

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 29, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory and good afternoon. Today there are 13 confirmed cases and 6 probable new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 13,824 people have recovered, an increase of 39 since yesterday. I am pleased to see our numbers trending in the right direction.
- Today is a significant day for us. As Premier Ford announced earlier today, we will join many communities around the province in Stage 3 of reopening at 12:01 a.m. on Friday. We are making good progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our city. As I have shared many times before, this is the result of your continued hard work. Together, we have been protecting our friends, our families and our loved ones and we have made sure that our healthcare system is available for those who need it.
- Taken altogether, what this means is that we will get a bit more of our city back this Friday. However, as I have stated before, COVID-19 is still here. We need to stay focused to prevent new cases or a spike in activity as much as we can.
- For this reason I ask that you keep following our public health measures as you begin enjoying the activities we have all missed and are all looking forward to. We need to proceed with caution and care as we move forward. Whether it is dining indoors at a local restaurant, attending a concert, going to the movies or visiting a library, please keep washing your hands, watching your distance and wearing your mask. These measures are still needed to keep us as safe as possible as we move forward.
- In Stage 3, indoor gatherings will be permitted for 50 people and 100 people in outdoor settings. And of course, mandatory masks are required in all indoor public settings with some exceptions such as when you are eating, drinking, or

exercising. Wearing masks will be part of our new normal for the foreseeable future in order to help keep each other safe as we move forward.

- As Canada's largest city we need to consider what is necessary for our city and our local circumstances to move forward into Stage 3 and keep our residents and our city as safe as possible.
- Recent increases in COVID-19 cases reported in other cities that have reopened before us provide clear evidence of the potential for this virus to spread, if given the chance. We need to move forward with caution and care so we don't lose our progress.
- To help us move forward as safely as possible, on today's City Council agenda was a report recommending additional public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These measures were recommended as part of the provincial Stage 3 order applied to our city, recognizing that Stage 3 comes with opportunity with more close contact between people, especially in indoor settings. And, therefore, opportunities for COVID-19 to spread.
- In food and drink establishments, I recommended:
 - Screening staff for COVID-19 symptoms at the start of every shift;
 - Requiring capacity limits of no more than 100 people indoors and 10 people per table;
 - Requiring customers to be seated at all times unless entering or leaving, using the washroom, or paying;
 - Keeping a customer log with contact information for at least one member of each party, along with the date and time. Information should be held for 30 days and provided to my team at Toronto Public Health, if needed for contact tracing.
- In condominiums and apartment buildings, given the number of people in those settings, I asked for a temporary bylaw for buildings to have policies requiring the use of masks or face coverings in enclosed common spaces, such as lobbies, elevators and laundry rooms. I also asked for signage to be displayed. Similar to the existing bylaw on mask use in indoor public spaces, there are exemptions, for example for people who are unable to wear a mask



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or face covering for medical reasons, children under two years of age, and other reasonable accommodations. I am pleased to report that all of these recommendations were just approved earlier today by Council.

- We will continue living with COVID-19 until an effective treatment, or vaccine is available. Until then, there continues to be an ongoing risk of infection from this virus. For this reason, once again I ask that you please continue to wash your hands, watch your distance from others, wear your mask and please, and continue to take care of each other.

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