

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
June 12, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory and good afternoon. Today there are 86 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 10,717 people have recovered, an increase of 159 since yesterday. For more detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city, I encourage you to visit our website.
- As I shared earlier this week, as we move forward with reopening our city, it is critical that we continue monitoring our progress towards our COVID-19 response objectives: to prevent loss of life, preserve the capacity of our health system and minimize social, economic and broader health impacts. We carefully monitor data and indicators to gauge our progress against our response objectives and assess our readiness to safely reopen. We do this to protect our city's health and so that we can adjust and update our actions as our local situation changes.
- Today, I'm pleased to launch our new COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard. This dashboard summarizes our current local situation using a core set of indicators that aligns with the *Province's Framework for Reopening* and was endorsed by Medical Officers of Health from around the province. As such, these indicators ensure a consistent assessment of how we are progressing in our local COVID-19 response.
- The information is organized in the four categories of the Provincial Framework for reopening our province. They are as follows:
 - Virus spread and containment: this section refers to COVID-19 case growth, the number of local outbreaks, and illness severity. These indicators ensure that our public health measures fit with our local outbreak circumstances.
 - Laboratory testing: while lab testing is not under local public health's purview, this section refers to lab testing trends in Toronto, including the time it takes from a swab being collected to when it is reported to us in public

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health, and the proportion of tests that are positive. These indicators help us assess our ability to identify cases in a timely way.

--Health system capacity: this section includes indicators related to acute and critical care capacity so we have a good sense of how prepared our health system is in the event of a resurgence in COVID-19 cases.

--Public health system capacity: this fourth and last category allows us to monitor our ability to conduct timely follow up on positive COVID-19 cases and their close contacts.

- Our Monitoring Dashboard is divided into 5 sections. The first section shows our overall status. The colours we have chosen to indicate our status are:
 - Green – which is assigned when indicators have met their goals.
 - Yellow – which is assigned when indicators have not yet met their goals and still need attention.
 - Red – which is assigned when indicators are consistently trending away from, and not meeting their goals.
- I'm pleased to share that our most recent update shows that we are progressing well in two areas where we are meeting a number of our goals, while further action is still needed in the other areas. This is not unexpected given where we are in our outbreak. I am encouraged by our progress and also aware that if our indicators start to move toward red, we would need to look more closely at some of our strategies for re-opening. At this time what we see is a variation among the indicators with enough positive evidence to support our current approach.
- Turning now to the details of our monitoring dashboard, this section shows the three indicators that capture case activity and how much transmission is still ongoing in Toronto. While these indicators are all going in the right direction and declining, we continue to carefully monitor new case counts for COVID-19. This is why this overall section on virus spread and containment has a yellow status.
- Our COVID-19 case counts have gone up and down, but have been recently declining. While we continue to detect cases, we have reason to believe this is largely related to increased testing. A more stable indicator that is less

influenced by testing is hospitalization. This figure is declining, which confirms that while COVID cases continue to be detected, fewer people are getting really sick from COVID-19.

- The last indicator shows the number of outbreaks in institutional and congregate settings, which include long-term care homes and shelter settings with our most vulnerable residents. This is also slowly decreasing as we make progress in these settings.
- While lab testing summarizes the work of our provincial lab partners, it is a key influencer for how quickly we in local public health can get in touch with people who have tested positive. You can see that this also has a yellow status and requires ongoing attention. This is because we need to see more cases with shorter turnaround processing times. The percent positivity indicator provides a measure of testing capacity and disease activity.
- Turning now to our health system capacity indicators, these indicators have a green status. The green status confirms we are achieving our goals for this important set of indicators, which measures our health care system capacity.
- This last section on the dashboard relates to how quickly we are able to connect with our positive COVID-19 cases and their close contacts. As you can see, we have reached the goal of 90% of cases reached within 24 hours for the most current period, however this is an indicator that we have to monitor closely given that it is highly impacted by how many lab-confirmed new COVID-19 cases we receive in a given day.
- I encourage everyone to monitor Toronto's progress by visiting our website to check out the dashboard, and other data and information that informs our phased approach to recovery and reopening. My team and I will continue to monitor all indicators and regularly update the dashboard. We will use this information to inform the areas which require focus and attention.
- While this dashboard is an important tool to monitor our progress, it is important to note that we must also consider the social, economic and other health considerations as we move towards safely reopening our city.

- In closing, with the weekend ahead of us, I encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy ActiveTO and space available for walking, running, biking or whatever your preferred activity is. So once again I ask you that while you are outside getting some much needed fresh air and exercise, please remember to continue practising physical distancing with those outside your newly established social circle. And as always, I ask that you please continue to take care of each other.

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Media contact: Lenore Bromley, Toronto Public Health, 416-338-7974,
Lenore.Bromley@toronto.ca