

Update on COVID-19

Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health

May 1, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory. For today's update, as of 11 a.m., there are 5,796 people infected with COVID-19 in Toronto. This includes 5,230 confirmed cases and 566 probable ones. There are 350 people in hospital and 112 in intensive care. In total, we have lost 394 Torontonians to this virus. On behalf of my team, I extend my deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones, and wish a speedy recovery to those who are sick.
- I have been asked to provide an update on the Jesse Ketchum Early Learning and Child Care Centre, which is one of the City's seven licensed child care centres that provide care for the children of essential and critical service workers. To-date 6 child care centre staff and 1 child have tested positive for COVID-19. Two children have tested negative for COVID-19. My team continues to work with Children's Services and Public Health Ontario to manage this outbreak. This includes reviewing the infection prevention and control protocols in place at these centres to see if changes can be made to prevent infections from spreading in these important centres.
- My team is completing a thorough investigation of all cases and their contacts to determine where they may have gotten their infection and to whom they may have spread it. This includes testing all staff and children who were at the centre between April 21 and April 28. Staff and children who attended the centre during this period are required to be in self-isolation for 14 days from their last day at the centre.
- I also wanted to let you know that late yesterday, during a process improvement review, our operations team learned that we did not conduct contact tracking for 52 positive COVID-19 lab reports received between March 31 and April 6. I want to assure you that all 52 of these people were aware of their positive diagnosis at the time and appropriately isolated. As such, there is no increased risk to our community and our population. This occurred because unfortunately there was an error in how these lab reports were received.

- Upon learning of this matter late yesterday evening, I immediately asked my team to take action to correct the situation. I also asked them to determine how this happened and to work to ensure it does not happen again.
- I am committed to being honest and transparent with you – not only because you deserve that from me because this is core to who I am. You are all my patients and protecting your health is my top priority.
- Earlier this afternoon it came to my attention that there may be people calling residents in our community who are falsely claiming to be Toronto Public Health staff. In one instance, the individual was asked to provide their banking information and their social insurance number. My team would never ask for this information because it is not relevant to our work. If you receive such a call, please do not share your social insurance number or financial information with the caller. Please contact Toronto Police Service to flag this matter.
- When a member of my team contacts a resident, we would only ask you for information to confirm your identity and questions related to your health. If you have questions about a public health call, please contact our Toronto Public Health hotline at 416-338-7600.
- In closing, we are anticipating nice weather this weekend. While I know we will all want to be outside, what continues to best for our community is to stay home as much as possible and to continue practising physical distancing. This doesn't mean you can't go outside at all. What I'm asking is for you to limit your outings and to make sure you are being careful about practising physical distancing when you do go outside. This is the best way to protect yourself and everyone around you.
- We need to continue our fight against COVID-19 and we need to keep doing what we can to reduce the spread of this virus in our city. So please continue to stay home, stay safe and take care of each other.