

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
March 18, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Since our last update, we have 7 new cases to report in the city. As anticipated, we are seeing increasing local transmission with 11 cases under investigation.

- Overall, we are observing that many businesses and people in the city are complying with social distancing and our recommendations.
 - In fact yesterday, when we had staff go out to survey businesses to see how much compliance there was with respect to the new orders and closures of bars and restaurants for dine in service, and moving exclusively to takeout or delivery options, we found that only four percent of the businesses that we looked at were not in compliance.
 - This is amazing – just hours after the order was issued, we had that level of compliance, and on St. Patrick's Day, no less.
 - So thank you, thank you to the residents of our city, thank you to business owners, thank you all for doing this, but we can still do better, we must do better, and we need your help to get there.

- People are asking questions on what social distancing looks like. Social distancing means:
 - Avoiding close contact with others
 - Keeping 6 feet apart to prevent virus spread
 - Staying home and only going out for food, or medicine
 - Reducing contact with others
 - Working from home
 - Helping your employees stay home
 - Grocery shopping online or having someone do this for you



Public Health

- Social distancing is a new concept for us, so I want to be clear:
 - Having friends over for dinner or coffee is not social distancing.
 - Arranging playdates for your kids is also not social distancing.
 - Visiting friends and family in long-term care homes, or hospital is not social distancing.
 - Stopping at a grocery store to stock up after travel, including travel to the United States, is not social distancing.
- This is a challenging time. Your federal, provincial and local governments are all taking extreme action. Extreme action is now also required from you.
- We all need to take these personal responsibilities seriously. We need to practice social distancing seriously.
- I'm asking everyone once again to make every effort and take every opportunity to practice social distancing. Stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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