

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
April 12, 2021 at 4 p.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Chief Pegg, and good afternoon.
- Today I am reporting 1,296 new cases of COVID-19.
- There are 632 people in hospital.
- 108 of them are in the ICU.
- Sadly, we are reporting five more deaths to COVID-19.
- From last Thursday and through today, we have seen 6,114 new cases of COVID-19 in Toronto.
- These numbers speak for themselves today.
- I will only add that when the Hospital for Sick Children is providing ICU care to adults, you know you're living through one of the worst periods of the pandemic.
- The women and men in Toronto's hospitals, who are somehow finding reserves of professional resolve and personal strength, are truly incredible.
- Know that your colleagues in public health are working tirelessly alongside you to prevent on-going transmission in the community, pushing through exhaustion to address cluster and outbreak investigation, infection prevention and control, and vaccination rollout to name but a few.
- No matter where I look, whether in public health or in healthcare, I see people doing heroic work under a crushing third wave of virus.

Public Health

- What we are seeing is the explosive exponential growth described by me and many of my peers when the variants first arrived in Toronto.
- The old COVID-19 virus is being bulldozed by the B.1.1.7 variant – with the other two primary variants present in Toronto as well. It is much, much easier to spread a variant COVID-19 virus so please, stay home.
- Every time the virus spreads from one person to another, the virus has an opportunity to mutate – even to create a new variant that could create a whole new set of problems.
- Please remember this: everybody needs to do two things in the days ahead.
- We need to stay home and apart from each other until the tide turns and we need to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
- If we mix right now, we're adding risk upon risk.
- If we stay apart, we will, with patience and diligence, reduce risk.
- If we get vaccinated as soon as our turn comes, we will reduce risk.
- If you have had your vaccination continue observing the steps for self-protection to protect others.
- If you are amongst those waiting for your vaccination the best thing you can do is to stay away from people you don't live with as much as you possibly can.
- When you can't, be outdoors as much as possible but still be strict about the steps for self-protection.
- The 1918 flu pandemic was so deadly and so widespread that more than a hundred years later we still compare it with what is happening now.
- But even then – the 1918 pandemic ran its course and ended.

- Today, we have incomparably advanced scientific and medical knowledge.
- We have information and ways to share it instantly.
- We have a world of advantages that will help bring the COVID-19 pandemic to an end.
- And we have ourselves – able to do things in daily life to bring it to an end even faster.
- COVID-19 has produced one challenge after another but we live in a time when we have never been better positioned to meet those challenges and, ultimately, over-come them.

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