

# POLICING THE PANDEMIC



MAPPING PROJECT

## PPMP Criminal Enforcement Report

April 01 2020 - July 15 2020

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[www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca)

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### Introduction

Across Canada, police have been mobilized as a central actor in response to COVID-19. Since the beginning of April, we have documented over 10,000 people facing fines for alleged COVID non-compliance, mostly in the province of Québec, totalling over \$13 million. The most common reason for these fines is alleged failure to physical distance or comply with minimal gathering restrictions, which police and bylaw enforcement agents have been mobilized to enforce using a complex web of federal, provincial and municipal emergency measures. Alongside enforcement of these new emergency measures, existing laws under the Criminal Code have also been deployed by police as a measure to regulate people's COVID-related conduct.

This report details how the Criminal Code of Canada has been used by police and prosecutors to respond to COVID-19. Criminal enforcement actions make up a very small proportion of total COVID-related enforcement actions. Since early April, at

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least 43 separate criminal enforcement incidents of alleged COVID-19 related offences have taken place across the country. Spitting and coughing incidents appear to be the most frequent COVID-19 related criminal allegation to date. There have also been limited allegations of more direct physical violence against those enforcing COVID-19 rules, as well as alleged incidents of fraud. Some of these alleged COVID-related criminal charges are happening in the context of other alleged criminal charges being applied by police, for things such as theft, drug possession, or trespassing.

Since the beginning of April, the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project has been tracking multiple aspects of COVID-19 enforcement across Canada via publicly accessible media articles, government and police websites and press releases, freedom of information requests, and through individual reports. The project aims to bring to light COVID-19 related patterns of police intervention to help understand who is being targeted, what justifications are being used by police, and how people who are made to be marginalized, in particular, are being impacted. The project is a continually updated living repository and currently consists of two interactive maps and a searchable database of COVID-related enforcement events across Canada.

Much is still uncertain about COVID-19 and the details of criminal charges being deployed, but it is our hope that in documenting the context of criminal enforcement and the ways in which police use COVID-19 as a justification for arrests and charges, we will be in a better position to scrutinize and critique their role in policing this pandemic.

### **Criminalizing Communicable Disease in Context**

Canada is a leading country in the world for using the police and punitive laws for managing another well-known communicable disease: HIV. There have been multiple cases of alleged HIV exposure by police, during which someone living with HIV, who comes into conflict with the police is alleged to have spat, typically in the context of an arrest. Despite a **0% chance of HIV transmission occurring via saliva**, multiple people have been charged with assault and incarcerated for allegedly spitting at police while living with HIV. The most recent cases occurring in **2013** and **2008**, both cases involved Indigenous people. Such cases can demonstrate that the use of criminal sanctions by police in the context of communicable disease management often has very little to do with concerns of transmission. Rather, the criminal law is used as just another means to justify and enact forms of violence. The criminalization of HIV, thus follows longstanding racist, classist, and colonial patterns, where people made marginalized and oppressed bear the brunt of the law and its enforcement.

In drawing the comparison between the criminalization of HIV and certain COVID-related violations (coughing in particular), we are not suggesting that the situation is exactly the same; nor do we aim to downplay the significance of these encounters and the risks they post to those involved. COVID-19 is transmitted

differently than HIV, and the realities of potential COVID-19 infection appear, based on available science, to be far greater in the context of spitting, as well as coughing.

Due to the lessons learned from the ongoing harms resulting from criminalizing HIV, leading international human rights, legal, and public health experts, including the [United Nations](#), [HIV Justice Worldwide](#), and the [Canadian Coalition to Reform HIV Criminalization](#), have all cautioned against the use of punitive criminal laws to respond to COVID-19. Noting that in the experience of HIV, such responses are not based in science, and have led to human rights abuses, racist targeting and harassment, and the reinforcement of ongoing marginalization of people living in poverty, those who are homeless, sex workers, people who use drugs, and Indigenous and racialized communities. Despite this, Canadian police and prosecutors have continued to enact criminal laws in the context of COVID-19.

### **Summary of criminal charges related to COVID-19 in Canada**

Since April, at least 43 separate criminal enforcement incidents of alleged COVID-19 related offences have taken place across Canada (Figure 1). Ontario (18), Alberta (8), and British Columbia (7) lead the country with the highest numbers of criminal charges, followed by Québec (3), New Brunswick (2), Saskatchewan (2), Manitoba (1), Prince Edward Island (1), and the Northwest Territories (1)(Figure 2). We provide a more detailed geographical breakdown of these events in Table 1. The sources we rely on are unlikely to capture every incident or enforcement action taken by police and officers in Canada. What we offer are therefore conservative estimates.

Little is reported on the demographics of those being charged. The youngest known individual charged with an COVID-19 related assault is a 16-year-old Manitoba resident, charged with assaulting a peace officer after allegedly coughing on a police officer. Reports indicate that at least 29 men and 7 women have faced criminal charges. Many of the charges have also occurred in rural communities with large Indigenous populations.

Spitting and coughing incidents (23 incidents, or 53%) make up the most COVID-19 related criminal enforcement incidents (Figure 3). Police and bylaw enforcement have alleged a majority (13/23 spitting/coughing incidents) of the spitting or coughing incidents. Of these alleged offences, a majority are assault charges, including one aggravated assault charge. The charge of aggravated assault charge is against an individual who allegedly spat on an RCMP officer. That individual's COVID-19 status has not been reported to the press. Reports indicate that the degree of protective gear police have in such encounters often vary substantially.

While it is commonly reported that COVID-19 can transmit from asymptomatic carriers, the actual risk to the public or officers in coughing and spitting incidents is hard to assess. Out of 23 reported coughing and spitting incidents giving rise to charges, roughly half contained information that would appear to support an actual

fear of transmission. Examples of this would be, allegations that an individual claimed to have or had COVID-19, allegations that the individual appeared to be or was sick, or statements that police or individuals were in self-isolation. The other half of incidents lacked sufficient specificity to assess the perceived risk of transmission. In two other incidents where charges were applied, police downplayed the risk of transmission or stated they did not believe the individual had COVID-19.

There have also been several incidents of more direct physical violence against those enforcing COVID-19 rules. Additionally, a number of essential service workers have allegedly been the target of assaults from members of the public angry with the new rules.

There have also been limited reports of incidents where COVID-19 emergency fines were issued alongside non-COVID-19 related criminal prosecutions or investigations. There are 2 examples of people being charged with drug related crimes, as well as a violation of the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act for operating a non-essential business due to selling drugs deemed illegal. Those accused of other crimes bear a significant amount of COVID-19 related enforcement (Figure 4). About one third of all criminal charges account for those arrested for other reasons. Across Canada, prosecutors have also opted to utilize COVID-19 related regulatory fines to enhance existing criminal charges. There are at least five known incidents of these fines being issued, mostly in Ontario. All known fines in these cases relate to failure to socially distance or operating non-essential businesses.

Non-violent offences generally have involved allegations of mischief to property, such as licking or coughing on drugs, door handles, or food items. Reported motivations for these actions are usually alleged to be displeasure with COVID-19 related regulations, however, one incident was allegedly done to create a prank video for TikTok. Though punishments for mischief to property under \$5,000 are normally comparably light compared to other Criminal Code provisions, where the mischief creates an actual danger to life, sentences can reach life imprisonment.

