

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
June 15, 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 90 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 11,098 people have recovered, an increase of 117 since yesterday. For more data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city, I ask you to visit our website.
- As announced by the Premier last week, Toronto and communities across the Golden Horseshoe were not yet ready to move to phase 2 of reopening. Today, the Premier announced that Toronto, Peel and Windsor-Essex will continue to remain in phase 1. I believe this is reasonable given our current circumstances. I know that our local businesses may also benefit from some time to get ready for safe reopening.
- Please remember, it is as a result of your efforts that we continue to make significant and steady progress. Your continued physical distancing and diligent hand washing are helping us to move forward. And, I am hopeful that we will soon be able to join other Ontario communities in proceeding to safely reopen our city.
- I was pleased to launch our COVID-19 monitoring dashboard last week to help us track 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. While it is important for our numbers to decline, equally important is our progress against these objectives to assess our readiness to safely reopen.
- Today, our dashboard shows some further good news. Our overall status continues to remain at yellow, demonstrating steady progress. We have continued to achieve our goals and are staying below the threshold with both health system capacity and public health capacity. This means that we continue to protect our healthcare resources and we are also making good

progress to conduct timely follow up on our positive COVID-19 cases and their close contacts.

- I am encouraged to see the number of COVID-19 cases reported to us continue to decline. We are getting closer to our goal of 14 days of decrease but not quite there yet. While this indicator is progressing, we continue to keep a close eye on new hospitalizations and outbreaks, and I'm happy to report these indicators are improving and continue to trend in the right direction, suggesting fewer severe infections and less disease activity among our most vulnerable.
- At this time I cannot give you an exact date for us to move to the next stage of reopening, however I encourage you to not focus on the calendar. Rather, I recommend that you visit our COVID-19 monitoring dashboard to see how we are progressing as a city, and I encourage you to continue to help us to reduce virus spread in our city.
- Each of us has a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and so we can keep moving forward to safely reopen our city. First, while I encourage you to enjoy getting outside, I recommend that before you leave the house, make sure you are prepared. This means packing the right items to take with you, in the right way.
- This includes:
 - Disinfecting wipes, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, so you can clean your hands while on the go; and
 - A clean cloth mask or face covering, stored in a clean re-sealable plastic bag.
- When you are out and about, try to avoid crowds and maximize your time outdoors, or in open air spaces. If you are indoors in a public space, where it is not possible to consistently maintain physical distance, please use a cloth mask and keep it on at all times to protect others from your germs.
- While a face mask does not replace other public health measures like physical distancing and washing your hands frequently, it is another important tool that



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helps reduce virus spread. Please remember, when you get home, wash your hands immediately and wash your cloth mask or face covering.

- Finally:
 - Continue to work at home if you can;
 - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
 - Stay home if you are sick for any reason; and
 - Get tested if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19. If you can't drive yourself or walk to an assessment centre, remember if you need to take a taxi, wear a mask and please tell the taxi driver before you get into the car that you have symptoms of an illness.
- These actions may seem simple, but they are powerful ways to keep us and our loved ones safe. Taken all together, these measures will reduce virus spread and continue protecting our healthcare system for those who need it most. These actions will also help us to continue building on our progress towards safely reopening our city. We all need to continue doing our part to keep moving forward.
- So please, continue to practise physical distancing, and where you can't, continue to take care of each other by wearing a cloth mask and doing your part to reduce virus spread.

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