

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
April 7, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Good afternoon. I am pleased to share that we have partnered with the University of Toronto who has provided a group of volunteer medical students and two faculty of medicine members to help with our COVID-19 response. They will begin working with us this week to support our low-risk case and contact tracing efforts. I sincerely thank the university for their generous support.
- By way of update, as of 12:30 p.m. today there are 1,449 cases of COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 1,218 confirmed and 231 probable cases. There are 142 cases hospitalized, and there are 63 in intensive care units. Approximately 28% of the cases in Toronto are attributed to community spread.
- Sadly, there have been a total of 10 new deaths from COVID-19 in Toronto. My deepest condolences to the families and friends of all individuals who have died from COVID-19 in our community.
- I also wanted to share that I recently learned of a new case of COVID-19 within our shelter community. We are actively collaborating with Seaton House to carefully investigate this matter. The client is currently in self-isolation, as is the one other client with whom he shared a room, and my team is actively following up with any other close contacts identified.
- My team is working with staff at Seaton House, to ensure that enhanced infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing measures are in place to protect the residents and the staff at this facility.
- This includes enhanced cleaning and disinfection to reduce the risk of virus spread, prominently displayed signage on hand washing and infection prevention and control practices and active screening for symptoms amongst both staff and clients.

- In addition, the City's Shelter, Support & Housing Administration Division has already taken a number of proactive steps such as reducing capacity at the site and limiting the use of bunk beds to enhance physical distancing. They have also moved 20 clients today and more anticipated by the end of the week to hotels and other facilities, also to enhance physical distancing and limit virus spread.
- Lastly, as the Mayor stated yesterday, I also want to acknowledge that spring is a time when many of us observe religious and cultural celebrations and holidays.
- I encourage you to find creative ways to stay connected with family and faith-based communities without visiting in person.
 - This means connecting with loved ones, friends, and other members of your community online, or by phone.
 - If you are planning to mark an occasion with a special meal for members of your household, please plan ahead and limit your trips for groceries to once per week.
- I know that we find ourselves in unique and challenging circumstances this year. However, the best way to show our loved ones that we care during these unprecedented times is to do so virtually.
- We are all affected by COVID-19. We all have to do our part to make a difference in our city. Please stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.

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