Individuals who have allegedly lied to the public or employers about their COVID-19 status have also faced a variety of charges across jurisdictions. The most common of these is public mischief, but more severe charges have also been levelled. One 18-year-old fast-food worker in Ontario is facing a maximum of 24 years imprisonment for forgery offences, fraud, and mischief to property for allegedly presenting an employer with a fake doctor's note claiming she had tested positive for COVID-19. At least 2 individuals have also been charged for allegedly selling fraudulent COVID-19 tests, either domestically or abroad. However, only 1 of these 2 incidents appear to have produced criminal rather than regulatory charges.

While incidents often stop at simple mischief to property or coughing and spitting at an employee, more severe incidents have also been alleged. The most egregious example of this is an alleged attack against a security guard who was hospitalized

after being run over by a man who was allegedly angry at the store’s COVID-19 rules.

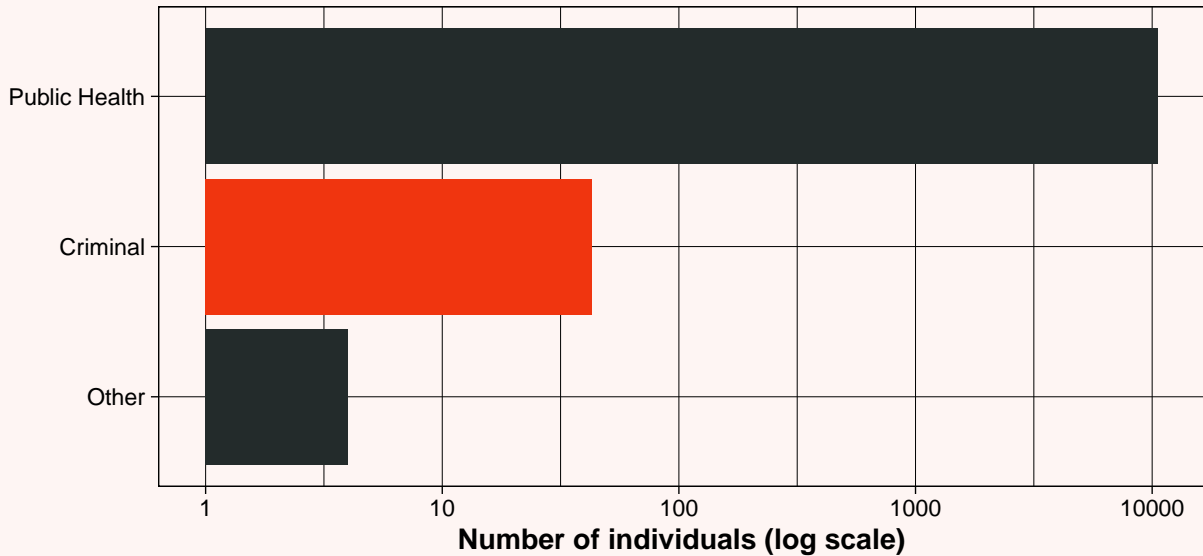
Due to the ongoing and shifting landscape of criminal charges related to COVID-19, we have not been able to include all case summaries in this report. In Ontario, we have included 2 cases in our overall numbers, but not as summaries which follow in the next section of the report (1 incident alleging CERB fraud, and 1 involving trespassing in a hospital).

Place	Province	Criminal Enforcement Actions
Edmonton	Alberta	3
Mayerthorpe	Alberta	2
Calgary	Alberta	1
Wetaskiwin	Alberta	1
Taber	Alberta	1
Coquitlam	British Columbia	2
Kelowna	British Columbia	1
Nanaimo	British Columbia	1
New Westminster	British Columbia	1
Victoria	British Columbia	2
Flin Flon	Manitoba	1
Rothsay	New Brunswick	2
Yellowknife	Northwest Territories	1
Ancaster	Ontario	2
Guelph	Ontario	2
Brampton	Ontario	1
Kitchener	Ontario	1
Markham	Ontario	1
North Bay	Ontario	1
Stratford	Ontario	1
Wingham	Ontario	1
Hamilton	Ontario	2
Ottawa	Ontario	2
Toronto	Ontario	3
Cambridge	Ontario	1
Charlottetown	Prince Edward Island	1
Chisasibi	Quebec	1
Gatineau	Quebec	1
Montreal	Quebec	1
Nipawin	Saskatchewan	1
Regina	Saskatchewan	1

**TABLE I:** Total COVID-related criminal enforcement actions taken against individuals, April 01 2020 - July 15 2020. Source: Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, [www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca)

### Breakdown of alleged violations by type of legislation

April 01 2020 – July 15 2020

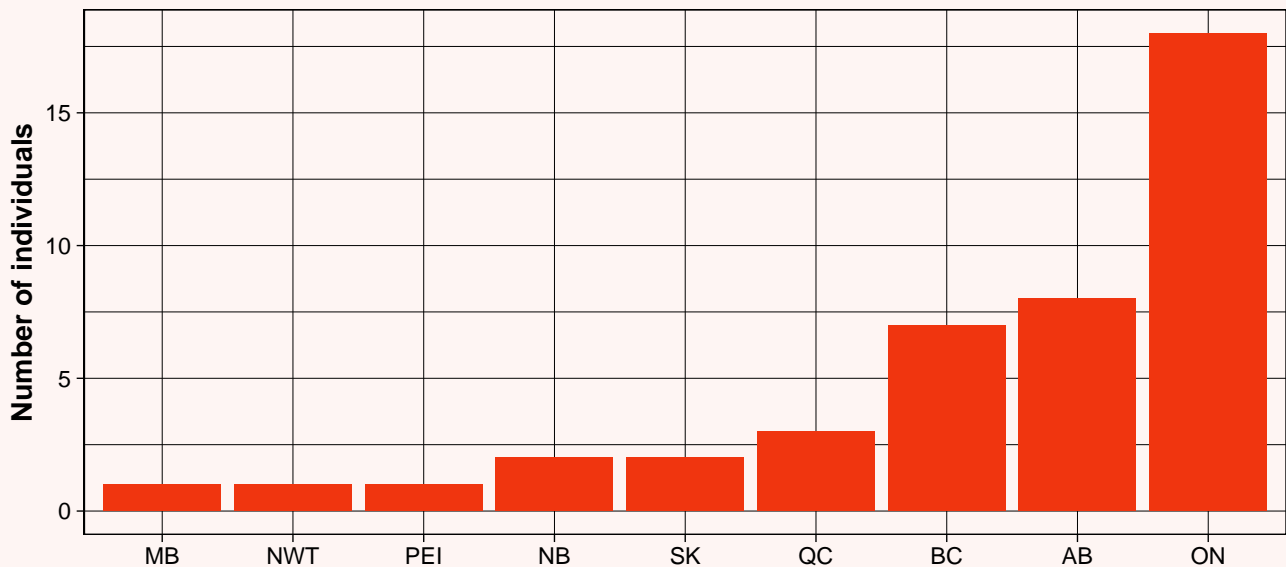


Source: Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, [www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca)

**Fig. 1:** Number of individuals fined/charged for COVID-related reasons between April 01-July 15 2020, by legislation type. Criminal charges make up less than 1% of enforcement actions in our database. Note: x-axis in log10 scale.

