

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
July 8, 2020 at 4:15 p.m.
Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

-
- Thank you Mayor Tory and good afternoon. Over the past two days, there have been 57 new COVID-19 infections in Toronto. To date, 12,935 people have recovered, an increase of 91 since Monday. As always, for more detailed data on the status of COVID-19 cases in our city, I encourage you to visit our website.
 - I'm pleased to share that when we look overall at our data trend, our new COVID-19 case reports continue to remain low. There is also some good news in our COVID-19 monitoring dashboard update. Today, while our overall status continues to be yellow, our health care capacity category has gone back to an overall green status as a result of a decline in our acute care bed occupancy rate indicator. I wanted to also acknowledge improvements in the province's lab processing indicators, which are the highest they've been since we started monitoring. The proportion of new COVID-19 tests that the provincial lab processes within 48 hours has now improved to 77%. This moves this indicator from red to yellow. I would like to extend my thanks and acknowledgement to our provincial colleagues for their hard work which is reflected in the progress they have made in these lab processing times.
 - As we conduct deeper dives into our data we will be able to better determine what data are actionable, and how do we get ourselves ready for future COVID-19 activity given what we have seen in other jurisdictions that are a little ahead of us in their COVID-19 outbreaks. We know that it is this kind of data analysis that will actually make a difference to us as a city and it is what best protects us and the health of the residents of this city.
 - Yesterday marked the first day of our city's new mask bylaw, which requires us to wear masks, or face coverings in all indoor public settings in our city. This is an important step in helping our city to continue to safely reopen.

- As we look to the experiences of other jurisdictions this gives us more reason to promote the use of masks. When we keep our germs from others by wearing a mask, we help reduce virus spread and strengthen our ability to get our city back. This is especially important because:
 - We know that people can spread the virus to others before they have symptoms.
 - We also might not know if the people around us have a mother, father, or other loved one who is battling an illness or has a chronic condition that makes them more vulnerable from the impacts of COVID-19.
 - We all want our city and our local businesses to thrive, and we want people in our community to be healthy. Wearing a mask is a simple and inexpensive action we can all take to take care of each other and do our part to keep us moving forward towards Stage 3 of reopening.
- Our goal throughout this pandemic has been to save lives, protect our healthcare system capacity, and minimize the social, economic and broader health impact of COVID-19 on our city. Wearing a mask is an action we can all take to contribute to these goals. This is why I am so pleased to see so many people taking the responsible action and wearing masks in our city. Thank you. Remember, as I have shared before, I wear my mask to protect you and you wear yours to protect me.
- Lastly, the extreme heat is expected to continue in our city. With this in mind, I encourage residents to cool down at one of the City's many outdoor pools and splash pads that are now open. Please remember to practice physical distancing and stay six feet away from others. If you are heading outside, consider doing this during the cooler parts of the day and please remember to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Lastly, please keep taking care of each other by calling or texting family, friends, and neighbours living alone to make sure they are staying hydrated and keeping cool.