

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**April 24, 2020 at 1 p.m.**  
**Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.**

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- Good afternoon. As of 9 a.m. today there are 4,486 cases of COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 4,048 confirmed cases and 438 probable ones. There are 300 people in hospital, and 113 people in intensive care units. Sadly, we continue to see COVID-19 deaths in our community and to date, 238 people have died of this virus in our city. Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones, and those who are recovering from this virus.
- I am sincerely looking forward to working with Dr. David Mowat in this new city recovery and rebuild role that Mayor Tory just announced. I had the great privilege to work directly with Dr. Mowat for nearly a decade at Peel Public Health. We worked together during significant public health emergencies and responses including a notable measles outbreak in 2008, and the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. I also had the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Mowat during the Ebola response in 2014 when he was the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and I was the acting Medical Officer of Health for Peel.
- On a personal note, Dr. Mowat has been a significant mentor to me over the course of my career. I know from my experiences working with him that his deep public health expertise spans all three levels of government. His knowledge and expertise combined with exceptional professionalism are exactly what we need to effectively guide the critical work of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild, and help us get back to safely enjoying our city. We need to get this right, or we run the risk of prompting another wave of COVID-19. I truly believe that Dr. Mowat is most qualified person for this role.
- I appreciate that as the weather gets warmer, public health and physical distancing measures become increasingly more difficult for all of us. We all want to get back to enjoying our city with our friends, our families and our loved ones. But as I said yesterday, we are in the middle of an unprecedented global health emergency and we need to stay focused on our physical distancing measures to win this battle.

- The weekend is upon us and I know many of us want to spend time with friends and loved ones outside. I need to remind you that it continues to be extremely important for us to stay home to reduce the spread of this virus. I encourage you to connect and to stay connected with your loved ones but to do so virtually, or by phone. Your actions will help us to get our city back and save lives.
- Thank you again for everything you are doing to protect our city. The only way we are going to get to the other side of this pandemic is to continue to stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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