

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 13, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory and good afternoon everyone. Over the past three days, there were 120 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 13,148 people have recovered, an increase of 120 since Friday.
- Overall we are continuing to see fewer people diagnosed with and hospitalized from COVID-19 in our city. At this point in our outbreak, we are seeing approximately 40 new confirmed cases and less than two people hospitalized each day from this virus. As well, the number of new active outbreaks continues to go down. At our peak in early May, there were 108 active COVID-19 outbreaks. Today, we currently have 13 active outbreaks.
- And finally, we've also seen improvements in how quickly positive cases are reported to us by our provincial lab partners. Thank you to our health system colleagues and especially to the team at Public Health Ontario for their hard work which has led to this progress.
- Earlier today Premier Ford announced that many parts of the province will be moving into stage 3 of reopening on Friday. While our situation here in Toronto is certainly improving and we have made significant progress, other locations in Ontario that entered stage 2 a little earlier are moving to stage 3 at the end of the week. The residents of these areas are being asked to continue to follow what are now our every day public health actions to keep each other safe. These include washing hands, watching distance and wearing masks when distance cannot be maintained.
- The province has indicated that Toronto, along with some other communities mostly located in the Golden Horseshoe, will join the third stage at a later date. This is of course pending continued progress.



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- We continue to monitor and learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions as they move through this pandemic. Our data shows that our public health measures have been working, however the experiences in other cities reinforces that we need to reopen with caution.
- For example, there have been recent reports of COVID-19 outbreaks in many Canadian and U.S. cities since they reopened earlier this month. Some cities which had modest outbreaks are now reporting spikes, whereas others are reporting sudden and alarming surges of infections. It is for this reason that I am concerned that we will see more COVID-19 transmission in our city if we are not careful. This virus continues to spread in our community and as more people mix, unless we are vigilant, we will see more COVID-19 activity as we ease our public health measures.
- If we want to keep moving forward, we all need to continue to do our part so we aren't giving this virus a chance to spread. This means washing our hands often, maintaining physical distance, wearing our masks, and staying home when we are sick. This is what we all must do if we want to safely move into stage 3 with others in our province. I will keep you updated on our progress as we move forward.
- In the meantime, a local sign of our progress comes from the National Hockey League announcement last week naming Toronto as one of its Hub cities. Not only is this great news for our local economy, it also demonstrates the NHL's confidence in the people of Toronto and our collective commitment to public health measures and keeping each other safe.
- The Hub City plan has all teams living in a "bubble" where they are separate from the general public. My team at Toronto Public Health worked with provincial and federal public health counterparts to review the NHL protocols with one overarching goal in mind: to protect the health of our city and our residents.
- A further sign of our progress is seen in today's CampTO launch that welcomed close to 2,500 campers to their first day of summer camp. I know many of us have fond memories of summer camp and today's CampTO launch along with



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last week's NHL announcement, are important steps that help build our community as we continue moving forward with getting our city back.

- My team also continues to plan for the Stage 3 reopening of Toronto and we are working on many new guidance documents to support residents and businesses in making this transition successfully. I will let you know once these documents are finalized and ready for the public.
- In closing, I know we all want to continue building on the progress that we have made so far. The only way forward is to keep washing our hands, watching our distance, wearing our masks, and working together to get our city back.

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