

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – April 10, 2020**

As of April 10, 2020, Canada has a total of 21, 243 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 6237 cases with Toronto having 1769 cases. **At this time, residents of North Yorkers continue to remain symptom free and staff members continue to self-monitor.** If this changes, we will notify all staff, residents and stakeholders as soon as possible.

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You may have been hearing about the many Long Term Care (LTC) homes in the media, and the risks associated with them during the COVID-19 pandemic. At North Yorkers, we do not fall under the same category as LTC and therefore do not follow the same guidelines. We have, however, adapted the various protocols to the best of our ability to meet the needs of our residents' safety at North Yorkers.

Some limitation that we face during the pandemic in comparison to LTC facilities is that we do not have any nursing staff on site and therefore are unable to do in house testing including testing for COVID-19. We also have a limited ability to self-isolate as all areas of the house are shared except for bedrooms.

We have done many things so far to ensure that our residents are kept as safe as possible from the virus, such as:

- Active screening: All staff must screen themselves before each shift, and all residents are screened on a daily basis. This includes checking of temperature.
- We have restricted visitors from entering the home, and all residents are to remain home at all times.
- All staff have been instructed on the Personal Protective Equipment they are required to wear while providing support to the residents. North Yorkers is ensuring that there is always a good stock of PPE on hand and is in communication with the Ministry on an ongoing basis about alternative ways to retrieve PPE in the event of a shortage.
- A Pandemic Plan is in place. All stakeholders, staff and residents have access to this at any time. It is also located on our website.
- All deliveries are to be left outside the door. Staff have been instructed on how to properly handle all deliveries in a secure manner.
- Hand hygiene and surface disinfection is in place on a frequent basis.
- Meal times have been modified to multiple sittings so residents can remain 6 feet apart at all times.

We understand that this time is very challenging for many organizations in the community and we are constantly assessing the various situations and learning from them. We would like to assure you that we are following the best practices that we can at North Yorkers without being classified as Long Term Care.

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus). Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675

Please refer back to previous updates as lots of important information has been provided that may still be relevant. If you have any questions or require more information on how you can protect yourself and those around you from the COVID-19 virus, please contact our Outreach Communication Facilitator Jessica, at 416-222-4448 or [Jessica.nydp@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.nydp@gmail.com)