

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**March 20, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**  
**Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.**

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- As of 1 p.m. today there are: 161 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Toronto and 10 people are currently hospitalized.
- The new cases that we are investigating include a paramedic, a resident of a long-term care home, and individuals who are part of our shelter community.
- Since we learned of these new cases, we have been actively and carefully investigating each of these unique circumstances. We are collaborating with Toronto Paramedic Services, the Fred Victor Centre, Seven Oaks long-term care home.
- The paramedic who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 is currently in isolation at home. My team is actively investigating all possible contacts to assess potential health risks and will follow up directly with those require further action.
- We have followed up directly with Seven Oaks and Fred Victor Centre to ensure that enhanced infection prevention and control measures are in place to protect our most vulnerable residents and the staff at these facilities.
- This includes enhancing cleaning and disinfection to reduce the risk of spread and protect vulnerable residents and the facility's staff. Signage on hand washing and infection prevention and control is also displayed throughout these facilities and other shelter and respites in the city.
- Many people will soon be returning to our city from March break vacation or travel. Given our current circumstances, I really need you to listen carefully:  
--If you are returning from travel, you must stay home for 14 days, even if you don't have symptoms of illness to protect yourself, your family and your community.

- This strong recommendation is made because people travelling back from March break are likely to have traveled through areas where COVID-19 is circulating.
- If you know someone returning from March break, tell them to stay home and help them to be successful in doing this.
  - Be a good family member, neighbour, or friend.
  - Pick up groceries and other supplies for them.
  - We all have a responsibility to stop this virus together.
- I would also like to remind everyone of what we mean by social distancing:
  - Working from home, wherever possible
  - Helping your employees stay home, or work from home
  - Keeping 6 feet apart to prevent virus spread
  - staying home and only going out for food, or medicine, or other important household needs
  - Ordering food through take-out or delivery
  - Purchasing your goods online
  - Participating in your community or faith-based organization, virtually, or over the phone
- I know this is a lot to process. We are all trying to make sense of this while we are in the thick of this situation.
- People are understandably worried and many are lonely. We really need to take care of each other.
- I am encouraging everyone who can, to stay home. Essential workers and those who support them need to come to work and maintain social distancing as much as possible in order for our city to work.
- I sincerely thank these workers for their dedication and their hard work. The rest of you by staying home, will help these people to stay healthy and keep the city working.



## Public Health

- Lastly, I am pleased to share that in our most recent assessment of the compliance of bars and restaurants with provincial orders and direction, we found that less than half a percent of the businesses that we looked at were not in compliance. This is an amazing effort. Thank you to our local business community.
- In closing, I'm asking everyone again to make every effort and take every opportunity to practice social distancing.
- So please, stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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