

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**April 2, 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 897 cases of COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 727 confirmed cases and 170 probable ones. There are 86 cases hospitalized, 39 in intensive care units. Approximately 26% are attributed to community spread. There have been approximately 11 COVID-19 deaths in total thus far.
- However, I am also aware of others that my team is currently gathering details on. I will report on these numbers when the facts are confirmed. I extend my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of these individuals.
- Yesterday, we announced a number of measures to save lives, protect and preserve the capacity of our health care system, and minimize the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in our city.
- I have received questions about what yesterday's orders mean for our residents. It means:
  - Anyone with COVID-19 who is not hospitalized is required to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
  - Anyone with signs and symptoms of COVID-19, or is waiting for their test results, is required to stay home.
  - Anyone who had close contact with a person who has COVID-19, or has signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is ordered to stay home for 14 days.
  - If you have been ordered to stay home for 14 days, this means you are not to go outside for any reason, except on a private balcony or enclosed yard. You are not to go for a walk or to the store to pick up essential supplies. Others will have to buy your groceries and supplies for you.
- To be clear, these requirements were already in place, the order just underscores the importance of the message of how important it is for these people to stay in self-isolation, to protect our community.



## Public Health

- Under this local order, if you do not comply, you may be liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 for each offense. We expect and hope that people will abide by the self-isolation that is required because they care about themselves, and the health of their loved ones and their community.
- For everyone else in Toronto, and I mean every single person in Toronto, please stay home. Unless you are a healthcare or other essential worker, only leave your home to:
  - Access health care or medication
  - Shop for groceries or other essentials, ideally only once per week
  - Walk your dog or get daily exercise
  - When you leave your home, you must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres from other people at all times.
  - If you live in the same household you can go out and walk side by side, but only in groups of no more than 5, and not with people who are sick, or under self-isolation.
  - After being out for these reasons, you must then return home as soon as possible.
- I also support the strong recommendation made by the Chief Medical Officer for those over the age of 70, or with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions, to stay home. I call on their friends, their families and their neighbours to help make this easy for them, wherever you can.
- I continue to hear concerning reports of people ignoring our recommendations. Yesterday, I learned that someone removed the barricades and signs that were put in place in the Sunnyside Park parking lot. Both the parking lot and park were full of people.
- This is appalling. People are getting sick. People are dying in our city, yet others think it is ok for them to hang out in groups with their friends. This behaviour is profoundly selfish it contributes to virus spread in our community and it is just not acceptable. It puts all of our health at risk.

- I know that it was a beautiful day outside, and we all want to go outside and enjoy the nice weather. I want to be clear on what physical distancing means:
  - Everyone needs to stay home as much as possible, except for the essential reasons I just mentioned.
- It does not mean:
  - Going to a park that is barricaded for closure. This is not physical distancing.
  - Impromptu street parties allowing children to play together on the street while parents socialize with each other. This is not physical distancing.
  - These are real examples that are taking place in our community. This is not acceptable.
- I recognize it is not easy to stay home, especially as the warmer weather approaches. However staying home is exactly what we need to do.
- We know that this virus spreads from person-to-person. People moving around in our community coming into close contact with others, within 2 metres of others is exactly how COVID-19 spreads.
- If you do not stay home, more people will get sick and more will die in our city.
- We are regularly assessing this outbreak and we will adjust our measures up or down, as our situation changes. We are doing this to protect our city, to minimize the loss of life, to manage pressures on our health care system, and to get our city back as soon as we can.
- As I said yesterday, the spread of the virus and the amount of time we have to keep up with all these measures: school closures, work closures, and staying at home, is in our hands.
- The sooner everyone complies with these measures, and the better we comply with these measures, the sooner we can make it through this challenge together. Please stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.