

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
June 22, 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 37 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. We are making good progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our city and I am pleased to see a steady decline in our local cases. To date, 11,879 people have recovered, an increase of 62 since yesterday. As always, for more data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city, I encourage you to visit our website.
- As Premier Ford announced earlier today, this Wednesday Toronto will join the rest of the province in stage 2 of reopening. This is the result of your continued efforts to drive down our local COVID-19 cases. Your actions are helping us to move forward and as a result, some of our local businesses will soon reopen for modified services with appropriate public health measures in place.
- While this is good news, I also understand that this transition may bring some people concern about the ongoing risk of infection and illness. We are still learning new ways of socializing and interacting safely in our new reality as we live with COVID-19.
- So what does moving to stage 2 mean for us? It means that with certain modifications to reduce the chance of virus spread, a number of different businesses and services can reopen as they are ready. This includes:
 - Outdoor patio dining services at restaurants and bars;
 - Recreational water services, including splash pads, wading pools, and outdoor swimming pools;
 - Personal service settings, including hair and nail salons and tattoo parlours;
 - Shopping malls;
 - Weddings and funerals, with limits on indoor settings of 30% capacity and outdoor settings of up to 50 people. Please visit our website for a complete list of businesses, spaces and activities that can resume and the modifications they need in order to reopen.

- I am confident that we can enter Stage 2 with ongoing care. It is your actions that have allowed us to transition to this new stage. You can see from our monitoring dashboard that new cases, hospitalizations and outbreaks all continue to decrease and that these indicators have met the goals we set out for a safe reopening; our health system continues to be available. We are on target with contacting cases and conducting their follow up. Testing volume is up and the percentage of tests that are positive is down. We will continue to monitor our dashboard to ensure our key indicators stay in the green as we progress through to the next stage.
- We also need to keep watching and learning from our own experiences and from other places that have experienced COVID-19 outbreaks earlier than us. We will need to be watching very carefully for any flare-ups of new cases.
- Around the world we are finding the balance between protecting our health and reopening many of the businesses and activities that are important to all of us. We still need to be thoughtful and cautious to keep everyone safe.
- The reality is that COVID-19 remains in our community and we need to learn to live with it while a vaccine and treatments are developed.
- We are making good progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please remember that our continued progress rests on you and your actions to keep us going forward. We all have to keep doing our part. This means staying home if you are sick, maintaining a physical distance of six feet from others outside of your social circle, wearing a cloth mask especially when you are in indoor public spaces, and washing your hands often. This will continue to be our new reality as we live with COVID-19.
- As I shared last week, as more people are connecting, mixing and moving around in our city, I'm asking you to keep track of where you are when you are outside your home.



Public Health

- Whether it is by using a mobile app, like the one announced by the provincial and federal governments last week, or keeping a log of where you have been by taking photos with your phone with your location settings on, or by recording your activities in a daily calendar, I ask that you please take note. Should you be diagnosed with COVID-19, this information will help public health to quickly identify your close contacts and help us work together to stop virus spread and keep our city safe.
- Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this point. While we are not completely out of the woods yet, we have come a long way and we have done this together.
- For this reason, I ask you 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 to protect others from your germs and please continue to take care of each other.

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