

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
June 24, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

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- Thank you Mayor Tory and good afternoon. Today there are 73 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto and 12,061 people have recovered, an increase of 101 since yesterday. I am encouraged by the steady decrease in our cases that are a result of your actions. As always, I recommend visiting our website for more detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city.
 - Today is a significant day for us. Today we join many communities around the province in stage 2 of reopening. We are making good progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our city. This is the result of your continued hard work and commitment to our public health measures. Together we are protecting our friends, our families and our loved ones and making sure our healthcare system is available for those who need it.
 - Today also marks five months since our first media briefing on COVID-19. We continue to learn about this virus and how to prevent its spread. And we still need your commitment to ensure we continue to move forward.
 - Today our dashboard shows that our status remains yellow. We are seeing lower hospitalizations and ICU admissions due to COVID-19 as a direct result of your hard work to maintain physical distancing and diligent hand washing. Your shared commitment and actions have allowed us to reopen and will help keep us going forward.
 - What is clear today is that our success so far and our ability to get back to enjoying our city relies on our continued commitment in the days and weeks ahead. While today marks an important day for us, we need to continue to be careful so we can keep moving forward. As I have shared before, the reality is that COVID-19 remains in our community and we need to learn to live safely with it while a vaccine and treatments are developed.

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- We know that COVID-19 has an incubation period of up to 2 weeks, which means that any new cases that result from easing our public health measures will start to appear in the next week or two.
- We also know from the experiences in other jurisdictions that we can expect to see an increase in cases as more people are connecting, mixing and moving around in our city.
- And until a vaccine or treatment is available, we must continue to be careful and to take care of each other. We need to keep assessing our local circumstances each week. Otherwise we run the very real risk of losing our progress.
- At this time, we are safely and carefully moving forward into stage 2. As we live with COVID-19, this means that we must remember that:
 - Being in close contact with others, especially in indoor settings is a significant risk for virus spread;
 - We must keep 6 feet distance from anyone outside of our social circle; and
 - We should wear cloth masks to protect each other when we are in public spaces. Remember my mask protects you and your mask protects me.
- Lastly, I wanted to let you know that next week, our Board of Health will meet virtually once again. One of the items that will be discussed will be our current COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. As part of my presentation, I will be recommending that City Council request the City Manager to engage the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Health Ontario, and the Ontario Ministry of Health to support my team's work to establish a volunteer isolation and quarantine centre system as well as other methods to support effective isolation for people who become infected with COVID-19. This report and the meeting agenda are available online.
- In closing, I ask that we not undo the progress that we have made so far and the many personal sacrifices that we have made over these past few months. Like others around the world, we are finding the balance between keeping COVID-19 in check and living our lives. I'm confident that we can keep the positive momentum going.

- Thank you again to everyone for working so hard to get us to this point. We have come a long way together. And it is for this reason, I ask you again to please consider others and please keep following our public health advice. Please continue to keep your distance from others outside of your social circle, keep washing your hands, keep wearing your cloth mask so we can protect each other from our germs and 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