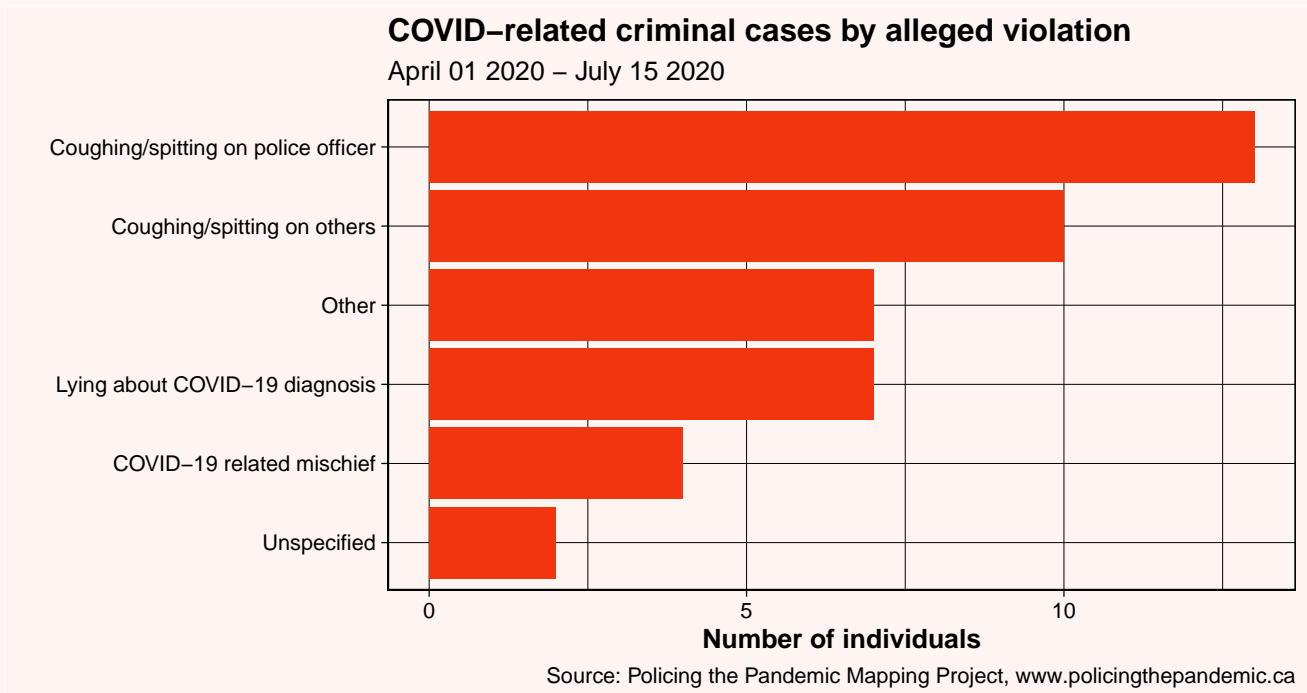
### Total number of individuals facing COVID-related criminal charges

April 01 2020 – July 15 2020

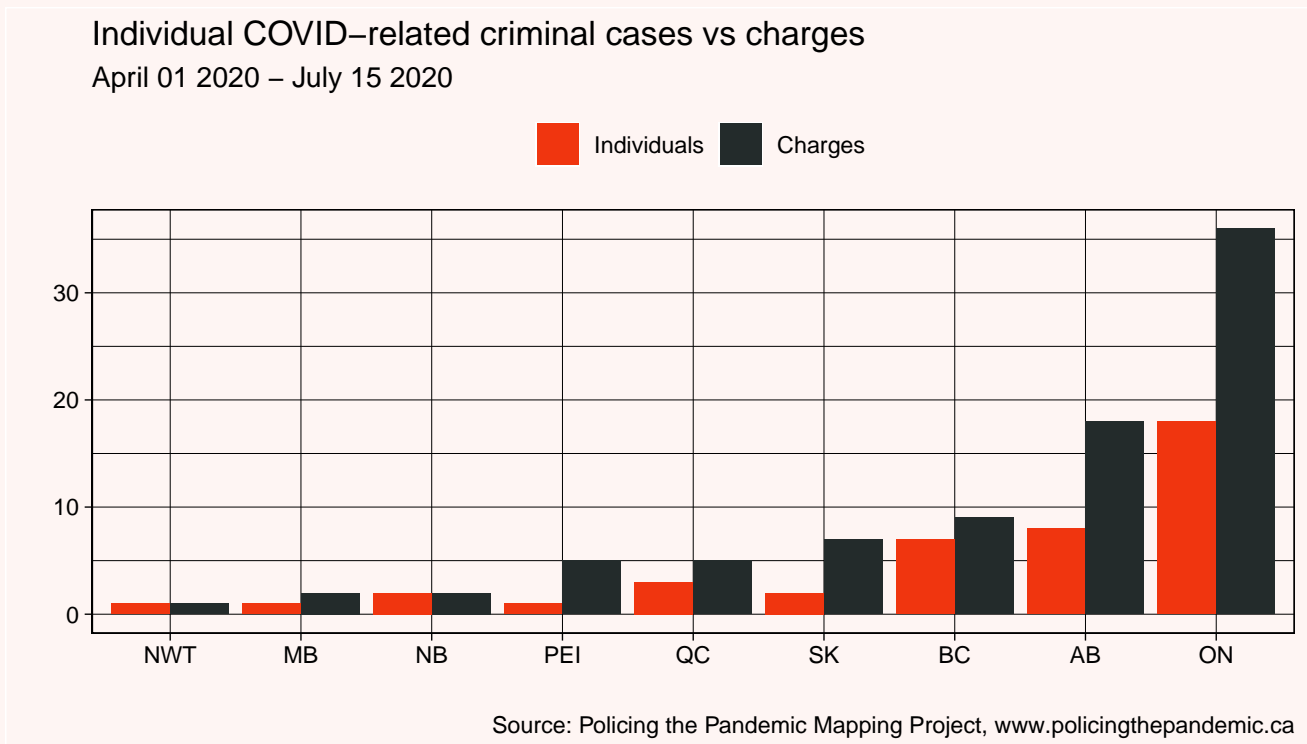


Source: Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, [www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca)

**Fig. 2:** Number of individuals reported to be facing COVID-related criminal charges between April 01 2020 - July 15 2020, by province/territory. Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia make up the majority of cases (77%) to date.



**Fig. 3:** Number of individuals reported to be facing COVID-related criminal charges between April 01 2020 - July 15 2020, by alleged violation (our classification). Coughing/spitting on police officers (13) and others (10) has been the most frequent alleged violation resulting in criminal charges to date.



**Fig. 4:** Number of individuals reported to be facing COVID-related criminal charges vs total number of charges in case (COVID/non-COVID related combined) between April 01 2020 - July 15 2020, by province/territory.

