



Navigating Times of Uncertainty

2019 & 2020 Biennial Report



Message from the 2019 & 2020 Presidents

It is hard to find the right words to sum up the experience of the public health field in these incredibly challenging two years. As we all navigated these times of uncertainty, we have witnessed how APHEO members have demonstrated their adaptability, their tenacity, and their commitment to the public health mission.

In 2019, APHEO released new strategic priorities. From those priorities, the association amended its Constitution to be more inclusive of colleagues working in Indigenous-serving organizations, and contributed to the development of four course modules for the [Public Health Training for Equitable Health Systems](#) change initiative. When the Province indicated their plan to modernize the public health system, we then pivoted to advocate for the need and value of local public health epidemiology. These efforts included spearheading the first [Epidemiological Capacity Assessment](#) in Ontario, with support from the U.S. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and preparing [a response](#) to the Ontario [Public Health Modernization Discussion Paper](#).

In 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic changed all our lives and our work in ways we had never seen before. With the [declaration of the state of emergency](#) in Ontario, APHEO moved to enact an existing policy for the first time, suspending all non-essential business, in recognition that our members were being called into the COVID-19 response efforts. The APHEO Executive Committee has continued to 'keep the lights on' while most association activities have gone temporarily dormant. It has been incredible to see APHEO members come together and provide one another support, both personally and professionally, during these pandemic times. It exemplifies APHEO's mission and goals to advance epidemiology, foster knowledge exchange and professional opportunities, and develop tools and resources that support our collective work.

We want to thank each and every APHEO member – for being there for one another, and for the critical public health epidemiology work that you do every day.



Stanley Ing
2019 President



Jessica Deming
2019 Interim President



Suzanne Fegan
2020 President



APHEO's Response to Public Health Modernization

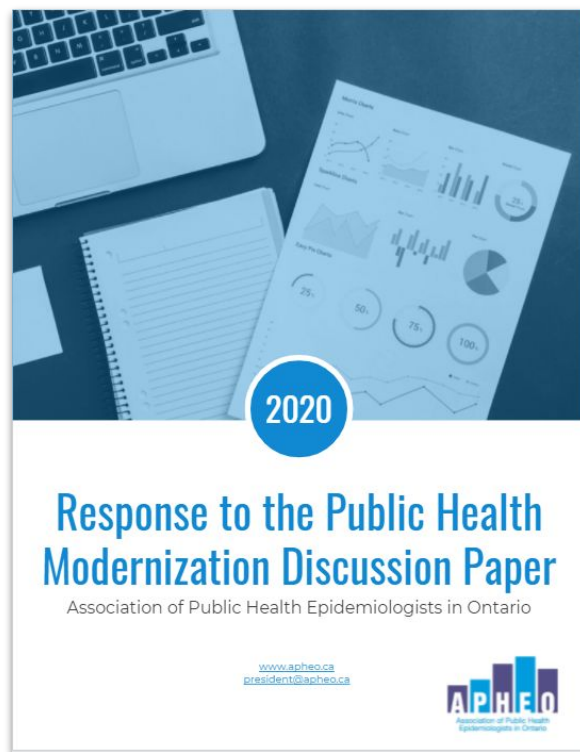
In fall 2019, APHEO undertook a consultation to gather members' feedback about the Government of Ontario's [Public Health Modernization Paper](#). In February 2020, APHEO submitted its formal response.

APHEO's overarching recommendations:

1. Retain sufficient epidemiological capacity in local public health agencies
2. Strengthen provincial data infrastructure and centrally organize certain activities to improve overall coordination
3. Ensure centralized functions involve active engagement and are responsive to local needs

Read APHEO's modernization response here:

<https://www.apheo.ca/membership/documents/3670>



2019 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment project

In fall 2019, APHEO conducted the first ever enumeration of the applied epidemiology workforce in the public health sector in Ontario.

