

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**May 11, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**  
**Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.**

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- Thank you Mayor Tory. While our data is telling us that we are making positive progress in our battle against COVID-19, we continue to see new infections in our city. For today's update there are a total of 7,557 COVID-19 infections in Toronto, an increase of 144 since yesterday. To date, 5,340 people have recovered, an increase of 148 since yesterday. I encourage you to visit our website for more details on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city.
- By way of update I also wanted to share that I recently learned of the first COVID-19 death in a resident in our shelter system. Sadly, on May 8, a man in his 50s who was a resident at Dixon Hall School House died in hospital. On behalf of my team, I extend my sincerest condolences to this individual's friends and family, and to all others in our community who have also lost loved ones to COVID-19.
- While there was an outbreak at this shelter in April, it was declared over on May 5. All clients were tested and to prevent further COVID-19 spread in this facility, my team provided guidance to ensure:
  - Enhanced infection prevention and control, screening and physical distancing measures are in place;
  - Enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures are in place;
  - Signage on hand washing and COVID-19 signs and symptoms are prominently displayed, and
  - Active screening for symptoms is conducted.
- In addition, my team investigated all confirmed cases of COVID-19 at this facility and provided recommendations on self-isolation spaces and consultation on how to triage clients to self-isolation facilities.



## Public Health

- On a more positive note, today is the beginning of National Nursing Week. I want to recognize the commitment and leadership of nurses who care for our city. Every day there are thousands of nurses in our city working to protect and promote health in many settings including public health, hospitals, primary care, long-term care homes, shelters and in various community settings.
- Now, many of these nurses at Toronto Public Health are working behind the scenes and on the frontlines in our battle against COVID-19.
- Anyone who has spent a few minutes in a hospital or in any healthcare setting knows first-hand that nurses play a critical role in our health system. They blend their technical expertise with compassion, care and empathy. While nurses are perhaps best known for their role in patient care or community care, they also play important roles as teachers, mentors and advocates.
- The theme of this year's National Nursing Week is "Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health." Nurses certainly bring this theme to life each and every day – especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to all nurses for your daily work and action to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our city.
- I have been asked to provide an update on our case and contact tracing work and how close we are at Toronto Public Health to meeting the province's target to reach 90% of COVID-19 cases within one day of diagnosis. I am pleased to report that our team is well on their way to achieving this target.
- We continue to scale up and train staff to work on this important function of our COVID-19 response. Currently, there are over 500 Toronto Public Health staff working on case investigations and contact tracing, and we are redeploying and training additional staff every day. We also have 45 volunteers supporting these very detailed investigations. This is always being assessed and reassessed to ensure that we have enough staff resources to meet the evolving needs of this important work.

## Public Health

- In the early phase of our outbreak, the number of new cases in Toronto was doubling approximately every 4 days. Now the number of cases in Toronto is doubling every 7 days. We should derive comfort in this because it is another sign that our work together is slowing down this epidemic.
- Prior to implementing strict public health measures in mid-March, each infected person in Toronto infected an average of 3 other people in our community. By the end of April, for the first time since our local outbreak started, this number dropped significantly with each person infecting an average of one other person.
- COVID-19 activity is declining in Ontario and in Toronto. However, we continue to see new cases in our city. In fact, yesterday approximately 50% of all newly confirmed cases since the previous day reported by the province were in Toronto.
- We need to keep up our commitment to physical distancing to continue to slow the spread of this virus, so that we can safely re-open our city and get back to enjoying time with our loved ones.
- I think everyone will agree with me that not being able to hug our mothers yesterday reinforced just how critical it is to get this right. So please continue to practise physical distancing when you go outside, and please continue to take care of each other.

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