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Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association

**COVID-19  
Update**

### **April 22, 2020 update**

This week, the provincial government announced Ontarians are making progress to flatten the COVID-19 curve, and we are all encouraged to continue social distancing measures to keep the positive trend. ODHA staff continue to be available to members by phone or email.

#### **NEW COVID-19 funding for students**

Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced comprehensive support of nearly \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates. The proposed Canada Emergency Student Benefit will see eligible post-secondary students and recent graduates receive \$1,250 a month or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities from May to August.

College and university students currently in school, planning to start in September, or who graduated in December 2019 are eligible.

The Federal government also announced financial investments including:

- NEW Canada Student Service Grant for students volunteering in the COVID-19 fight with up to \$5,000 to go towards fall tuitions.
- Doubling Canada Student Grants for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents is also being doubled.
- Extending scholarships and grants.
- Broadening eligibility for financial assistance and raising the maximum weekly amounts.
- Increasing support to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students.

You can read the Prime Minister's full statement [here](#).

#### **COVID-19 and caring for pets**

Public Health Ontario released a fact sheet on *How to Care for Pets and Other Animals*. This fact sheet includes practical information, guidance, and precautions to consider when caring for pets during the COVID-19 outbreak. There is currently no evidence that

pets or other domestic animals play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19. You can read the fact sheet [here](#).

*To increase accessibility, COVID-19 email communications will be posted on the [COVID-19 update page](#) on the ODHA website.*