

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 21, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good morning.
- As our media conference is earlier today, I am reporting yesterday's numbers. Our dashboard will be updated with today's numbers, a little bit later this afternoon.
- Yesterday, there were 42 new cases of COVID-19.
- 44 people were in hospital, 18 in the ICU.
- Yesterday, there were no deaths reported from COVID-19.
- Since our briefing a week ago case counts have remained consistently low.
- Our most recent seven-day moving average is 22 new cases daily.
- The seven day moving average for new hospitalizations is under three daily.
- It is enormously, enormously satisfying to be able to report figures like these to you.
- It reflects the willingness of the people of Toronto to be vaccinated.
- It reflects the protectiveness of the vaccines people are embracing and of efforts like the Home Stretch, which, as the Mayor just mentioned, is making it easier for people to get vaccinated and then enjoy the same sense of relief and protection that so many are already feeling.
- We're well on the way to seeing 2 million Torontonians fully vaccinated.

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- There are still some gaps to close in certain age groups, but they too are moving in the right direction and all in excess of 70 per cent partly or fully vaccinated.
- Yesterday, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health said he'd like to see Ontario's vaccination rate reach 90 per cent.
- There's no question: the higher the vaccination rate, the safer we will all be.
- I think one of the most important things we can do is talk to each other: if you're vaccinated, say so.
- If you're talking to someone who hasn't done it, please, encourage them. Tell them about your experience. Tell them if you had side effects or if you didn't.
- Most importantly, tell them how it feels in the days and weeks after to live life knowing you've got the best protection possible.
- Over the coming weeks you will see an expansion of the pop-up clinics and mobile vaccination approaches that experience has shown us works so well.
- Additionally, people can increasingly get vaccinated by their primary care providers and at local pharmacies.
- COVID-19 is surging again in many other places in the world – and spreading unchecked in many more.
- But Toronto is in a unique and, frankly, enviable position compared to many other places.
- We're able to talk more about what we can do than what we can't.
- And there is no better way to secure these gains than by being vaccinated and by reaching a high level of vaccination in all age groups, for everyone who lives in Toronto.

Public Health

- I would encourage people who are not yet vaccinated to come forward, to take advantage of the peace of mind and real protection that vaccination adds to everyday life.
- I'm also sure there are a lot of people who want to get vaccinated but can barely get everything else done in a day.
- Outreach like the Home Stretch initiative makes this easier, especially for people who struggle to get access to vaccination anywhere other than close to home.
- Someone reminded me that the home stretch is that final stretch leading to the finish line.
- We have shown an enthusiasm for vaccination that other health authorities around the world must envy. Our young people aged 18 to 24 are knocking it out of the park in their vaccination rates – that's not the story in many other places and, for us, is something to be very proud of.
- For us as individuals, vaccination is an easy win.
- For all of us in Toronto, a highly vaccinated city will be a new start – one where we are freer from limits caused by the virus, where we're protected against COVID-19 and where we can focus more on the things that really matter in life.