

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
May 8, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory. For today's update, there are a total of 180 new COVID-19 infections, and to date 4,717 who have recovered. As shared yesterday, my team updates our local data regularly with daily online updates. I encourage you to visit our website for more details.
- By way of update I also wanted to share that I recently learned that a man in his 60s who was a personal support worker sadly died on May 6. The individual was a personal support worker who worked for an agency serving clients in a local Toronto Community Housing Corporation building. My team has reviewed the location's infection prevention and control protocols and confirmed that their existing protocols exceed standards for these important areas.
- On behalf of my team, I extend my sincerest condolences to the friends and families of all individuals who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 in our community.
- These past months have been certainly difficult for all of us and as I reflected on my updates to you, I wanted to end this week on a positive note. When we face challenges, I believe that it is important to remember that there is always hope, and to look for inspiration. This can come in many forms and sometimes it is in the quiet leaders and heroes who are right in front of us.
- Over the past weeks I have observed many forms of inspiration in our city. We have witnessed our city coming together and people supporting each other during these very difficult and unprecedented times.
- These quiet acts of leadership, and small and large acts of kindness are making a difference in our community. It truly makes me proud to be proud be a Torontonian. I'd like to end this week by taking a moment to thank some of these people.

- First, I would like to extend a special thank you to every person in our community who is working hard to keep our city clean during this pandemic. Whether you are working in a hospital, shelter, long-term care home, on public transit or in a grocery store, on behalf of my team and our whole city, thank you for your dedication.
- There are also many meaningful examples of people and organizations across our city rising to the challenge under these stressful circumstances and demonstrating positive leadership in our community. For example:
 - Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment has transformed Scotiabank Arena into a giant kitchen to prepare thousands of meals for our community.
 - Some Toronto Public Library branches have opened their doors to distribution sites for food banks, making local food access easier for those in need.
 - People have built free pantries on their lawns to offer non-perishable free food for those in need and invited others to contribute what they can.
 - Restaurants are making meals for frontline workers who may not have time to shop for groceries or to cook.
 - Musicians are playing outside long-term care homes to bring joy to residents, and music schools across our city are offering free live streamed music classes for children on their social media channels.
 - Gyms and fitness studios have been offering free or pay what you can classes on social media.
 - The Toronto Zoo has brought the "Zoo to You" by livestreaming many animals on their website.
- Thank you also to everyone who unites at 7:30 each night on their balconies and front porches to say thank you to our frontline workers. This daily gesture is a powerful show of community spirit and support, and for this, I say thank you.
- I have been asked to provide an update on our public health recommendations for residents and businesses as we begin to open curbside pickup on Monday. I know that many people in our city are looking forward to this small step towards recovery.

Public Health

- To help keep our community safe, we strongly recommend that all participating stores promote physical distancing as much as possible. More details on this are available on our website.
- I have also been asked to provide advice on whether or not people should wear masks especially as retail begins to open in our city. First and foremost, the best thing you can do to protect yourself against COVID-19 is to wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face as much as possible, and maintain a physical distance of two metres from others. However, in a retail environment when physical distancing cannot be maintained and you are in close contact with others, a cloth mask or face covering is strongly recommended to keep your germs from spreading to others even if you have no symptoms.
- And of course, last but not least, with Mother's Day this weekend, I would like to close by saying Happy Mother's Day and offer my sincere thanks all mothers, mothers to be and mother figures in our city.
- I know that many of us will find it difficult not to visit with family this weekend. I encourage you to find creative ways to stay connected virtually and by phone. For me I plan on ordering local takeout and dropping off some to my mom, and then we will enjoy Mother's Day brunch with her virtually over FaceTime.
- As we head into the weekend, please, continue to stay safe by practising physical distancing when you go outside, and please continue to take care of each other.