## Case Summaries



*. British Columbia*

## **Metro Vancouver Transit Officers Arrest Man for Allegedly Coughing on Officers**

**Place:** Vancouver, British Columbia

**Date:** March 21st, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** On March 21st, 2020, Metro Vancouver transit officers in New Westminister, British Columbia arrested a man following an incident in which he is alleged to have grabbed a man and threatened transit officers with a knife. The man is alleged to have purposely coughed in a transit officer's face while so close that the officer could feel it during the arrest and spit at them. Police have sought a court order to have the individual tested for COVID-19, and multiple charges including assaulting a peace officer have been recommended by police. Two officers were placed in self-isolation following the incident. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer is punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-Covid Related Charges:** Assault; Assault with a Weapon; Uttering Threats

**Sources:** [\[Link 1\]](#) [\[Link 2\]](#)

## Two Men in Victoria, B.C. Arrested After Alleged COVID-19 Airbnb Scam

**Place:** Vancouver, British Columbia

**Date:** March 28th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Men

**Case Details:** On March 28th, 2020, two men in Victoria, British Columbia were arrested on unspecified charges by the Victoria Police Department following one allegedly lying to an Airbnb owner about having a serious case of COVID-19 in order to remain on the property longer free of charge. When police came to the property, they found a second individual who was allegedly wanted on outstanding warrants and state they found several thousand dollars of allegedly stolen property. Press has not reported what charges have been filed.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#) [\[Link3\]](#)

## **Man in Kelowna, B.C. Charged with Aggravated Assault for Allegedly Spitting on Officer**

**Place:** Kelowna, British Columbia

**Date:** April 4th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 39

**Case Details:** On April 4th, 2020, a 39-year-old man in Kelowna, British Columbia is alleged to have spit on an RCMP officer arresting him for an alleged breaking and entering. The man has been charged with aggravated assault along with the breaking and entering charge. Press gave no indication that the man was COVID-19 positive and police reported that he displayed no COVID-19 symptoms. RCMP reported that the officers were being monitored, nonetheless. Under s. 268 of the Criminal Code if someone commits an aggravated assault by wounding, maiming, disfiguring, or endangering the life of the complainant, they are liable for a maximum of fourteen years imprisonment. As of April 6th, the man remains in custody.

**Reported Non-Covid Related Charges:** Breaking and Entering

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Man in Coquitlam, British Columbia Charged for Allegedly Coughing on Police After Alleged Break-In**

**Place:** Coquitlam, British Columbia

**Date:** April 8th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** On April 8th, RCMP in Coquitlam, British Columbia charged a man with assaulting a peace officer during his arrest for an alleged breaking and entering. Officers stated that they asked him if he was sick during the arrest, which they say is standard practice, and instructed him to face away from them after he answered in the affirmative. He then is said to have turned his head towards three officers and is alleged to have purposefully coughed in their faces. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. As of April 8th he remained in custody and was scheduled to appear before court the next week.

**Reported Non-Covid Related Charges:** Breaking and Entering; Theft Under \$5000

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Woman in Coquitlam, British Columbia Charged for Allegedly Coughing on Clerk at Grocery Store

**Place:** Coquitlam, British Columbia

**Date:** April 13th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Woman, 25

**Case Details:** On April 13th, 2020, RCMP charged a 25-year-old woman in Coquitlam, British Columbia, with assault for allegedly deliberately coughing at a grocery store clerk who refused to let her buy over the store maximum of tissue paper. She was arrested later that day at her home. Press has not indicated whether she was symptomatic of COVID-19 or had been tested. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. She has no significant criminal history and has been released with notice to appear before court on July 13th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## **Man in Nanaimo B.C., Charged After Allegedly Spitting on Dollar Store Employee**

**Place:** Nanaimo, British Columbia

**Date:** April 19th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** On April 19th, 2020, RCMP in Nanaimo British Columbia arrested an individual on assault charges concerning an incident in which the man allegedly spit on a dollar store employee. The man allegedly became angry when staff told him that entrance to the store had been restricted to seniors for the period in question. He was apprehended by officers with the help of a civilian shortly afterwards. He is due in court in July. Press has not indicated whether he was symptomatic of COVID-19 or had been tested. Under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, assault is subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

*. Alberta*



## Calgary, Alberta Resident Charged for Allegedly Coughing in Someone's Face at Grocery Store

**Place:** Calgary, Alberta

**Date:** March 26th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** NA

**Case Details:** On March 26, Calgary Police Services in Calgary, Alberta charged a person with assault for allegedly purposely coughing in another person's face following an altercation at a grocery store. Press has not indicated whether he was symptomatic of COVID-19 or had been tested. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Man in Edmonton, Alberta Charged after Allegedly Visiting Ex While Claiming to have COVID-19

**Place:** Edmonton, Alberta

**Date:** April 2nd, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** In relation to an incident on April 2nd, 2020, Edmonton Police Service in Edmonton, Alberta charged a man with uttering threats after he allegedly showed up at his ex-common law partner's house stating he had COVID-19. He was also charged with allegedly breaching various conditions regarding not visiting her. Before entering the home, police put on gloves, masks and protective eyewear personal protective equipment. The man was allegedly intoxicated, but cooperative and is said to have informed police he has never been tested for COVID-19 and is not positive. Police also stated he displayed no COVID-19 symptoms. Under s. 264.2 of the Criminal Code, uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm to a person is punishable by five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Fives Counts of Breach of Conditions

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## 20-Year-Old in Taber, Alberta Charged after Allegedly Licking Fruit in Grocery Store for TikTok Video

**Place:** Taber, Alberta

**Date:** April 2nd, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 20

**Case Details:** On April 2nd, a 20-year-old man in Taber, Alberta was arrested by Taber Police Service on charges of criminal mischief under \$5,000. The man is alleged to have licked fruits at a grocery store while in a group of three other people as part of a “prank” in order to create a TikTok video relating to a trend allegedly called the “Covid Challenge.” The fruits were disposed of and the area cleaned. Police tracked the suspect afterwards via license-plate number. He was released on an undertaking to appear before provincial court on July 7th. Police expressly refused to share the suspect’s name out of fear of vigilante action. Under s. 430 of the Criminal Code, it is illegal to attempt to wrongfully interfere with property, including by making it dangerous. The general maximum penalty for criminal mischief in relation to property valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction. However, should the mischief create an “actual danger to life,” the maximum sentence is life imprisonment.

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Indigenous Man in Wetaskiwin, Alberta Charged after Allegedly Coughing on Police During Arrest**

**Place:** Wetaskiwin, Alberta

**Date:** April 5th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 59, Indigenous

**Case Details:** On April 5th, a 59-year-old man in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, who was reported by the media as being Indigenous, was charged by Alberta RCMP with assaulting a peace officer, violating the Alberta Public Health Act, and two apparently unrelated offences of mischief to property and failing to comply with an undertaking. Police arrested him following a report of an alleged disturbance, after which he is alleged to have purposely coughed twice on the arresting officer and once on another officer. Alberta RCMP also allege there have been other uncharged incidents in Alberta of individuals claiming to have COVID-19 coughing, or threatening to cough, on officers. The reaction and safety measures the Wetaskiwin RCMP took in this case are unclear, however they have stated they wear different levels of PPE depending on the nature of the call. The defendant was remanded by a justice of the peace and was scheduled to appear virtually in court in April 7th. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under Alberta's Public Health Act police can issue fines of up to \$1,000 (excluding administrative fees which appear to average \$200) and courts are also authorized to levy fines up to \$100,000 for the first offence, and \$500,000 for subsequent offences.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Failing to Comply with an Undertaking

