

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

- Thank you Mayor Tory. Today there are 169 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 5,655 people have recovered, an increase of 206 since yesterday. More detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city is available on our website.
- By way of update I also wanted to share that I recently learned of the second COVID-19 death in a resident in our shelter system. Sadly, on May 11, a man in his 70s who was a resident at Seaton House died in hospital. Once again, 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.
- There has been a COVID-19 outbreak at Seaton House since April 6. An outbreak is declared when two or more people in a shelter test positive for this virus. All Seaton House clients were tested, and the 28 individuals who tested positive were moved off-site to isolate. The outbreak will be declared over after 14 days with no new COVID-19 cases in this setting.
- In response to this situation at Seaton House, my team worked with the City's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration division to ensure:
 - Enhanced infection prevention and control, screening and physical distancing measures are in place;
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfection measures are in place; and
 - Signage on hand washing and COVID-19 signs and symptoms are prominently displayed.
- While this outbreak has been ongoing for a number of weeks, my team has confirmed that all of the appropriate measures are being taken to protect the health of residents and staff in this facility. We continue to carefully monitor this situation and my team is working hard with the staff at Seaton House to end this outbreak.

- On another topic, I started to receive questions about our seasonal Lyme disease prevention work, which usually begins around this time of year. Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick.
- While the weather has certainly not felt like spring this week, we know that nice weather is just around the corner and more people will soon be spending time outdoors in our local parks.
- Similar to previous years, our communicable diseases team at Toronto Public Health will follow-up on all reported human cases of confirmed Lyme disease.
- Additionally, we are continuing to recommend that residents use eTick.ca, an electronic tick identification platform. When residents find a tick on a person, animal or elsewhere in the environment, they can submit a photo to learn if the tick belongs to a species known to transmit Lyme disease, within 48 hours.
- Please remember the most effective way to prevent Lyme disease is to avoid tick bites when you go outside, especially in wooded areas. To protect against tick bites you should:
 - Wear long sleeves and tuck your pants into socks or boots.
 - Use an insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin, following the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Search your clothes and body for ticks when coming in from outside.
 - Carefully check your children and pets for ticks.
 - Take a shower to remove any ticks before they become attached.
- Finally, a friendly reminder that today is Takeout Day across Canada. Toronto is certainly known for its exceptional culinary diversity. During COVID-19 many local restaurants are offering their menus for takeout service.
- My family and I have always supported our city and neighbourhood restaurants. Since COVID-19 started my family has continued this tradition and has been ordering takeout or delivery from the many local restaurants in and around our neighbourhood.



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- Although we miss travelling across our city to sample the many food choices our city has to offer, this is one small way in which we are trying our best to support our community at this time. I encourage everyone to take part in Takeout Day to support our local businesses as you are able.
- In closing, please continue to practise physical distancing when you go outside, and please continue to take care of each other.

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