

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
March 25, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- As of 1 p.m. today there are 319 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Toronto, this is up 39 from yesterday. There are 22 cases hospitalized. Approximately 16% are attributed to community spread. These numbers are constantly changing.
- I have also been notified of 3 new deaths among Toronto residents related to COVID-19:
 - An elderly man with pre-existing health conditions who was tested at North York General hospital.
 - 2 residents of Seven Oaks Long-Term Care home.
 - My sincerest condolences to the families and friends of these individuals.
- This virus is spreading in our City and this is why I keep urging everyone to stay home. When you don't stay home you are putting our most vulnerable residents at risk:
 - Our parents and our grandparents
 - People with compromised immune systems
 - People with chronic health conditions
- The effects of social distancing take time. So let me explain how it works:
 - You can be infected with COVID-19 and not know. For most people it takes about 5-6 days before they show symptoms of illness. For some people it can take up to 14 days.
 - There can be a number of days from the time you show symptoms, to when you get tested and then receive the result.
 - This means that the positive tests we are getting now are the results of infections that happened several days ago.

Public Health

- Even if we all stayed home starting today, over the next several days we would still see new infections from the past, but we would be preventing new ones from occurring.
 - This is why it is so important to stay home now.
 - We know from other countries that social distancing works, but it takes time.
 - Similar to any treatment that you're given, you need the right medicine at the right dose for the right amount of time.
- I have observed that people are using parks to socialize and gather in groups. We are hearing from a lot of Torontonians there is a lot of concern about that this is contributing to the spread of the virus.
- As you have likely heard, today I recommended that all amenities in local parks be closed.
- I've also recommended for condominiums, all Toronto schools, and the Toronto Community Housing Cooperation to close their playgrounds and public amenities to limit congregation and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- I strongly urge everyone to take your part seriously. Unlike other cities and countries, we still have the opportunity to slow this virus spread, but our window is closing.
- We will get through this by working together. So please stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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