Fall 2020
Academic Program and Operations Model Discussion

GFC Executive

Monday May 4, 2020

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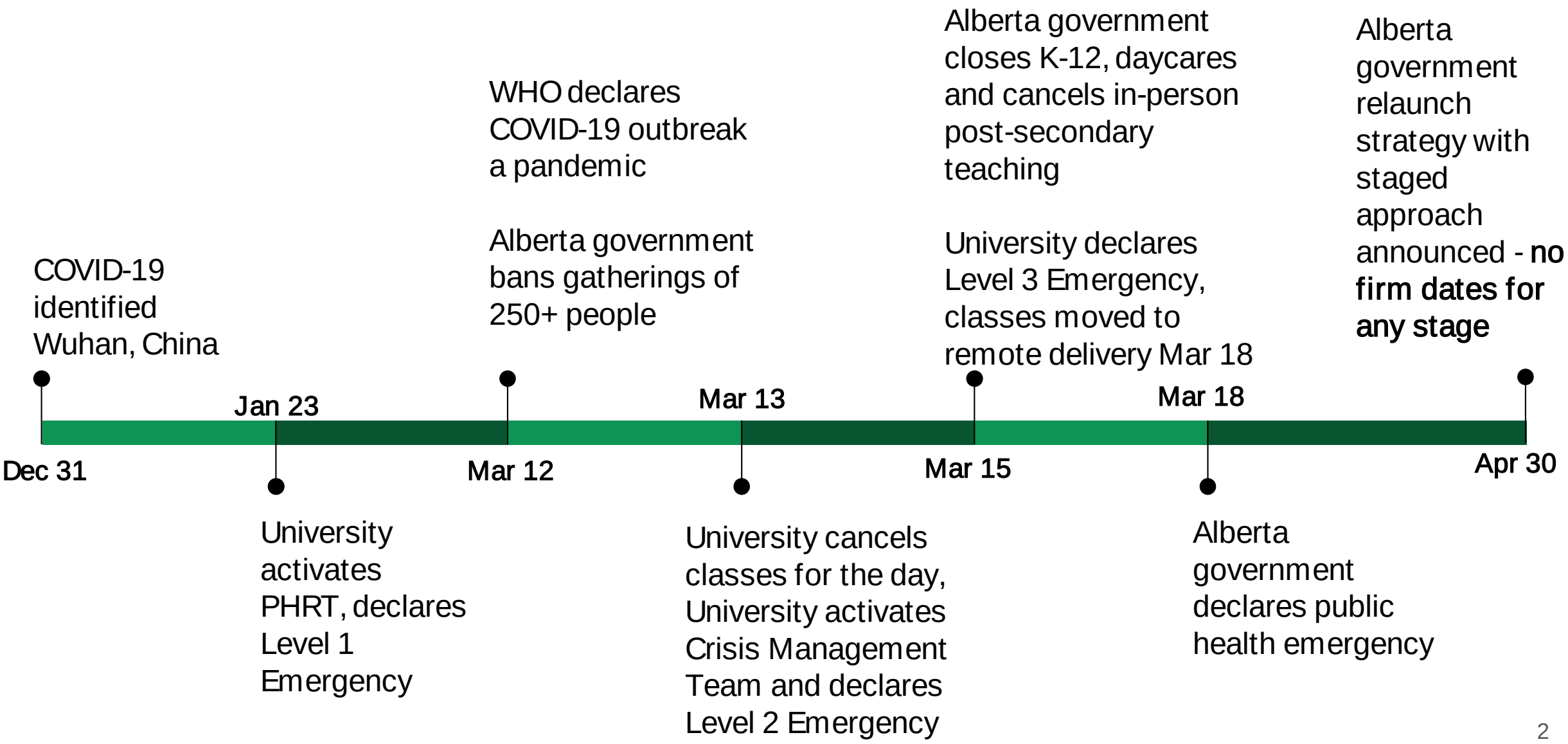
Background

