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.
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, overcome them.

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