

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
April 15, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- As of 12:30 p.m. today there are 2,670 cases of COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 2,369 confirmed cases and 301 probable ones. There are 243 cases hospitalized, and there are 94 in intensive care units.
- I was talking to my team after yesterday's press conference where I told you based on their workload we did not have updated long-term care numbers. I sincerely felt bad having to tell you that we were not in a position to provide you with numbers. I went back to the team and asked them to find a way for us to continue to focus on our outbreak response, to provide the important support needed in our long-term care homes dealing with outbreaks, while at the same time addressing the important information needs of our public.
- My team is working incredibly hard – and it was a tough ask to make of my team because they are already working at more than maximum capacity. However, as my team has done so many times before, they have risen to this occasion and figured out a workable solution to meet all the needs in a reasonable way. By definition it is not going to be perfect.
- Landing and confirming the cause of death takes some time, especially when a number of deaths occur in a short period of time. Often you don't have the definitive cause of death right away; sometimes this takes weeks to occur. This is why when it comes to infectious disease outbreaks in long-term care and other congregate settings, we don't always know the complete picture on cause of death until after the outbreak is declared over.
- This is often what we see in influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes and it is what we are seeing now as we respond to local COVID-19 outbreaks. The difference between the current COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes and what we experience in regular influenza outbreaks, is that with influenza outbreaks there is not as much public interest in real time.

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- Currently, as of 12:30 p.m. today, there are 41 COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes in Toronto. I have been asked to provide specific updates on the situations at Eatonville Care Centre, Kipling Acres, and Seven Oaks:
 - At Eatonville Care Centre, a privately run home, there have been approximately 54 cases of COVID-19 and 23 deaths.
 - At Kipling Acres, a home operated by the City, there have been approximately 23 cases of COVID-19 and 4 deaths. This is a higher number than has been previously reported due to increased testing that has recently been completed.
 - At Seven Oaks, also operated by the City, there have been approximately 96 cases of COVID-19 and sadly there have been approximately 22 deaths.
- I've also been asked for an update on COVID-19 cases at Willowdale Welcome Centre. To-date there have been approximately 20 clients identified with COVID-19 and there have been no deaths.
- In total 121 people have died of COVID-19 in Toronto. Please join me once again as I extend my sincerest condolences to the families and friends of all individuals who have lost loved ones from COVID-19. These numbers are very concerning. They represent our parents, grandparents and other loved ones and it makes me very sad to report on this information.
- Each and every day, we are learning more about how COVID-19 moves through the community and impacts those who are infected.
- Current evidence from jurisdictions around the world indicates that the vast majority of COVID-19 cases are mild to moderate. Approximately 20% of people infected with COVID-19 are considered severe enough to be hospitalized. Critical cases may experience respiratory failure, septic shock or multiple organ dysfunction and require care in an intensive care unit.
- If there is a spike in cases, as we have seen in parts of northern Italy and New York, hospitals can become quickly overwhelmed with patients. Healthcare workers in these areas are operating under incredibly stressful conditions, triaging and caring for patients – some of whom are hovering between life and death.



Public Health

- I sincerely thank our health-system partners in Toronto for the outstanding work they are doing each and every day. I especially want to acknowledge all those working in our hospitals whether in direct patient care or in one of the many essential support functions, for providing outstanding care throughout this unprecedented situation.
- Lastly, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank my team at Toronto Public Health. They are making many personal sacrifices and working tirelessly to keep our city safe. I'm truly very proud to work alongside them and consider it the highest privilege of my career, to be part of such an incredible team of health professionals.
- To ensure that our essential workers remain healthy and care for our city, we must continue to practise physical distancing. So please continue to 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