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## Individual in Calgary, Alberta Charged for Allegedly Licking Hands and Touching Pharmacy Items

**Place:** Calgary, Alberta

**Date:** April 8th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** NA

**Case Details:** On April 8th, Calgary Police Services in Calgary, Alberta ticketed a person under the Public Health Act and charged them with criminal mischief for allegedly licking his hands and touching items in a pharmacy following a verbal altercation. Under Alberta's Public Health Act police can issue fines of up to \$1,000 (excluding administrative fees which appear to average \$200) and courts are also authorized to levy fines up to \$100,000 for the first offence, and \$500,000 for subsequent offences. Under s. 430 of the Criminal Code, it is illegal to attempt to wrongfully interfere with property, including by making it dangerous. The general maximum penalty for criminal mischief in relation to property valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction. However, should the mischief create an "actual danger to life," the maximum sentence is life imprisonment.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Three Alleged Car Thieves in Calgary, Alberta Charged with not Socially Distancing**

**Place:** Calgary, Alberta

**Date:** April 10th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** NA

**Case Details:** On April 10th, Calgary Police Services in Calgary, Alberta ticketed three individuals in an allegedly stolen vehicle for alleged violations of physical distancing orders under Alberta's Public Health Act, in addition to their other charges. Under Alberta's Public Health Act police can issue fines of up to \$1,000 (excluding administrative fees which appear to average \$200) and courts are also authorized to levy fines up to \$100,000 for the first offence, and \$500,000 for subsequent offences.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Theft (Unspecified Value); Possession of Heroin; Breach of Court Order

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Two People in Mayerthorpe, Alberta Charged after Allegedly Coughing in Faces of Police

**Place:** Mayerthorpe, Alberta

**Date:** April 11th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 20, Woman, 35

**Case Details:** On Saturday, April 11th, a 20-year-old man and 35-year-old woman were charged by RCMP in Mayerthorpe, Alberta with various counts of assaulting a peace officer for allegedly coughing on RCMP officers. The man was wanted for an alleged break and enter and allegedly showed COVID-19 symptoms. During the arrest, he allegedly deliberately coughed on an RCMP officer's face. While he was at the hospital with police for unrelated reasons, he was allegedly visited by the woman, who is also said to have COVID-19 symptoms, police allege she also purposely coughed at officers' faces and then left to attempt to break into vehicles, including, allegedly a police vehicle. Officers were quarantined after the incident. Police announced that "Any of the officers who were exposed to the individuals will be quarantined." The man is facing one count of assaulting a peace officer. The woman is facing two counts of assaulting an officer and resisting arrest in relation to the incident. Both are also facing non-COVID-19 related charges. Under s. 129 of the Criminal Code, resisting arrest is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two-years or a summary conviction. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. The man had a bail hearing scheduled for April 15th in provincial court. The Woman was released on bail with a court appearance scheduled for June 25th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Four Counts of Mischief (Male); One Count of Mischief under \$5,000 (Female); One Count of Mischief over \$5,000 (Female)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## **Edmonton Man Charged with Criminal and COVID-19 Order Related Offences for Allegedly Coughing on Bus Driver and Transit Officers**

**Place:** Edmonton, Alberta

**Date:** April 15th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 38

**Case Details:** On April 15th, a 38-year-old man in Edmonton, Alberta was charged with two counts of assault, one count of assaulting a peace officer, and one count of violating orders under the Public Health Act by Edmonton Police Services and Transit Peace Officers. He allegedly got into an altercation with a bus driver in which he is alleged to have purposely and repeatedly coughed on him and then on the arresting Transit Peace Officer. He then is alleged to have stated he was COVID-19 positive. It does not appear that Alberta Public Health has yet confirmed to the press whether he had been tested. The bus driver and two officers are self-isolating at home. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under Alberta's Public Health Act police can issue fines of up to \$1,000 (excluding administrative fees which appear to average \$200) and courts are also authorized to levy fines up to \$100,000 for the first offence, and \$500,000 for subsequent offences. The accused was scheduled to appear in court on June 16th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)



*. Saskatchewan*

## **Police in Loon Lake, Saskatchewan Issue Tickets to Alleged Car Thieves for Allegedly Failing to Social Distance**

**Place:** Loon Lake, Saskatchewan

**Date:** March 27th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** NA

**Case Details:** On March 27th, 2020, in addition to various other charges, ten adults and one youth in Loon Lake, Saskatchewan were charged by RCMP with allegedly breaching orders under the Saskatchewan Public Health Act to maintain 2-meter separation in all gatherings over ten. The individuals were charged following a car chase of an allegedly stolen vehicle in which the occupants are said to have thrown various items, including a bag of weapons from the windows. Police discovered the individuals following a report of a suspicious individual knocking on doors. All public health orders under the Public Health Act may be enforced by penalties ranging from a maximum of \$75,000 for an individual's first offence to \$250,000 for repeat corporate offenders. There are also fixed penalties in place for continuing offences and corporate officers may be charged individually for corporate conduct. The province has also asserted authority under s. 45.1 of the act to detain individuals to compel compliance. Law enforcement also has authorization to enforce all health orders through the Emergency Planning Act, penalties under s.16 of the act are set at a maximum of \$2,000 per individual and \$10,000 per corporation. Seven were remanded pending a March 30th court hearing, four were order to remain in specified homes for 14 days and to appear in court in July.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Gun Possession (All Eleven); Weapon Possession (All Eleven); Flight from a Police Officer (All Eleven); Possession of a Gun in a Vehicle (All Eleven); Possession of Property Obtained by Crime (All Eleven); Dangerous Operation of a Vehicle (All Eleven); Other Charges Including Breaches of Probation and Resisting Arrest (Seven Accused)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Police in Regina, Saskatchewan Charge Man after he Allegedly Threatens to Cough on them**

**Place:** Regina, Saskatchewan

**Date:** April 11th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 30

**Case Details:** On April 11th, 2020, a 30-year-old man in Regina, Saskatchewan was charged by Regina Police Service with uttering threats, following allegedly threatening to cough on them and telling them he had tested positive to COVID-19 when he was arrested for an alleged vehicle theft. Police say they wore PPE and he did not display symptoms. Under s. 264.2 of the Criminal Code, uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm to a person is punishable by five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. He had his first court appearance on April 13th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Possession of Stolen Property; Theft of a Motor Vehicle

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Man in Nipawin, Saskatchewan Alleged to have Assaulted Landlord over Covid-19 Rules

**Place:** Nipawin, Saskatchewan

**Date:** May 5th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** From May 5th, 2020 a man in a senior complex in Nipawin, Saskatchewan is alleged to have hit his landlord on the arm and urinated behind his car, following an altercation about his alleged failure to abide by the building's COVID-19 rules. The man had received a threat of eviction prior to the incident and the landlord, who fled the scene, alleges he is quick to anger. The tenant, now charged with assault, acknowledges he contravened the building COVID-19 rules but states he was smoking, not urinating and that his landlord hit him first, but the landlord state he has emails contradicting this. The Office of Residential Tenancies evicted the man on May 20th. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

