

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
March 17, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Currently, there 108 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our city. Of these, 4 people have recovered from their illness. In Toronto, the number of cases has accelerated in recent days and includes local transmission.
- This increase of COVID-19 cases locally and within Canada is why you have seen all three levels of government implement unprecedented public health measures to require social distancing.
- We know these measures are disruptive and force adjustments to our daily lives. However, experiences from other jurisdictions demonstrate that they work, but not right away.
- Social distancing is an effective way to slow infectious disease transmission. However, we won't see the effects immediately and we also know that we should expect to see continued increases in our case counts.
- Social distancing works, but like any medicine, it needs to be given in the proper dose and needs time to take effect.
- Based on our data we should expect to see continued increase in cases among people who traveled outside of Canada, especially from the United States.
- At this time we are asking anyone who has travelled anywhere, outside of Canada, especially the United States to please stay home and avoid contact with others for 14 days after returning from travel.
- I'm also asking every person, business to make every effort and take opportunity to practice social distancing. My message to you today is simple: stay at home, stay safe and take care of each other.