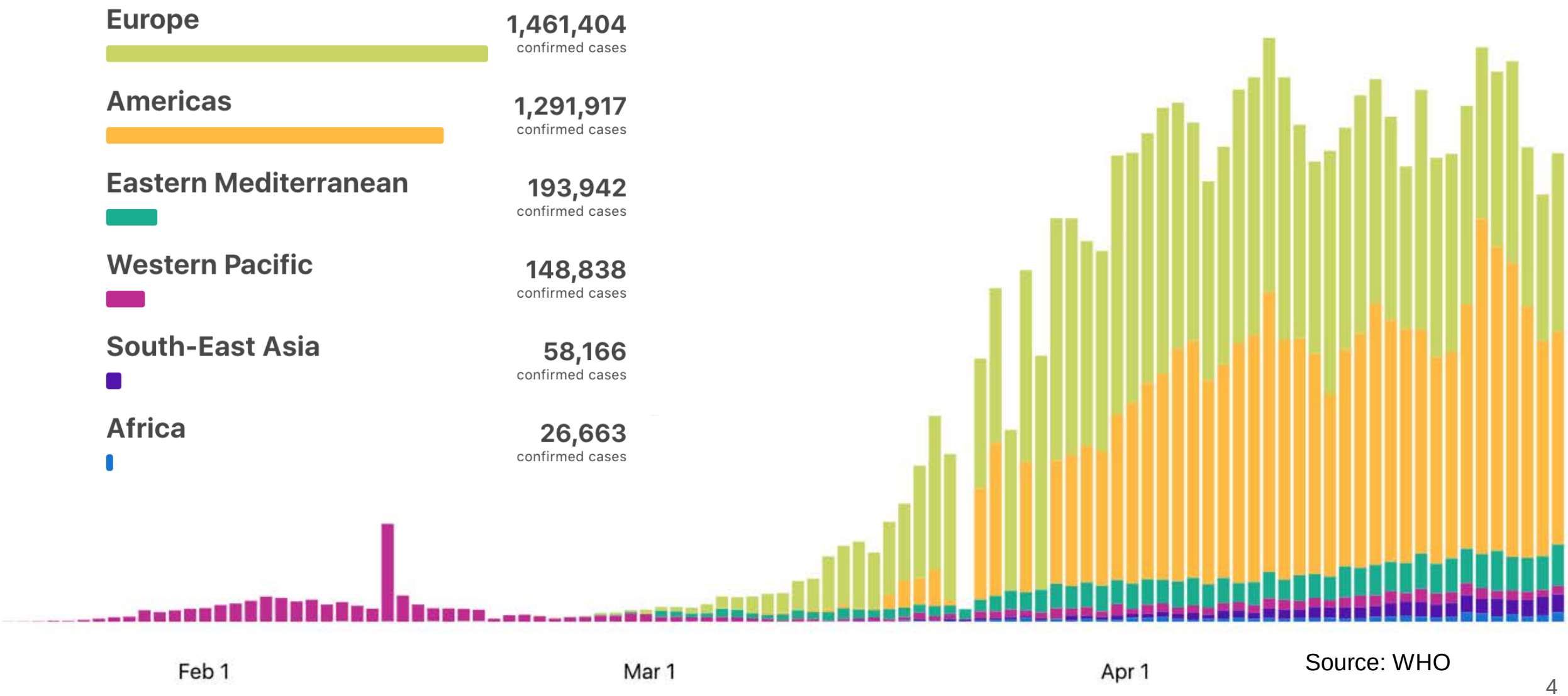

COVID-19 identified Wuhan, China
Dec 31
Jan 23
University activates PHRT, declares Level 1 Emergency
WHO declares COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic
Alberta government bans gatherings of 250+ people
Mar 12
Mar 13
University cancels classes for the day, University activates Crisis Management Team and declares Level 2 Emergency
Alberta government closes K-12, daycares and cancels in-person post-secondary teaching
University declares Level 3 Emergency, classes moved to remote delivery Mar 18
Mar 15
Mar 18
Alberta government declares public health emergency
Alberta government relaunch strategy with staged approach announced - no firm dates for any stage
Apr 30

Current State of Emergency

- Modifications to global & provincial health restrictions - physical distancing remains
- Alberta announced (April 30) a three stage strategy to re-open
  - state of public health emergency remains in effect
  - physical distancing and 15 person limit on gatherings remains a mandatory requirement
- University remains at a **Level 3 emergency**
- China focusing on preventing/minimizing second wave - stringent physical distancing rules in place plus use of PPE
- Concern about second wave coinciding with flu season
- Majority of travel bans remain in place