The Epidemiology Capacity Assessment (ECA) results were formally released in July 2020, and provide a snapshot of the state of public health epidemiology in Ontario prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read the full report here:

<https://www.apheo.ca/membership/documents/3714>

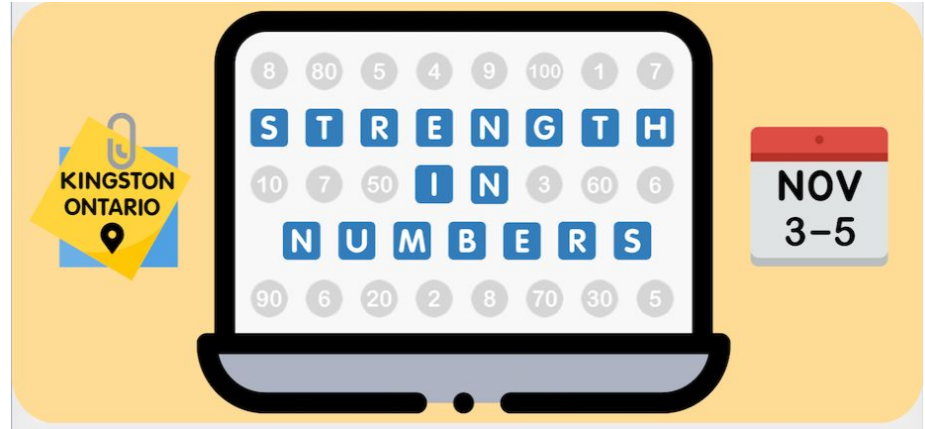
Read the 2019 ECA highlights here:

<https://www.apheo.ca/membership/documents/3715>





2019 APHEO Conference & Workshop

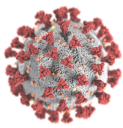


The 2019 Conference and Workshop was a huge success, with 5 keynote speakers, 2 panels, 13 concurrent sessions and 75 attendees.
Right: The KFL&A Public Health Choir made a special appearance at lunch!



Chuck Schouwerwou of Confersense Planners with Jessica Deming, interim APHEO President, as APHEO wished Chuck all the best in his retirement.





COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Ontario

CORONAVIRUS | News

COVID-19 is a pandemic: World Health Organization

Jamey Keaten, Maria Cheng and John Leicester
The Associated Press

Published Wednesday, March 11, 2020 12:34PM EDT
Last Updated Wednesday, March 11, 2020 11:57PM EDT



Ontario schools to shut down for two weeks after March Break to fight the spread of COVID-19

By **Kristin Rushowy** Queen's Park Bureau
Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief
▲ Thu., March 12, 2020 | 4 min. read

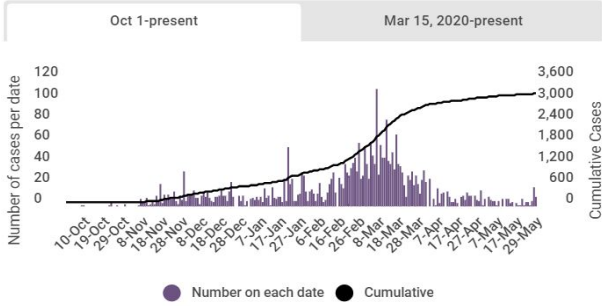


"At times, my experience has been overwhelming. Never before has the public shown such an appetite for real-time and detailed data. At the same time, there was always something new to learn (new databases, new guidelines) and new information to take in. It has been a great learning experience and will be so interesting to see how public health changes after COVID-19."

**- Melissa Macleod,
Epidemiologist,
Southwestern Public Health**

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on the critical epidemiology work at Ontario's public health units. Here are a few examples of the COVID-19 surveillance products from Ontario's PHUs:

Cases over time, by reported date¹, from Mar 13, 2020 to May 29, 2021



1. This refers to the date the TBDHU reported the case publicly.

Confirmed cases by age group and sex



COVID-19 Neighbourhood Cases and Rates

Data as of May 28, 2021 08:30 AM

Data source: The Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM);

Ontario Ministry of Health,

IntelliHEALTH Ontario population estimates

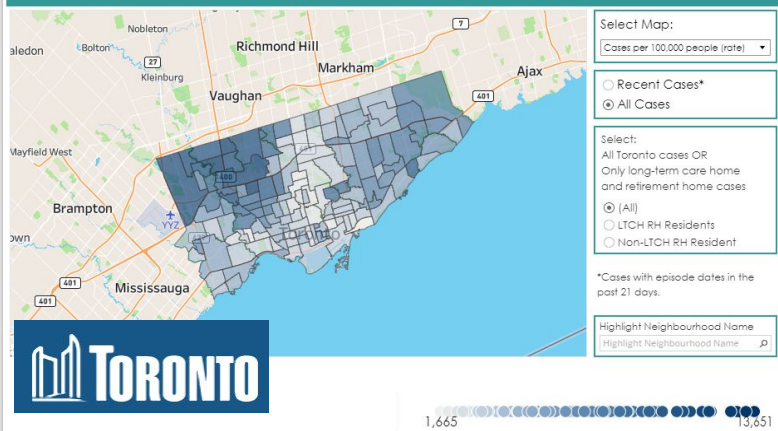
*Map reports on confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19



