Tony: TODAY ON CTV NEWS AT FIVE.
LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.
WE ARE SEEING FEWER PEOPLE REQUIRING INTENSIVE CARE.
Tony: HAVE WE TURNED A CORNER ON THE OMICRON VARIANT IN ONTARIO?
THE FORD GOVERNMENT HINTS THAT RESTRICTIONS COULD BE LIFTED.
WE NEED SOME OF THAT INFORMATION SO RESTAURANTS CAN PREPARE THEMSELVES.
Tony: THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IS LOOKING FOR BETTER GUIDANCE.
AND, CANADORE COLLEGE IS GETTING ITS OWN FOUR-YEAR NURSING PROGRAM.
IS A GAP IN THE NUMBER OF NURSES WE HAVE AND THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE SYSTEM.
CTV NEWS AT FIVE, WITH TONY RYMA, JESSICA GOSSELIN AND WILL AIELLO WITH WEATHER.
Tony: GOOD AFTERNOON. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.
ONTARIO'S HEALTH MINISTER SAYS WE ARE SEEING GLIMMERS OF HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OMICRON WAVE OF COVID-19.
Jessica: BUT, THE STRAIN ON THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REMAINS A MAJOR CONCERN, WITH INCREASES IN ICU ADMISSIONS AND DEATH.
REPORTED TODAY.
CTV'S COLIN D'MELLO HAS THE DETAILS.
OMICRON CASES ARE EXPECTED TO PEAK THIS MONTH, WITH THE PECAN HOSPITALIZATIONS AND ICU ADMISSIONS TO FOLLOW.
Reporter: WHILE THE
PROVINCE SEEING RECORD LEVELS OF HOSPITALIZATION DUE TO COVID-19, THE SITUATION ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS A STABILIZING.
>> WE ARE SEEING FEWER PEOPLE REQUIRING INTENSIVE CARE.
OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, THE TOTAL ICU OCCUPANCY HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY CONSTANT.
TODAY, WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 571 COVID POSITIVE PATIENT IN OUR ICUS, COMPARED TO A HIGH OF JUST UNDER 900 AT THE PEAK OF WAY THREE.
>> Reporter: THE FORD GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING HOW TO ROLLBACK THE PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS OF THE MONTH AND HALF.
THE KEY, THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH SAYS, IS THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE TESTING POSITIVE DAILY.
HEALTHCARE STAFFING, AND HOSPITALIZATION DATA.
>> A KEY METRIC IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH POSITIVE ADMISSIONS TO THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, AND, CHOIR MECHANICAL VENTILATION -- REQUIRE.
AND, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS POSITIVE IN THE HOSPITAL FROM COVID-19, AND THEIR LENGTH OF STAY.
>> Reporter: WHAT COULD THE REOPENING LOOK LIKE, AND WHILE IT BEGAN ON JANUARY 26th AS PLANNED?
NEVER THE MINISTER OF HEALTH NOR THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH WILL SAY.
LEAVING SHUTTERED BUSINESSES WITH MORE AMBIGUITY.
THE PROVINCES HEALTH ADVISORS HAVE ALSO CAUTIONED THAT THE IMPACT OF REOPENING SCHOOLS NEEDS TO BE REALIZED FIRST, BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, BUT DR MOORE DISMISSES THE NOTION.
>> AS A MEASURE, SCHOOLS HAVEN'T
HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON
TRANSMISSION IN THE PAST.
I BELIEVE THE MEASURES WE PUT IN
PLACE SHOULD MINIMIZE THEM.

>> Reporter: THE PREMIER SET
to address the province this
week to announce how his
government will roll back
restrictions.
COLIN D'AMELLO, CTV NEWS TIME.

>> Tony: FOR YOUR FIRST CHECK
on weather.
we are still under a number of
alerts.
to tell us all about what is in
store, for the rest of the week,
we go to will aiello

>> Will: Yes, we are.
I said it would be returning at
some point, and it has.
The first -- our first weather
brought to you by CAA. become a
member at getCAA.ca. let's take
a look at the weather alerts.
The extreme cold warning makes a
return for the northern
Communities, moosonee,
attiwapiskat, caps --
kapuskasing and cochrane.
Some areas feel like -47 degrees
with a windchill.
weather advisories with
localized blowing snow in north
bay, we have more on these
details later.
back to you.

