

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 7, 2021 at 2 p.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Chief Pegg, and good afternoon.
- Today there are 27 new cases of COVID-19 in Toronto.
- 68 people are in hospital.
- 24 people are in the ICU.
- I'm sorry to say there is one new death to report as a result of COVID-19.
- In my view, at this point in the pandemic, while we are less at the mercy of the COVID-19 virus, we aren't quite in total control of it either.
- What we have is the upper hand.
- The job now is to keep it.
- Doing that means closing the vaccination gap and, individually, remembering that with the Delta variant circulating first dose is not full protection from COVID-19.
- This requires full vaccination, which takes two doses and then two weeks to let your body build up best protection.
- In terms of how we're doing on vaccination the news is mostly very good.
- The group with the highest level of first dose vaccination is young people ages 18 to 24 – they are almost 90 per cent vaccinated with their first dose.
- They are approaching the 50 per cent mark for second doses.



Public Health

- This is amazing, because in many other places public health units are struggling to get young people to be vaccinated.
- So I particularly want to acknowledge and thank young people because they're stepping up as real leaders in all of this and it's a terrific thing to see and a terrific example to everyone, of all ages.
- You should be proud of yourselves. I know that I am proud of you.
- Still, there are a number of age groups where there's a big opportunity to close the vaccination gap.
- I am a little concerned, for example, about people from age 35 through age 49, who are still in the low 70s in terms of the percentage of first doses delivered.
- Above and beyond age, overall, as you heard from the Mayor we have about 25 per cent of the city that still hasn't received a first dose and about 50 per cent of people left to get a second dose and be fully vaccinated.
- Right now, the single biggest risk to your health is not being vaccinated.
- Both mRNA vaccines offer you equally strong protection and a safe pathway forward into life in reopening.
- We're at a point in the pandemic where Toronto is in two places at once.
- The progress in vaccination we've made is making a difference.
- We're healthier, we're safer and we're sustaining the momentum toward more and more reopening.
- Still, there are a lot of people at risk because they haven't been vaccinated.
- To cement our progress and close the vaccination gap we need people willing to roll up their sleeves to get fully vaccinated.

Public Health

- On July 1st, I went to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre because I was eligible to complete my vaccination.
- My second dose was the Moderna vaccine.
- During my appointment a voice boomed out, top of the lungs : “I am fully, fully vaccinated!”
- And the people nearby spontaneously clapped and cheered.
- The voice belonged to my youngest, who was also eligible for a second dose and had come along with me to get it done.
- But it reminded me what a thrill it is for people to get vaccinated and to have the peace of mind and sense of control that being vaccinated brings.
- So I encourage anyone who still has the opportunity to get “fully, fully” vaccinated to do it.
- It’s one of those rare moments in life that you really have to try for yourself to know how great it feels.