

January 15, 2021

Hon. Premier Doug Ford
99 Wellesley St. West, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A6

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: The Lockdown is Deadlier than Covidⁱ

The medicine is killing the patient. Ontario's Hospital and ICU Capacity are better than in the last 3 years.ⁱⁱ I write on behalf of my North York constituents and plead for the millions of lives and livelihoods ruined by Ontario's Public Health restrictions.

The Lockdown isn't working. It's causing an avalanche of suicides, overdoses, bankruptcies, divorces and takes an immense toll on our children. Dozens of leading doctors implored you to end the Lockdowns.ⁱⁱⁱ The crisis is largely limited to Long Term Care homes (LTC). With all LTC residents in "red zones" to be vaccinated by January 21, Ontario should end the Lockdown & the catastrophic toll it's causing Ontarians.

LOCKDOWNS VS. COVID

"Hot zones" like Toronto and Peel have been in Lockdown since Thanksgiving without success. But the Lockdowns are objectively deadlier than Covid. For example:

- (a) Cancer screenings at Princess Margret are back to 60% with Oncologist fearing a "tsunami of cancer."^{iv}
- (b) Ontario's overdose rate is trending 50% above normal.^v The growth in the number of Ontarians who died of overdose in 2020, may be higher than the number of people who died from Covid outside LTC.
- (c) According to The Canadian Mental Health Association, in September 2020, 10% of adults reported "recent thoughts or feelings of suicide" (x4 normal). Among Canadians aged 19-35 the rate is 20%.^{vi}
- (d) SickKids is calling the increase of eating disorders in young people an "unprecedented crisis."^{vii}
- (e) Tens of thousands of businesses shut down. The unemployment rate is near double & 320,000 people have not regained work.^{viii} We are faced with a catastrophic wave of bankruptcies and foreclosures.
- (f) The Government is criminalizing normal human behaviour and putting law abiding Ontarians in legal jeopardy. Public Health can't change human behaviour. My heart breaks for family of Damien Moses.^{ix}

Covid is real, but the fear of Covid is exaggerated. While every death is tragic, after 10 months we learned that Covid is not nearly as deadly as first thought – it has a 99.98% Infection Survival Rate. According to the CDC's latest estimates, Covid's Infection Fatality Rate by Age is as follows:^x

Age	0-19	20-49	50-69	Age 70+
Infection Fatality Rate	0.00003%	0.0002%	0.005%	0.054%

Regretfully, since the start of the Pandemic about 5,000 Ontarians died from/with Covid.^{xi} Approximately 4,000 (~80%) of all Covid deaths occurred in Group Living Settings.^{xii} Of all 5,000 deaths, over 3,000 died in Long Term Care^{xiii} where victims were on average in their last year of life.^{xiv} We should focus on & fix LTC!

Approximately 3,500 (70%) of all Ontarians who died were over age 80. While we mourn every death, only 200 people or 4% of all deaths were under age 60 and ZERO children died from Covid in Ontario.^{xv}

HOSPITAL & ICU CAPACITY

Ontario's hospital capacity is better than pre-Pandemic. On Jan. 12, I was advised as follows by MOH:

Ontario Hospital Occupancy (Daily Average)

Time Period	December 2017	December 2018	December 2019	December 2020	January 6, 2021
Hospital Occupancy %	94.5%	94.8%	95.0%	84.4%	87.6%

Ontario ICU Occupancy (Daily Average)

Time Period	2017 (1-16 Dec)	2018 (1-16 Dec)	2019 (1-16 Dec)	2020 (1-16 Dec)	2021 (Jan 1-13)
ICU Occupancy %	86.66%	91.21%	83.51%	80.84%	81.60%

On January 4, 2021, the ICU Occupancy rate was 80.6%, with Covid taking up only 16% of total ICU beds.^{xvi} Today, there are 385 Covid ICU patients,^{xvii} that's less than one patient per Ontario's 492 Hospitals. Risk can be minimized with transfers and good management. Urban area hospitals are always above capacity at this time of year – that's why we campaigned on ending Hallway Healthcare.

