

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**April 13, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**  
**Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.**

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- As of 12:30 p.m. today there are 2,362 cases of COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 2,088 confirmed cases and 274 probable ones. There are 210 people hospitalized, and there are 80 people in intensive care units. In total, 92 people have died of COVID-19 in our community.
- I continue to receive questions about the status of COVID-19 in our city's long-term care homes and the shelter system. As of 12:30 p.m. today, there were 39 long-term care homes with one or more COVID-19 cases. I am sad to share there have been 50 COVID-19 deaths in these homes.
- I am very concerned about these outbreaks in long-term care homes and the devastating impact on our parents, our grandparents and our loved ones. We know that any infectious disease can spread faster in congregate settings. These settings are especially concerning because residents are generally older, and more vulnerable to infection due to compromised immune systems or other chronic health issues.
- I also wanted to share on a more positive front that we are starting to see that our stringent outbreak control measures are starting to have a positive effect. In long-term care homes that had a high number of cases, the rate of new infections is slowing. I want to recognize the tremendous effort these outbreak measures involve. Hundreds of staff across all our long-term care homes are working together tirelessly and are committed to protecting and caring for our loved ones.
- The other vulnerable community we are concerned about are those experiencing homelessness. Currently in Toronto's shelter system, as of 12:30 p.m. today, there are 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases among clients. I will provide a comprehensive update tomorrow on our local situation in this setting.

- All of these numbers are constantly changing as our local situation evolves. My team continues to actively follow up on all of these situations.
- The people who are ill and those who have died are not just numbers: they are our neighbours and loved ones. These tragic losses have devastating impacts on our community. I know you join me as I extend my sincerest condolences to the families and friends of all individuals who have died from COVID-19 in our city. And for those who are ill, I wish them a speedy recovery.
- I recognize that these numbers are unsettling. It is difficult to witness the increasing impact of COVID-19 on our community, particularly the impact on our city's most vulnerable.
- We know that COVID-19 continues to circulate in Toronto. Currently approximately 30% of our cases are the result of community spread. This is why it is so important to stay home as much as you can. This is the only way we will reduce the spread of this virus in our city.
- This is not the time to relax our approach or our commitment to physical distancing. We believe the number of COVID-19 cases will continue to climb in the coming weeks.
- I have been asked why we are seeing more COVID-19 cases in our city after many weeks of physical distancing measures. The virus has an incubation period of up to 14 days. This means that if you are exposed to the virus and infected today, you may not know for as long as 2 weeks. This is why I continue to remind everyone to stay home. The measures that have been put in place take time to work.
- Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who connected with family and friends in creative and responsible ways over the long weekend. I've heard of virtual family dinners and gatherings, and members of our community reaching out by phone to others who are isolated at this time. This is important and as valuable a support as picking up groceries for a neighbour in need.

- We are all looking forward to when we can look back on this time as a distant memory. However, we are not yet at that moment, and we all have an important role to play to protect our community. 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