*Manitoba*

## **Sixteen-Year-Old Resident of Flin Flon, Manitoba Charged After Allegedly Coughing in Officer's Face**

**Place:** Flin Flon, Manitoba

**Date:** April 3rd, 2020

**Known Demographics:** 16

**Case Details:** On April 3rd, 2020 a 16-year-old in Flin Flon, Manitoba was charged with assaulting a peace officer following allegedly coughing in an RCMP officer's face multiple times after making COVID-19 related threats in a police station station in Creighton, Manitoba. The teen had been arrested for allegedly possessing a weapon, specifically a knife, and making threats against a homeowner in the area. RCMP have stated they do not believe he had COVID-19, but that officers involved were self-monitoring. Under Criminal Code s. 270 assaulting a peace officer carries either a 5-year maximum sentence or a summary conviction. He was reported as being released to his family on April 6th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Uttering Threats; Possession of a Weapon

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

*. Ontario*

## **Forty-Two-Year-Old Woman in Cambridge, Ontario Charged after Allegedly Coughing in the Face of an Elderly Woman**

**Place:** Cambridge, Ontario

**Date:** March 20th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Woman, 42

**Case Details:** A 42-year-old woman in Cambridge, Ontario was charged with assault and common nuisance by Waterloo Regional Police Services following a March 20th incident in which she is alleged to have gotten into an altercation with an elderly woman at a coffee shop drive-through. The suspect is alleged to have gotten out of her car, placed her head in the window and coughed in the elderly woman's face and on the car's door handles. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 180 of the Criminal Code, a person may be convicted of common nuisance if they endanger the lives, safety or health of the public, or cause physical injury to any person. Common nuisance is punishable by a summary conviction or up to two years imprisonment.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)



## **Eighteen-Year-Old Fast-Food Worker Charged with Forgery and Other Offences After Allegedly Providing Employer with a Fake Doctor's Note Claiming She had COVID-19**

**Place:** Hamilton, Ontario

**Date:** March 26th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Woman, 18

**Case Details:** On March 26th, 2020, Hamilton Police Service in Hamilton, Ontario charged an 18-year-old female fast-food worker with criminal mischief under \$5,000, fraud under \$5,000, making a forged document, and using a forged document for allegedly presenting her supervisors with a fake doctor's note saying she had tested positive for COVID-19 in order to get out of work. All staff at the restaurant believed to have been in close contact with the employee were allegedly told to self-quarantine until further notice and the restaurant is said to have shut down for cleaning. Police were tipped off to the note by Hamilton Public Health. The woman has been released and has a court date on May 18. Under ss. 366-368 of the Criminal Code creating and using a forged document are each punishable by up to ten years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 430 of the Criminal Code, it is criminal mischief to attempt to wrongfully interfere with property. The general maximum penalty for criminal mischief in relation to property valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction. Under s. 380 of the Criminal Code, someone is guilty of fraud where they use deceit, falsehood or other fraudulent means to obtain value from another person. The general maximum penalty for fraud in relation to something valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Toronto Man Charged Relating to Alleged Exportation of Fraudulent COVID-19 Tests**

**Place:** Toronto, Ontario

**Date:** March 26th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 43

**Case Details:** On March 26th, 2020, a 43-year-old man, of Toronto, Ontario was charged with fraud under \$5,000 and possession of a forgery device by the Toronto Police Service for allegedly selling illegal COVID-19 test kits. Toronto Police's finance crimes unit is said to have received multiple tips from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Toronto, and the HSI National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPRCC) about a package that was intercepted at the Canada/U.S. border and is alleged to contain 25 illegal test kits. The package is alleged to have been shipped from the suspect's address into the U.S. As of May 8th, Health Canada advises all Canadians against using or purchasing at-home testing kits because no such testing kit has been approved for usage by the public and may produce incorrect results. Under s. 380 of the Criminal Code, someone is guilty of fraud where they use deceit, falsehood or other fraudulent means to obtain value from another person. The general maximum penalty for fraud in relation to something valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction. Under s. 368.1 of the Criminal Code possessing forgery instruments is punishable by up to fourteen years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Selling fraudulent testing kits is also a violation of the Federal Food and Drugs Act which contains penalties wholly at the discretion of the court and five years imprisonment for some conduct, and several charging options with maximum fines of \$1,000,000 or above. The man is scheduled to appear in court on May 28.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Alleged Drug Dealer in Hamilton, Ontario Charged with Operating Non-Essential Business**

**Place:** Hamilton, Ontario

**Date:** March 27th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 29

**Case Details:** On March 27th, an alleged drug dealer in Hamilton, Ontario was charged for allegedly operating a non-essential business in contravention of an order under Ontario's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, along with other criminal offences. The suspect is a 29-year-old man. He was found following the alleged discovery that his vehicle had incorrect license plates during routine traffic observation, he was they followed around town and eventually charged. Under the act, individuals can face a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year imprisonment.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Drug Trafficking; Possession of Proceeds of Crime

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Alleged Bike Theft in Ottawa Charged after Allegedly Spitting on Officers**

**Place:** Ottawa, Ontario

**Date:** March 27th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 33

**Case Details:** On March 27th, 2020, a 33-year-old man in Ottawa, Ontario was charged by the Ottawa Police Service with various offences following allegedly spitting on officers during an attempted arrest for an alleged bike theft. He is also alleged to have repeatedly claimed to have COVID-19. The charges relating to the spitting incident are: assaulting a peace officer, assault with intent to resist arrest and obstruction. Under s. 129 of the Criminal Code, obstructing an officer in pursuit of their duties is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two-years or a summary conviction. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer and assault with the intent to resist arrest, are each punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Breaking and Entering; Theft Under \$5,000; Breach of Probation

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Public Mischief Charge in Brampton, Ontario after Man Allegedly Tells Employer that they Had Been Exposed to COVID-19**

**Place:** Brampton, Ontario

**Date:** March 30th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 39

**Case Details:** Following an investigation started on March 30th, 2020, Peel Region Police in Brampton, Ontario charged a 39-year-old man with public mischief after he allegedly lied to an employer stating that a family member of his had tested positive for COVID-19 and that he had come into contact with them. The business owner reported it to police after closing and sending all employees home. After an investigation, police allegedly determined the information was false and that no family member was exposed or sick. The penalty for public mischief is a summary conviction or a maximum of five years imprisonment. The man was released on notice to appear before court at a later date.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Ottawa Woman Charged After Allegedly Coughing and Spitting on Police During Arrest**

**Place:** Ottawa, Ontario

**Date:** April 1st, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Woman, 24

**Case Details:** On April 1st, 2020, the Ottawa Police Services charged a 24-year-old woman with resisting arrest and assaulting a peace officer after she allegedly spit and coughed on officers attempting to arrest her on an outstanding warrant. She claimed to have COVID-19 during the confrontation. Police encountered the woman after being called to remove her from a property. She was also charged with criminal mischief and breach of probation. Under s. 129 of the Criminal Code, resisting arrest is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two-years or a summary conviction. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Mischief; Breach of Probation

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Man in Huron County, Ontario Charged after Allegedly Coughing on Officer