Case/Rate Maps

Testing Maps

Map of Cumulative COVID-19 Rates by Neighbourhood - January 21, 2020 to May 28, 2021



Ottawa's COVID-19 Dashboard

Status of COVID-19 in Ottawa

Data pulled at 3 pm on 28/05/2021

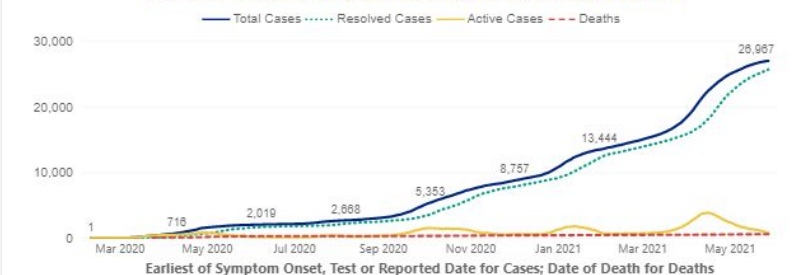
Case Status | Time Trends & Exposures | Outbreaks | Testing | Monitoring Indicators

Data in this dashboard are based on information extracted from the provincial Case and Contact Management (CCM) solution at 3 pm daily and loaded to the dashboard the following day. CCM is a dynamic disease reporting system that allows for ongoing updates; data represent a snapshot at the time of extraction and may differ from previous or subsequent dashboard updates.

This section of the dashboard applies to Ottawa residents with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 (i.e. confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ottawa).

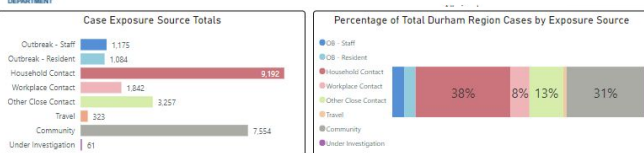
Overall Time Trends

Cumulative Number of Ottawa Residents with Confirmed COVID-19



Durham Region COVID-19 Data Tracker

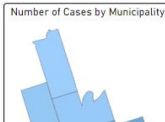
Status of COVID-19 Cases in Durham Region



Select a Case Exposure Source to view statistics based on how confirmed cases were exposed to COVID-19. Multiple exposure types can be selected at once. To de-select an exposure type, click on the check mark.

To filter the statistics based on municipality, either select the name of a municipality from the table, or click on the municipality within the map. Click on a white space to clear the selection.

- Case Exposure Source: Select all, Outbreak - Staff, Outbreak - Resident, Household Contact, Workplace Contact, Other Close Contact, Travel, Community, Under Investigation



Municipality	Cases
Investigating	5
Pickering	4,373
Alton	6,804
Whitby	4,262
Oshawa	5,355
Clarington	2,117
Uxbridge	467
Scouge	346
Brock	156
Durham Region	24,488

APHEO members and the COVID-19 Response

Through the pandemic, APHEO members did what they do best; they came together, collaborated on common issues, and supported their colleagues with COVID-19 response efforts.

Examples of APHEO collaborations during the COVID-19 response:

- Regular APHEO COVID-19 listserv discussion
- Biweekly COVID-19 Epi meetings - an opportunity for discussion of common issues faced by public health units
- Biweekly COVax Epi meetings - an opportunity to discuss common issues related to the mass vaccination roll-out and COVax data issues.
- CCM Reporting - PHUs collaborated to create and share reports and problem solve issues within a novel reportable diseases surveillance platform, CCM
- Sharing of standardized syntax, e.g., OLIS
- COVID-19 PHU Modelling - in Wave 1, an APHEO member liaised with researchers for the purpose of sharing a regional COVID-19 model

“My experience has been relentless and rewarding. The pandemic has shown the value of epidemiology and the role it plays with disease and outbreak management, multi-faceted planning and fundamentally supporting evidence-based decision-making to inform stakeholders and protect lives.”

**- Ramsey D’Souza
Manager, Epidemiology &
Evaluation,
Windsor-Essex County
Health Unit**

“It’s the speed and urgency that has really struck me in working for public health in a pandemic. So often our work is long-term, so the pivot has been a huge change. And it’s been a successful pivot I think because of the sense of community both within local public health and the broader public health community.”

