

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 6, 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 67 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 12,844 people have recovered, an increase of 71 since yesterday. As always, for more detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city, I encourage you to visit our website.
- As mentioned during my last update, starting today we are now moving to a new data reporting schedule that aligns with our COVID-19 monitoring dashboard cycle and we will be updating our COVID-19 case numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. While there is some fluctuation occurring in our daily data, at this point in the outbreak, it is more valuable to focus on the general trends and patterns. Our new reporting schedule will allow our data team to dig deeper into these trends to better inform our actions to further reduce virus spread in our city. If our local situation changes, we will certainly go back to the daily reporting frequency.
- In keeping with our goal to help you to stay informed, I am pleased to share that this week my team will be publishing individual-level, non-identifiable COVID-19 case data on age range, gender, hospitalization, and the date of an individual's illness, and neighbourhood. This information, which will be published on the City's Open Data public platform, will help demonstrate how this virus has impacted our city.
- As of today, our COVID-19 monitoring dashboard shows that our overall status continues to be yellow, with three of four categories of indicators showing a yellow status and one showing a green status. Of note from the dashboard, our 7-day moving average for new cases and the number of new outbreaks showed small increases last week which changed the overall virus spread and containment category to a yellow status on Friday. The dashboard otherwise remains stable.



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- We are still in the middle of a pandemic and it is to be expected that as the city opens up and more people interact in the community that we will see changes and fluctuations in our dashboard indicators. The key is to monitor these indicators and to be quick to act, when and if our indicators tell us that our situation is no longer improving.
- As you know, last week Toronto City Council voted unanimously in favour of requiring that masks or face coverings be worn in all enclosed public places. This action, which will help us to better protect each other, will take effect tomorrow.
- This means that wearing a mask or face covering will be required in all indoor public spaces such as convenience stores, malls, grocery stores, bakeries, farmers' markets, and businesses and offices open to the public, just to name a few.
- You are not required to wear masks at home, while eating on an outdoor restaurant patio and this bylaw also does not apply to child-care centres. I think it is also important to note that it is understood that not everyone can wear a mask. If someone is suffering from a medical condition that makes it difficult to breathe or function while wearing a mask, they should not wear one. Children under the age of two also do not have to wear a mask. A complete list of settings that this bylaw applies to is available on our website. When heading out of your home, I encourage you to make sure you have your mask with you.
- Over the weekend I was very pleased to see most people wearing masks while they were out and about running errands in our city. I am also very encouraged to see that many people are taking this public health action seriously as demonstrated by the more than 10,000 visits made to the mask bylaw website last week. For this, I thank you.
- Finally, with this very warm weather upon us, many residents have been enjoying our parks, beaches, pools and splash pads. These are great places for us to go to cool down during hot weather, however it is important for us to work together to avoid overcrowding.

- COVID-19 is still circulating in our community and we are still living through a pandemic, so please be mindful of keeping six feet distance with everyone who is not part of your social circle. Please keep your mask on hand for situations where you cannot maintain that distance. These actions will help us to keep reducing virus spread in our city. We do not want to set ourselves back and see a surge in new infections as has been the case in some parts of the United States.
- The reality is that we must continue to be vigilant in our efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our city. I know that everyone wants to get back to life as it was before COVID-19. However, this is our new normal until we have a treatment, or vaccine available. Please keep doing your part and support each other to help keep our city moving forward.
- The hot temperatures are expected to continue in our city this week, so please remember to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and call or text family members and friends to check on others who live alone. Please also continue to keep your distance from others outside of your social circle, keep washing your hands and wearing your mask where a 6 foot distance cannot be maintained. Please do everything you can to continue taking care of each other.

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