

**Update on COVID-19**  
**Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health**  
**May 14, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**  
**Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.**

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- Thank you Mayor Tory. Today there are 153 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 5,851 people have recovered, an increase of 196 since yesterday. More detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city is available on our website.
- Earlier this afternoon, Premier Ford shared details for the first stage of reopening businesses, services and public spaces in the province. As it relates to our city, there are many factors we must consider in collaboration with the province and other key partners as we continue to plan safely re-opening.
- I echo the Premier in that we cannot take our progress for granted and we need to continue to monitor our data. While I am pleased with the progress we've made so far, we need to be ready for flare ups in our journey from COVID-19 response to COVID-19 recovery.
- As shared earlier, the province's plan is built on important decision-making criteria in four key areas. First and foremost, any decisions to re-open the city should and will be driven by key public health and health system considerations. To be able to re-open safely and effectively, we need:
  - A consistent and steady decrease in new cases, including those requiring hospitalization.
  - Sufficient healthcare capacity for timely management of new cases and appropriate supply of personal protective equipment for our healthcare workers.
  - Sufficient capacity for timely management of new cases and their close contacts, and sufficient testing to contain virus spread.

## Public Health

- When we have met these health considerations, we need to look at the question of workplace safety.
  - Where possible, workplaces should continue to conduct business and service remotely.
  - Where remote work is not possible, important considerations include: ensuring physical distancing and enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures are in place, and an appropriate supply of personal protective equipment is available for that setting.
- There are also economic and practical implementation considerations. We are acutely aware that people want and need to get back to work. This is important from a financial perspective, but also for mental and physical health reasons.
- Today's provincial update is promising news for all of us, however, we must carefully monitor the circumstances in our city and remain vigilant about our public health measures. In Toronto we are moving in the right direction, and we must continue to support each other as we navigate this difficult situation together. To keep moving forward and not take a step back, it continues to be important to follow our public health measures, practising physical distancing and frequent handwashing.
- On another topic, tomorrow is the start of the May long weekend and the weather should finally be a bit warmer. I know many are looking forward to spending time outdoors and typically would consider a trip out of town to the cottage or to go camping.
- At this time, given our current circumstances, please avoid any non-essential trips out of town to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. We do not want to risk spreading COVID-19 in smaller communities, or put a burden on their local health resources.
- For this reason, I ask that you consider spending this long weekend at home here in Toronto. This will reduce the risk of virus spread and it is also a great way to support our local businesses.

## Public Health

- I do encourage you to enjoy the outdoors and spend some time getting active this weekend. It is important for our physical and mental health. If you go outside, do so only with members of your household. As per the provincial order, the maximum group size is 5 people.
- Please avoid close contact with others outside your home and do not make plans to meet up with friends – it is not time for that yet. While you may feel healthy, you may unknowingly transmit the virus to others.
- When you do go outside for essentials or exercise, please practise physical distancing. If and when you cannot reliably maintain physical distancing, please wear a cloth mask, or face covering to help stop the spread of your germs to those around you. These actions will help keep our community safe and healthy.
- While we are making progress, there is still more work to do. We do not want to undo our sacrifices over the past several weeks. I know this is difficult, especially as the weather gets nicer, but we need to stay the course with our physical distancing and public health measures.
- So please, continue to practise physical distancing, and please continue to take care of each other.

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