**Place:** Wingham, Ontario

**Date:** April 2nd, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** On April 2nd, 2020, a man in Wingham, Ontario was charged by Huron County Ontario Provincial Police with assaulting a peace officer for allegedly purposely coughing on an officer during his arrest in an alleged attempt to “harm the officer.” The man was being arrested on various domestic charges relating to assault and property damage. Police allege the man resisted arrest (though no charge on that count appears to have been filed), became combative and purposely began to cough at the arresting officer. Under s. 270 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer, is punishable by a maximum five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. He has been released from custody and is due to appear in court over the summer.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Assault (Domestic); Mischief (Domestic)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Guelph Man Charged for Allegedly Coughing on two Women and Stating they now have COVID-19**

**Place:** Guelph, Ontario

**Date:** April 9th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 24

**Case Details:** On April 9th, Guelph Police Service in Guelph, Ontario charged one 24-year-old man with common nuisance for allegedly approaching behind two women, coughing on them, and stating “now you have coronavirus.” Under s. 180 of the Criminal Code, a person may be convicted of common nuisance if they endanger the lives, safety or health of the public, or cause physical injury to any person. Common nuisance is punishable by a summary conviction or up to two years imprisonment. The man is scheduled to appear before court on July 14th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)



## **Man in Perth East, Ontario Charged with Allegedly Coughing on LCBO Employee**

**Place:** Perth East, Ontario

**Date:** April 11th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 57, Caucasian

**Case Details:** On April 11th, 2020 Stratford Police Service charged a 57-year-old Caucasian resident of Perth East, Ontario with assault. On March 24th, the man is alleged to have purposely leaned over the counter and coughed twice at an LCBO employee in Stratford, Ontario after getting annoyed at COVID-19 safety rules. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. He was released from custody shortly after his arrest and was due to appear in court on June 8th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## Man Arrested After Allegedly Assaulting Officer Enforcing COVID-19 Rules

**Place:** Toronto, Ontario

**Date:** March April 17th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** Subsequent to an incident on April 17th, a man was arrested by Toronto Police Services on three Criminal Code charges of assaulting a peace officer and use of a weapon, assaulting a peace officer, and breach of recognizance under s. 811. The man is alleged to have punched a Toronto By-Law Enforcement Officer who was allegedly attempting to get him and third person to adhere to social distancing rules. He was also issued tickets for entering an area of park posted to prohibit/restrict admission, smoking tobacco in a prohibited place, and having care and control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available. It is unclear whether the park ticket fell under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Under s. 270.01 of the Criminal Code, assaulting a peace officer with a weapon carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Breach of Recognizance, in violation of s. 811, carries a maximum sentence of four years imprisonment, or a summary conviction. The man is scheduled to appear in court on July 29th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Entering a Park Posted to Prohibit/Restrict Admission? (Unclear if EMCPA Fine); Smoking Tobacco in a Prohibited Place; Having Care and Control of a Motor Vehicle with Liquor Readily Available

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## Man in Markham, Ontario Charged after Allegedly Coughing on Store Clerk

**Place:** Markham, Ontario

**Date:** April 20th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 39

**Case Details:** On April 20th, York Regional Police arrested a man for criminal mischief under the criminal code. The man, a 39-year-old resident of Markham, Ontario who appears Caucasian in security footage, allegedly grew angry with a 17-year-old Markham store clerk who had asked the man to stay a distance away. The man then allegedly coughed on coins, threw them at the clerk, and told him he hoped they would get COVID-19. Under s. 430 of the Criminal Code, it is illegal to attempt to wrongfully interfere with property, including by making it dangerous. The general maximum penalty for criminal mischief in relation to property valued under \$5,000 which is not a testamentary instrument, is imprisonment for two years, or a summary conviction. However, should the mischief create an “actual danger to life,” the maximum sentence is life imprisonment. The man is due to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket on August 7th, 2020.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

## **Guelph, Ontario Man Charged with Allegedly Coughing on Officer During Arrest**

**Place:** Guelph, Ontario

**Date:** April 25th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 57

**Case Details:** On April 25th, 2020, a 57-year-old man in Guelph, Ontario was arrested by London Police Service for breach of recognizance following a report of a disturbance. During the process of the arrest, he allegedly attempted to struggle with and pull away from officers. He allegedly intentionally began coughing in the direction of the officers' faces, stating he had coronavirus and kicked in the direction of police. One of the responding officers allegedly suffered minor injuries. The man was charged with "resist arrest [sic]; Two counts of assault a peace officer [sic]; and Fail [sic] to comply with release conditions." Under s. 129 of the Criminal Code, resisting arrest is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding two-years or a summary conviction. Failure to comply with release conditions could apply to a variety of Criminal Code offences, and it is unclear which offence the London Police Service is referring to. The man first appeared in court on April 27th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Failure to Comply with Release Conditions (Breach of Recognizance)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **Alleged Drug Dealers in Ancaster, Ontario Charged with Unspecified COVID-19 Offences**

**Place:** Ancaster, Ontario

**Date:** April 30th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 29, Woman, 28

**Case Details:** On April 30th, Hamilton Police Services arrested a 29-year-old man and 28-year-old-woman for various guns and drug charges in Ancaster, Ontario in relation to a drug investigation that started earlier this year. They were also charged with unspecified COVID-19 related offences. Based on other previous charging decisions in Ontario and the \$11,000 worth of cocaine and roughly \$170,000 in cash allegedly in the couple's possession, the COVID-19 charges include continuing to operate a non-essential business in contravention of an order under Ontario's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. If convicted of offences under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act they could face a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year imprisonment per charge. Standard tickets appear to be set at \$750, plus applicable fees, which average to a total of \$880. The man is set for a bail hearing on May 2nd, and the woman has a court date set for July 8th.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Unspecified Gun Charges; Unspecified Drug Charges

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## Commanda, Ontario Man Charged for Allegedly Spitting on North Bay Officer During Arrest

**Place:** Commanda, Ontario

**Date:** July 12, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 38

**Case Details:** On July 12th, a 38-year-old man in from Commanda, Ontario was charged by North Bay Police with allegedly uttering threats after spitting at his arresting officer and claiming to be COVID-19 positive. He also faces three charges of assault with a weapon relating to the same incident in which he is alleged to have held a lighter up to his girlfriend and threatened to burn her. . Under s. 264.2 of the Criminal Code, uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm to a person is punishable by five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 267 of the Criminal Code every person who assaults another with a weapon or causes bodily harm is liable to a maximum of ten years imprisonment or a summary conviction. As of July 23rd, the man remains in custody pending a bail hearing.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Assault with a Weapon (Three Counts)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

. *Quebec*

## **Man in Cree Nation Territory Charged with Public Mischief in Chisasibi, Quebec for Allegedly Lying About COVID-19 Status on a Social Networking Site**

**Place:** Chisasibi, Quebec

**Date:** March 24th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man

**Case Details:** On March 24th, 2020, the Department of the Eeyou Eenu Police Force in Chisasibi, Quebec, within Cree Nation territory, compelled a man to go to the hospital for testing after he claimed to be COVID-19 positive on a social networking site. He was later charged with public mischief, presumably after testing negative. Under s. 140 of the Criminal Code, everyone commits public mischief who, with intent to mislead, causes a peace officer to enter on or continue an investigation by making a false statement that wrongly accuses someone else; doing anything intended to wrongly accuse someone else or divert suspicion, or reporting an offence has been committed when it has not been committed. The penalty for public mischief is a summary conviction or a maximum of five years imprisonment.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)



## Woman in Gatineau, Quebec Charged with Obstruction after Allegedly Falsely Informing Police that She was COVID-19 Positive