>> Jessica: That's cold.
with the province hinting
reopening measures this week,
food industry leaders are urging
proper guidance.
restaurants canada and business
owners in sault ste. marie say
there have been few
consultations by the ford
government, that made it
difficult to stay open over
taking big losses in the last
two years.
Christian D'avino reports.
RESTAURANTS CANADA ESTIMATE -- HAS --
ESTIMATES THAT...
ARE TAKING ON HUGE AMOUNT OF
DEBT, 75 PERCENT ARE DOWN
$50,000.
THE ORGANIZATION IS CALLING ON
THE FORD GOVERNMENT MAKE
REOPENING EASIER.

>> Reporter: RESTAURANT CANADA
SAID PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWNS HAVE
BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO THE STATE OF
THE INDUSTRY, AND WITH THE
PROVINCE AT SUGGESTING THERE
MAYBE REOPENING THIS WEEK, THEY
HOPE THE FORD GOVERNMENT GETS IT
RIGHT.

>> WE NEED THAT INFORMATION SO
RESTAURANTS CAN PREPARE SO THEY
CAN ORDER FOOD, GET STAFF READY.

>> Reporter: THE OWNER OF A
DOWNTOWN SAULT STE. MARIE CAFÉÉ
SAYS KEEPING TRACK OF INVENTORY
HAS BEEN DIFFICULT, AND WITH THE
DOWNTOWN LOCATION, SHE SAYS HER
TAKE-OUT NUMBERS ARE DWINDLING.

>> WE RUN A GOOD TAKE-OUT
BUSINESS HERE, BUT EVEN THAT
TENDS TO DWINDLE BECAUSE A LOT
OF OUR CUSTOMERS ARE WORKING
FROM HOME.

>> Reporter: RESTAURANTS
CANADA SAYS IT IS CALLING FOR
THE DEFERRAL OF HST PAYMENTS AND
FOR INCREASED FUNDING TO
ONTARIO'S COVID-19 RELEASE GRANT
PROGRAM.
BACK TO YOU.

>> Jessica: THANK YOU.
CHRISTIAN D'AVINO REPORTING FROM
SAULT STE. MARIE.

>> Tony: A NEW NURSING DEGREE
PROGRAM IS LAUNCHING AT CANADORE
COLLEGE IN NORTH BAY THIS FALL.
The move is made by the province
to offer more training for
nurses, and to fill a shortage
in the industry.
MORE FROM ERIC TASCHNER.

>> Reporter: THE NURSING
SHORTAGE IN ONTARIO HAS BEEN WELL EXPOSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

NOW, THE PROVINCE AND CANADORE COLLEGE ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO BUILD A GAP.

>> WHAT WE DO HAVE IS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

>> Reporter: CANADORE COLLEGE HAS BEEN TRAINING NURSES FOR 30 YEARS, BUT NOW, THE PROVINCES ADDING A DEGREE PROGRAM. IT WILL OFFER A NEW, FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, BEGINNING THIS FALL.

>> OFFERING THESE PROGRAMS IN NORTH BAY WILL PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY THAT NURSES NEED TO PURSUE THIS HIGH DEMAND CAREER PATH LOCALLY.

>> Reporter: THE COLLEGE WILL ALSO CREATE A NEW BRIDGING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE THEIR DIPLOMA, AND NOW WANT TO PURSUE A DEGREE. THAT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN SEPTEMBER 2023.

BOTH PROGRAMS COMBINED WILL ACCEPT UP TO 60 STUDENTS, MEANING MORE STAFF WILL BE NEEDED.

>> WE DO SEE STAFF BEING RECRUITED STARTING THIS FALL, WE WILL START THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS IMMEDIATELY NOW THAT WE HAVE APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD.

>> Reporter: THE PROVINCES GIVING THE SCHOOL UP TO $136,000 TO HELP INCREASE NURSING STUDENT ENROLMENT AS CANADORE.

>> THERE'S A GAP IN THE NUMBER OF NURSES WE HAVE AND THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE SYSTEM. PARTICULARLY IN SECTORS WHERE FRONT-LINE WORKERS CARE FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE PATIENTS.

