

Friday November 20, 2020

**PRESS RELEASE: Ontario Medical Students Association Statement on Ontario Medical Association's Call to Increase Restrictions in new COVID Framework**

At the beginning of this month, the Government of Ontario released a new tiered framework for the province to combat the spread of COVID-19 [1]. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) released a statement calling for tighter restrictions from the Ontario government to curb the spread of COVID-19 [2]. With record high cases increasing by the day, the Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) supports the OMA's call to increase restrictions within each tier of the framework and allocate more resources for testing and contact tracing.

OMSA would also like to call on the Ontario government to create equitable solutions to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Seniors in long term care centers, and racialized and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by the spread of COVID-19 due to structural violence [3]. OMSA believes the health of these communities should be centered in government policy surrounding COVID-19.

This is an urgent issue that we believe is of importance to all Ontario medical students. Following our Day of Action focused on Public Health funding, we encourage all medical students to contact their local MPP to advocate for equity focused approaches to COVID-19 that prioritize the health of all Ontarians.

For more about OMSA's advocacy work, please contact [advocacy@omsa.ca](mailto:advocacy@omsa.ca).

Sincerely,

Chair, OMSA    VP Advocacy, OMSA    Policy & Response Team, OMSA

1. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59051/ontario-releases-covid-19-response-framework-to-help-keep-the-province-safe-and-open>
2. [https://www.oma.org/section/news-&-events/ontario-doctors-advise-premier-ford-to-increase-restrictions-in-new-covid-framework?type=news\\_items&fbclid=IwAR01OAGbLOJfNfeZa7zFw1t2D-V2YhyNwFowkuMhoFlkmwxJfoYRIHBGzml](https://www.oma.org/section/news-&-events/ontario-doctors-advise-premier-ford-to-increase-restrictions-in-new-covid-framework?type=news_items&fbclid=IwAR01OAGbLOJfNfeZa7zFw1t2D-V2YhyNwFowkuMhoFlkmwxJfoYRIHBGzml)
3. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/epi/2020/06/covid-19-epi-diversity.pdf?la=en>