitigation

- Sustained local transmission across population
- Attempt to slow down spread to reduce impact on health care system, and await the arrival of a vaccine/anti-viral medications
- Use of broader population level mitigation strategies to reduce impact such as social distancing, large gatherings, consideration for school and workplace strategies such as closures
- Eventually will no longer tracing individual cases

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/pandemic-preparedness-resources.html>

# FLATTENING THE CURVE



**Toronto Public Health's Hotline**  
**For the public and stakeholders**  
**416-338-7600**

**[www.toronto.ca/coronavirus](https://www.toronto.ca/coronavirus)**





**Dr. Vinita Dubey**

City of Toronto, Public Health



**Jon Douglas**

Menkes Property Management



**Marlene Farias**

Triovest Realty Advisors Inc.





**Question & Answer**  
Please use the chat  
functionality on the webinar



# Follow the conversation



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BOMA Canada,  
Benjamin Shinewald



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# Thank you!

# Merci!