COVID-19 Total Global Cases by WHO Region

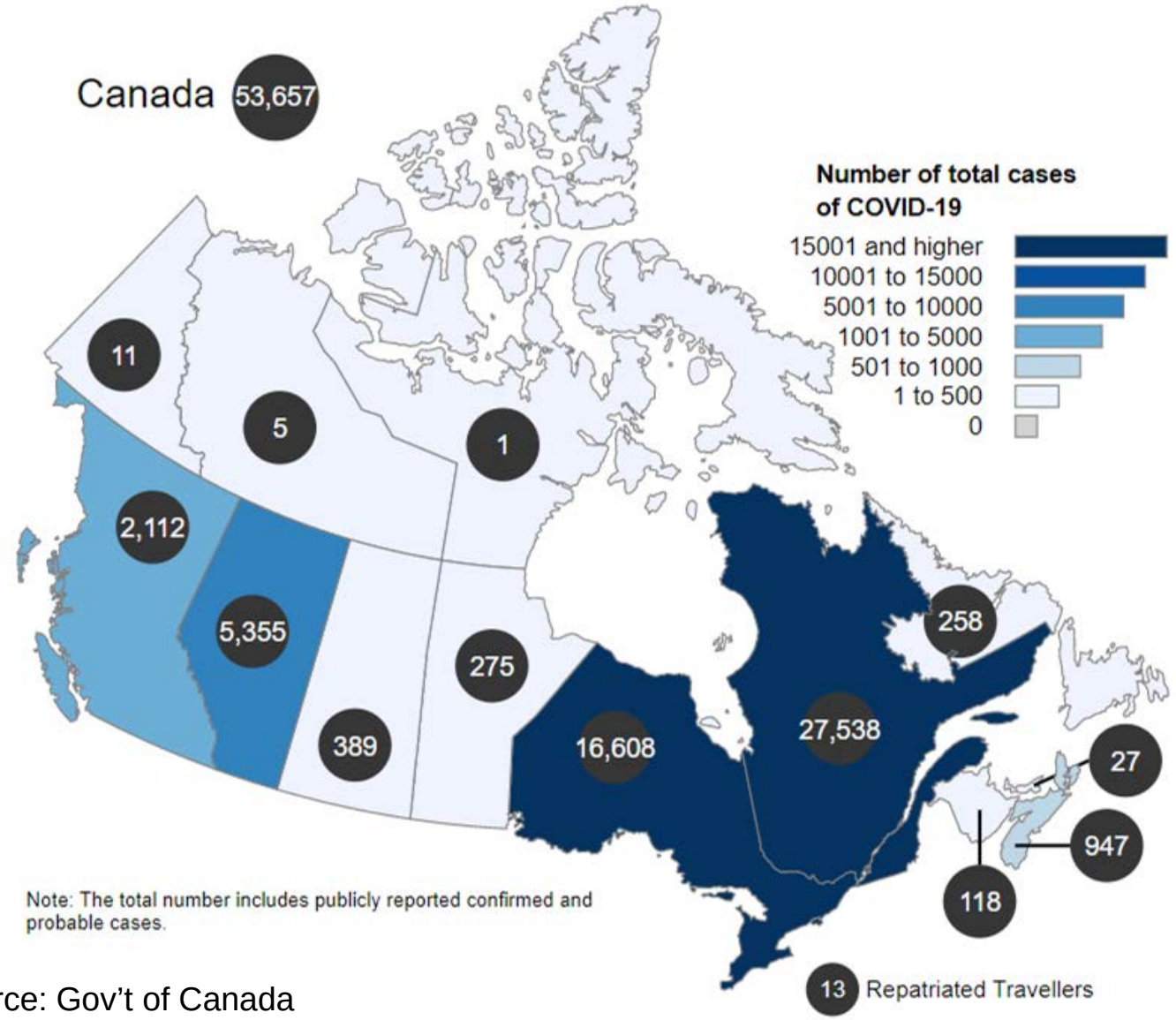
Jan 1 to May 1, 2020

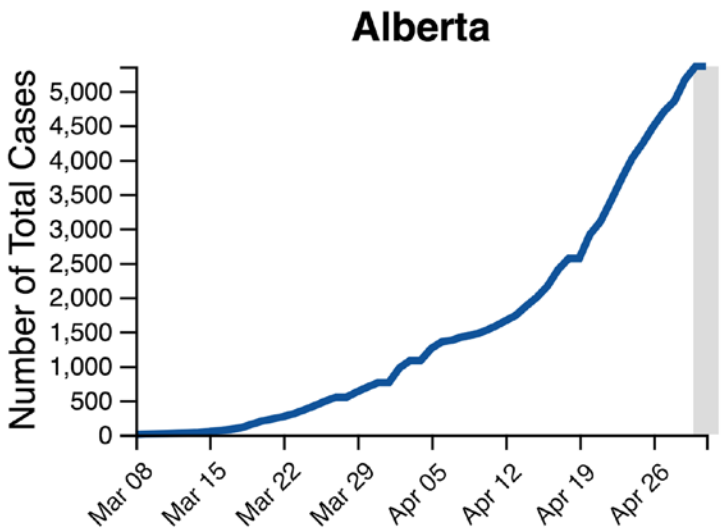


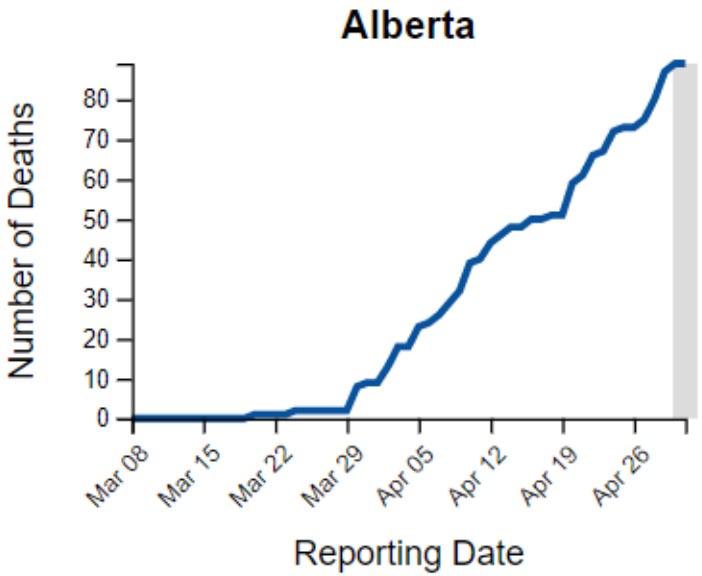
Source: WHO

COVID-19 Cases in Canada & Alberta

As of May 1, 2020

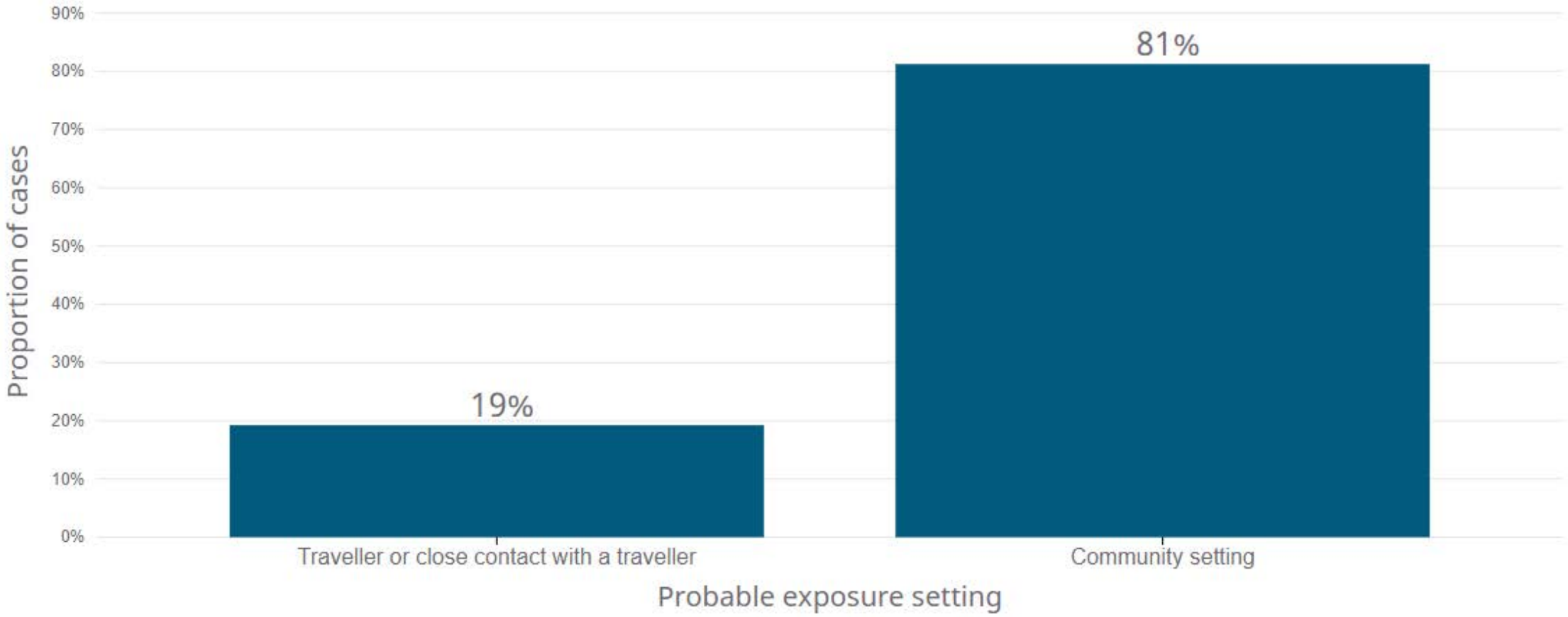






Source: Gov't of Canada

Probable Exposure Setting of COVID-19 Cases (n=26,415) in Canada As of May 1, 2020



Source: Gov't of Canada

Pandemic Forecasting

- Lack of data to assess fall
- Cannot assess what international restrictions will remain
- Student residences higher risk
- China data shows household transmission rates are high
- Universities may be dealt with last in reducing restrictions
- Fall public health controls will change and may increase
- High risk of secondary wave which could be worse
- Government wants high levels of testing but supplies are a constraint
- PPE may be a requirement - availability currently a problem

Overall a very low likelihood that the university would be able to return to 'full normal programming' for fall 2020 term

Source: Dr. L. Saxinger, Assoc Prof FOMD, AB Gov't Public Health Advisor

Remaining Critical Uncertainties

- Physical distancing and other public health restrictions that must be met
- Potential for second wave
- Constraints on international travel
- Requirements for ***use of and availability*** of PPE
- Timelines for Public Health decisions and risks of increasing previous constraints and/or mandated closures if a "***cluster or outbreak***" occurs