**- Allison Maier, Research Associate,
Kingston, Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health**

“Having the support of other APHEO members has been invaluable throughout the pandemic. APHEO has served as a way to share tips and tricks and develop new solutions in a constantly changing environment. I am always so impressed by the selfless and collaborative nature of APHEO members.”

**- Kristen Wheeler, Epidemiologist,
Halton Region Public Health**

Grim milestone: Canada marks 10,000 COVID-19 deaths as country battles second wave

KELLY GRANT ▶ HEALTH REPORTER
PUBLISHED OCTOBER 27, 2020
UPDATED OCTOBER 28, 2020



Friday's Insider Report: Billionaire

CORONAVIRUS | News

'Historic moment': Health Canada approves Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Rachel Aiello Ottawa News Bureau Online Producer
@rachaiello | Contact

Published Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:01AM EST
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CTV NEWS

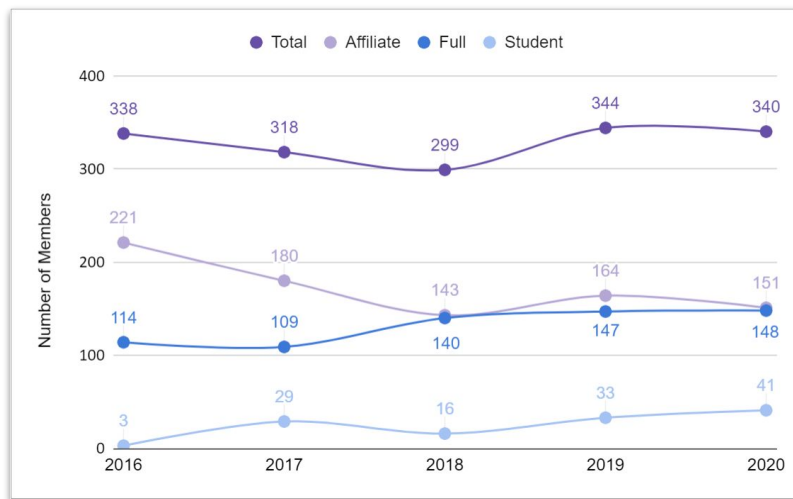


Financial Summary

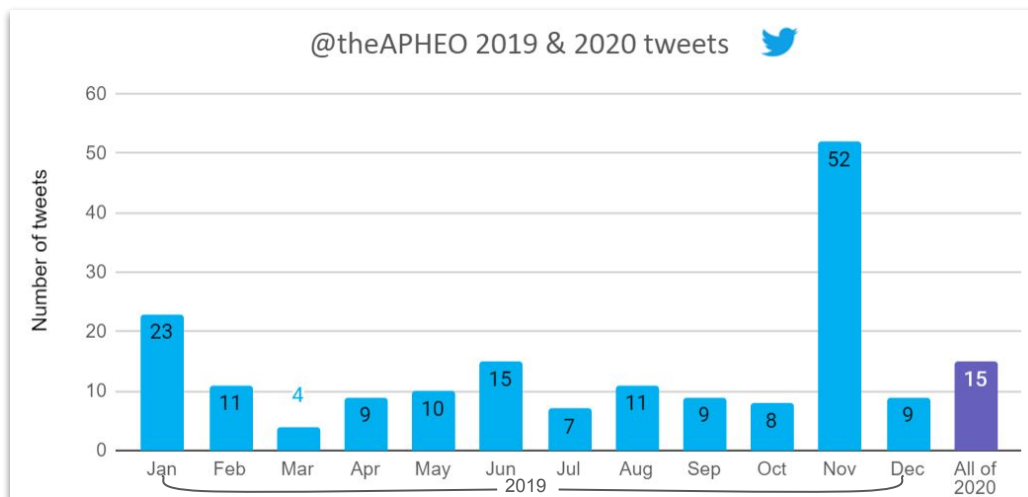


	2019	2020
Revenue	\$51,108.78	\$17,071.53
Expenses	\$43,177.89	\$14,608.01
Net Revenue / (Net Expenses Over Revenue)	\$7,930.89	\$2,463.52
Total Assets in Dollars	\$91,904.18	\$94,913.66

Membership



Social Media





Executive Committee 2019

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

alpha Representative

OPHA Representative

Member-at-Large

Past President

Stanley Ing

Jessica Deming

Ainslie Butler

Lydia Cheng

Emma Tucker

Suzanne De Haney

Jordan Robson

Vidya Sunil

2020

Suzanne Fegan

Jordan Robson

Ainslie Butler

Erica Sawula

Sarah Collier

Suzanne De Haney

Heather Pimbert

Jessica Deming