>> Reporter: THE MINISTER SAYS THE NEW PROGRAM BUILDS ON RECENT
CHANGES MADE BY THE PROVINCE, WHICH NOW ALLOW BOTH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THE ABILITY TO OFFER A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN NURSING.
ERIC TASCHNER, CTV NEWS, NORTH BAY.

ALANA EVerson REPORTS.

>> THE NUMBERS SHOW THEY WERE 54 DEATHS FROM OPIOID OVERDOSES IN THE SUDBURY MENA TOOL AND DISTRICT, IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.
-- MANITOULIN.
IT AND INCREASE OVER TEN DEATHS IN THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

>> DRUG SUPPLY CONTINUES TO BE INCREASINGLY TOXIC, AND WE HAD AN IMPACTED RESULT WITH THE PANDEMIC THAT THERE'S ACCESS, ORDERS CLOSING, SO THE DRUG SUPPLY IS GETTING MORE TOXIC AS A RESULT.
IT IS AN HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN SUDBURY.

>> Reporter: SHE SAYS EDUCATION WILL BE A FOCUS IN THE COMING YEARS, TO HELP OVERCOME STIGMAS ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG USE.

>> YOU'RE NOT SURE WHO MAY BE USING SUBSTANCES, IT'S A HARD TOPIC TO TALK ABOUT. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME OUT AND DISCUSSED, THAT'S HOW YOU GET MORE SUPPORT.
IF WE CAN TALK MORE IN WAYS THAT
ARE LESS STIGMATIZING, PEOPLE
WILL FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE
COMING OUT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR
SENTENCE -- SUBSTANCE USE.
>> Reporter: THE ACCESS
NETWORK WILL BE THE SERVICE
PROVIDER OF THE CONSUMPTION AND
TREATMENT SERVICES SIGHT THAT IS
CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT
ENERGY COURT IN SUDbury.
>> WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT
INCREASE IN OPIOID -RELATED
OVERDOSES, AND TAIANTED AND TOXIC
DRUG AND SUDbury AREA.
SO, IT GIVES US THE ABILITY TO
BE ON SCENE AT HELP RESPOND TO
LOWER CHANCES OF DEATH, OR
SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS AS A
RESULT OF CONSUMPTION.
>> Reporter: THE COMMUNITY
DRUG STRATEGY SAYS IT HELPS --
HOPES THE SITE WILL BE
OPERATIONAL BY SPRING.
IT WILL HELP DECREASE THE NUMBER
OF OPIOID -RELATED DEATHS AND
OVERDOSES IN 2022.
ALANA EVerson, CTV NEWS, SUDbury
>> Tony: FARMERS IN NORTHERN
ONTARIO WHO HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY
ACCESSING VETERINARY CARE FOR
THEIR LIVESTOCK DUE TO A
SHORTAGE OF VETS ARE GETTING
ASSISTANCE FROM OTTAWA AND THE
PROVINCE.
THE TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE
INVESTING $4 MILLION FOR
LIVESTOCK VETERINARY INNOVATION
INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SERVICES
LIKE TELEMEDICINE AND MOBILE
CLINICS FOR FARM ANIMAL CARE.
OFFICIALS SAY THE FUNDING CAN BE
USED FOR PORTABLE EQUIPMENT TO
MAKE IT EASIER FOR VETS TO CARE
FOR LIVESTOCK ON THE ROAD.
FARMER AND TIMMINS SAYS IT CAN
TAKE WEEKS TO GET A
VETERINARIAN.
>> FOR A MULTITUDE OF REASONS,
YOU WAIT, JUST BECAUSE EITHER
THERE ISN'T A SPECIALIST FOR
THAT TYPE OF ANIMAL, OR YOU HAVE TO CALL FROM OUT OF TOWN AND EITHER BRING THE ANIMALS OF THEM, OR WAIT FOR THEM TO COME TO YOU.

>> I KNOW THEY WANT TO WORK TOGETHER AS A LARGE UNIT, SO THE MORE VETERINARIANS WE HAVE, THE MORE HELP WE HAVE WITH DIAGNOSTICS, SPECIALIZATIONS, AND BEING ABLE TO OFFER MORE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE NORTH.

>> Tony: THE VETERINARIAN