Planning Structure

- **Short-term temporary decisions to support the emergency response - President/Provost/Deans.**
- **Long-term permanent/ongoing decisions - Regular Governance (BoG/GFC and committees)**

PEC-S/Policy Group

- Policy Decisions
- Communications
  - Deans, associations, GFC, Board etc.

Andrew Sharman Executive Lead

- Andrew Sharman Executive Lead
- Link to policy group

Planning Oversight Committee

- Updates from working groups
- Integration of working group plans
- Confirm scenarios and assumptions
- Maintain timelines
- Prepare final plan

Academic Impact Working Group
Melissa P.

Communications Working Group
Jillian H

Faculty and Staff Working Group
Marj C.

Finance and Resource Working Group
Martin C.

Infrastructure and Operations Working Group
James A.

Research Working Group
Walter D./Rob M

- Working Group Membership
- As established by working group lead
- Includes IT and Comms reps along with faculty and student reps as required

Fall 2020 Planning Scenarios

1. Limited in-person instruction permitted, non-essential research allowed, international students here, campuses are open

1. Limited in-person instruction, non-essential research allowed, international students NOT here, campuses are open

1. No in-person instruction, essential research only, international students not here, campuses are closed

Sector Trends

- Universities struggling with fall learning model to be adopted
- Up to 15 different models - mostly ‘hybrid’
- Some US universities starting to announce fall plans
- Many universities moving to a mid May decision point, others waiting as long as possible
- Difficult to coordinate across U15

Factors and Limitations

- Limited ability to accommodate small class sizes
- Physical distancing outside classrooms
- Disruption to students currently registered
- Ability to accommodate non-local and international students
- Faculty and staff resource requirements
- Ability to explore blended learning options
- Lead time to prepare (especially online content/delivery)
- Different requirements/options for grad vs. undergrad programs
- Impact of a second wave and a 14-day closure
- Overall complexity of the university requiring flexibility

Planning Complexities

- Major uncertainties remain
- Timelines are short
- Each working group must determine the multiple actions, implications and risks to be implemented
- All working groups must work in a highly coordinated and integrated manner - Establishing the critical path!

Possible Direction for Discussion

- Remote learning primary model
- Face-to-face for clinical, labs etc. where remote not feasible
- Small number of programs deliver through in-person
- Accommodate international students through remote delivery
- Grad students to attend campus to maximum extent possible
- Computer labs, libraries, student services open to the extent possible
- Limited number of residences available
- Support for immunocompromised students and staff

What are our students' perceptions?

Discussion