

Fact Sheet on Hospital Capacity

The MPP for York Centre, Roman Baber, released a letter on January 15, 2021 that includes inaccurate and misleading numbers relating to hospital capacity throughout this pandemic.

Misinformation is dangerous; facts are essential so that the public understands the significant pressures hospitals and health care workers are facing in fighting this pandemic. To ensure there is no confusion, below are the facts:

Inaccurate claim #1 - Ontario has 492 Hospitals

- Ontario has 141 public hospital corporations with services located across 217 sites. Ontario has 128 acute care corporations.
- Of these 217 sites, 168 have acute care beds. 157 of these 168 sites have 10 acute care beds or more.
- Of the 141 hospital corporations in Ontario; just 74 hospitals have ICUs reporting into Critical Care Services Ontario (CCSO). Hospitals without appropriate intensive care capacity cannot care for patients requiring life-saving critical care.
- There are approximately 21,000 Acute Care beds and 12,000 beds for Complex Continuing Care, Rehab and Mental Health, for a total of approximately 33,300 beds. At the same time, there are 5,066 patients waiting in Ontario hospitals for a more appropriate level of care (ALC) as of Jan. 13, 2021.

Inaccurate claim #2 - Hospital occupancy levels are lower than before the pandemic.

- Unlike past years, acute care hospitals are attempting to hold total hospital occupancy at 85% to 90% in order to maintain stand-by capacity because of the COVID-19 pandemic as they strive to also provide scheduled/elective surgeries. This is a policy set by Ontario Health as a condition in order to re-start scheduled/elective activity in the late spring.
- Of the 74 hospital corporations offering critical care, today there are 409 patients in intensive care with COVID-related conditions on a total census of 1,790 patients. This means that 23% of all patients in critical care today have COVID-19.
- According to Dr. Adalsteinn Brown's COVID-19 modelling update on January 12th, by the first week of February, Ontario is forecasting over 700 ICU beds occupied by COVID patients (based on 1% growth).
- If growth increases to anywhere between 3-5%, modelling forecasts 1,000 – 1,500 ICU beds occupied by COVID patients in February. It is not possible to support the critical care needs of COVID and non-COVID patients at that level.
- More than half of our intensive care units across the province are full or have only one or two beds left.