The lack of Capacity is created artificially by rationing healthcare resources in response to modeling by the Command Table, except that the Table's modeling is almost always wrong. The worst projection was made in the Fall Prep Plan. On September 30 the Table warned us that if Ontario maintained Michigan's case trajectory, by end of October we will have over 250 patients in ICU.^{xviii} Although Ontario maintained Michigan's case trajectory, the actual number of ICU patients on October 31 was 73 or 3.5 times less than predicted.^{xix} While the Table can't get Capacity modeling right, the hospital planning made and threatened in response to its modeling is catastrophic. Ontarians are needlessly denied care & surgeries.

CHILDREN:

The Lockdown is having catastrophic effects on Ontario's children. Constituents tell me that their children developed anxiety. We are scaring children even though they are 100% safe. The Government should also follow SickKids' advice against masking kids at school.^{xx} The crisis is in LTC homes, not schools.

Premier, we should stop scaring children. This generation of kids will grow up with an anxiety disorder and will be afraid of normal life. Kids need to be kids again, back in school with their friends. They should not believe that coming close to another child may result in someone's death. It's false and unwarranted.

PROPOSED EXIT STRATEGY

1. End the Lockdown and let Ontarians go back to normal life. That's the best thing for their health.
2. Focus on LTC and proper IPAC instead of imprisoning 15 million Ontarians. With vaccination of all LTC residents in Ontario's "red zones" by January 21, there's much less justification for the Lockdown.
3. Build additional Hospital Capacity such as the facility at Joseph Brant and train ICU nurses.
4. Restore healthcare by ending Emergency Protocols (except LTC). Ontarians need healthcare back.
5. End the spread of fear & panic. It's unjustified and causes considerable stress, especially on children.

The Lockdowns aren't working. They are killing lives instead of saving lives. I plead with you to accept this reality and end the Lockdown. I wrote this letter with my greatest respect to you and our colleagues.

Yours very truly,



Roman Baber, MPP

ⁱ Furey, Toronto Sun, January 9, 2021 - <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/canadian-experts-research-finds-lockdown-harms-are-10-times-greater-than-benefits>. Referenced Ari Joffe, November 4, 2020 - *COVID-19: Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink* at <https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202010.0330/v2>

ⁱⁱ Ministry of Health (Ontario), January 12, 2021 (see tables within letter)

ⁱⁱⁱ Opinion: We are infectious disease experts. It's time to lift the COVID-19 lockdowns, National Post, May 21 2020; Ontario's COVID-19 lockdown is now harming health more than it's helping, some experts say, The Star, June 4, 2020; Health experts press Ottawa for a more 'balanced approach' to tackling COVID-19 pandemic, The Globe and Mail, July 7, 2020

^{iv} CBC, December 17, 2020 - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/cancer-tsunami-screening-delays-covid-1.5844708#:~:text=Canada,Oncologist%20fears%20'tsunami%20of%20cancer'%20after%20COVID%2D19%20lockdowns,don't%20know%20it%20yet.>

^v <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-oidioid-tool>

^{vi} CMHA, December 3, 2020, <https://cmhawa.ca/news/new-nationwide-survey-finds-ontarians-mental-health-eroding/>

^{vii} Toronto Sun, January 5, 2021, <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/pandemic-sent-eating-disorder-numbers-to-record-highs-sickkids>

^{viii} Statistics Canada (Ontario), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028703>

^{ix} <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/gobin-officers-conduct-in-arrest-of-man-under-lockdown-rules-should-be-investigated>

^x CDC, September 10, 2020, Scenario 5: Current Best Estimate, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

^{xi} Ministry of Health (Ontario), <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

^{xii} See data from @IacovosMichael (includes LTC + Retirement Homes + Group Homes)

^{xiii} <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data/long-term-care-homes>

^{xiv} <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/10/07/death-rates-higher-in-for-profit-nursing-homes-report-says.html>

^{xv} <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-report-en-2021-01-10.pdf> (Daily epidemiologic report)

^{xvi} Dr. Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health

^{xvii} Ministry of Health (Ontario), <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

^{xviii} moh-fall-prep-modelling-deck-en-2020-09-30 at page 9

^{xix} Ministry of Health (Ontario), <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

^{xx} https://beta.ctvnews.ca/national/coronavirus/2020/6/17/1_4987852.html