**Place:** Gatineau, Quebec

**Date:** March 31st, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Woman, 21

**Case Details:** On March 31st, 2020, the City of Gatineau Police Service responded to a call at a private residence and took one woman back to their station in Gatineau, Quebec. The woman is then alleged to have informed them that she had tested positive for COVID-19, allegedly causing several officers and police employees to be quarantined and the station and police vehicles to undergo decontamination. After investigation, it is alleged that she lied about the diagnosis and has, in fact, never been tested. Police have filed charges for obstructing a peace officer. Under s. 129 of the Criminal Code, wilfully obstructing a peace officer in the execution of their duties is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding 2-years or a summary conviction. The woman has been released from custody pending a court appearance.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)

## **25-Year-Old in Montreal Charged after Allegedly Ramming Security Guard Enforcing COVID-19 Rules with Car**

**Place:** Montreal, Quebec

**Date:** April 4th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 25

**Case Details:** On April 4th, 2020, a 25-year-old man in Montreal, Quebec is alleged to have grown frustrated with COVID-19 measures imposed at a store and driven his car into a store security guard. He has been charged by the Montreal Police Service with criminal negligence causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault and failure to stop after an accident. A fundraiser has been active for the alleged victim who was taken to the hospital in critical condition. He had his first two court appearances on April 6th and 7th. Under s. 221 of the Criminal Code, causing harm by criminal negligence is punishable by a maximum of ten years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 267 of the Criminal Code every person who assaults another with a weapon or causes bodily harm is liable to a maximum of ten years imprisonment or a summary conviction. The suspect was released on bail on April 8th and is next due in court on August 3rd. His lawyer has implied to the press that security footage may be favourable to his defence.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

*. New Brunswick*

## **Men in Rothesay, New Brunswick Face Various Charges for Allegedly Failing to Self-Isolate After International Travel and Coughing on Roommates**

**Place:** Rothesay, New Brunswick

**Date:** March 26th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** 2 Men

**Case Details:** On March 26th, two men in Rothesay, New Brunswick were charged by Kennebecasis Regional Police with assault following allegations they had coughed on roommates while one of them was feeling ill. The investigation began following a tip from another occupant of the home that they were allegedly failing to self-isolate for fourteen days following travel to the Dominican Republic. Assault charges under s. 265 of the Criminal Code, are subject to a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under New Brunswick's Emergency Measures Act all individuals are required to self-isolate for fourteen days after domestic or international travel into the province. All violations of orders under New Brunswick's Emergency Measures Act are category F offences. Failure to self-isolate for fourteen days following international travel is also a violation of the Federal Quarantine Act punishable by penalties up to a maximum fine of \$1,000,000 and three years imprisonment.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** NA

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#)

*. Prince Edward Island*

## Man in Brudenell, Prince Edward Island Criminally Charged after Failing to Self-Isolate

**Place:** Brudenell, Prince Edward Island

**Date:** July 21st, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 22, Black

**Case Details:** On July 21st a 22 year-old-man Black man in Brudenell, Prince Edward Island was charged by RCMP with two counts of common nuisance, two counts of uttering a threat, one count of assault, one count of mischief, and one count of violating the Public Health Act, following allegedly failing to self-isolate following testing positive for COVID-19. The man had previously been arrested in relation to a “domestic matter” but was released. Due to apparently testing positive for COVID-19 around this time, he was required to self-isolate in a resort in Brudenell. Press confirmed that only the common nuisance charge and the violation of the public health act relate to the alleged failure to self-isolate. All other charges relate to the domestic incident, though officers involved in that incident are also self-isolating. The man is alleged to have tested positive three times for COVID-19 as of July 21st, including twice prior to this most recent arrest. Officers arrived at the scene following a call by resort staff reporting failure to self-isolate, he was allegedly found on the resort lawn. RCMP involved in the arrest have self-isolated and appear to have tested negative for the disease. Provincial officials declined to comment on under what circumstances the man tested positive, or where he may have caught the disease. The man was fined \$1000 for the alleged Public Health Act violation and is due in court on July 30th to answer the self-isolation related charges. He is also due in court on August 20th to answer the five charges relating to the domestic incident. He is currently being held in a provincial correctional centre and crown has opposed bail.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Common Nuisance (One Charge); Uttering Threats (Two Charges); Mischief to Property of Unspecified Nature and Value (One Charge); Assault (One Charge)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#) [\[Link2\]](#) [\[Link3\]](#)

*. Northwest Territories*

## Yellowknife Man Arrested for Coughing on Police Officer while Alleging to have COVID-19, Pleads Guilty

**Place:**

**Date:** April 14th, 2020

**Known Demographics:** Man, 40s

**Case Details:** On June 11th, a man was sentenced for assaulting a peace officer and breaching a bail condition following an April 14th incident in which he claimed to have COVID-19 and coughed on towards RCMP officer. Officers arrived at the scene in response to an allegation that he and another intoxicated person were yelling at each other on the street, however all charges relating to the incident beyond assaulting a peace officer and breaching bail were dropped. Following coughing towards the officer, the officer “took control of [his] face and jaw,” pushing him against a wall, and struck him in the ribs twice with his knee. The man later admitted he did not have COVID-19, blaming intoxication for the claim, officers involved tested negative. He also pleaded guilty to breaching a subsequent bail condition to remain at in Salvation Army housing overnight. He has a history of personal traumas, alcoholism, homelessness, and previous legal charges. Under s. 270 of the criminal code, assaulting a peace officer is punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment or a summary conviction. Under s. 145(4) anyone who fails to comply with a release condition other than court attendance is liable to punishment of two years imprisonment or a summary conviction. The man was sentenced on June 11th to 35 days for the assault and 30 concurrent days for the breach of bail conditions, amounting to time served. He has also been placed on probation for 18 months and directed to attempt to enroll in a trauma counselling program. As of June 12th, the man remained in custody awaiting a hearing on his release due to ongoing unrelated sexual assault and obstruction charges.

**Reported Non-COVID-19 Related Charges:** Unspecified Charges Related to Causing a Disturbance; Breach of Bail Condition Relating to COVID-19 Charge; Obstruction of Justice (Separate Incident); Sexual Assault (Separate Incident)

**Sources:** [\[Link1\]](#)



## About the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project

The *Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project* was launched on 4 April, 2020 to track and visualize the massive and extraordinary expansions of police power in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the unequal patterns of enforcement that may arise as a result. The project aims to bring to light COVID-19 related patterns of police intervention to help understand who is being targeted, what justifications are being used by police, and how marginalized people are being impacted. All data are collected from publicly accessible media articles, police press release communications, and the occasional social media post. You can learn more at [www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca).

## Acknowledgments

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## Recommended Referencing

### **To reference this report:**

McClelland, Alexander, Alex Luscombe, and Nicholas Buhite. 2020. *Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project Criminal Enforcement Report, April 01 2020 - July 15 2020*. Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project, available at [www.policingthepandemic.ca](http://www.policingthepandemic.ca).

### **To reference the project/data set:**

McClelland, Alexander, and Alex Luscombe, 2020, “Policing the Pandemic: Tracking the Policing of COVID-19 Across Canada”, <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP2/KNJLWS>, *Scholars Portal Dataverse*.