

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
March 21, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- As you have heard, the City runs a number of services, many of which are critical to the millions of residents and businesses of our city. One of these services is your local public health department.
- At Toronto Public Health, our key function at this time is leading the response to COVID-19. A key component of our response is limiting virus spread by encouraging people to limit their social interactions, as much as possible.
- We are doing this to protect the health and safety of all of our residents. This includes all of those that are needed to provide essential services and essential city services at this critical time.
- This is why I am asking everyone once again to contribute to our public health response, to do your part by:
 - Working from home, if you can
 - Staying home, except to get essential supplies
 - Maintaining social distance, keeping six feet away from others, wherever possible
- Staying at home, keeping your distance from as many people as possible, helps to protect those providing essential services. It helps to keep them healthy so they can do their jobs.... so that our city can run safely.
- Turning to the current situation, we continue to see more cases of COVID-19, and yes, we do see community transmission.
- As of 1 p.m. today there are 193 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Toronto and 10 people are currently hospitalized.



Public Health

- We are now also expecting an influx of returning travelers coming home from March Break. Many of whom have travelled to areas where COVID-19 is circulating.
- At this time, my message to returning travellers is to:
 - Stay home for 14 days, even if you don't have symptoms of illness.
 - This is critical to protect yourself, your family and your community.
 - If you need to restock your fridge and cupboard, order your groceries and supplies online, or ask a friend to pick up these items for you.
- In closing, I'm asking everyone again to make every effort and take every opportunity to practice social distancing. We all have a responsibility to help reduce virus spread. So please, stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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Media contact: Lenore Bromley, Toronto Public Health, 416-338-7974,
Lenore.Bromley@toronto.ca