

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – April 21, 2020

As of April 21, 2020, Canada has a total of 37, 382 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 11, 735 cases with Toronto having 3682 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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North Yorkers for Disabled Persons is taking precautions in alignment with directives from Ontario Health as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have shared our current practices with family members, and would like to keep all stakeholders informed of the information that we provide to family members, staff and residents.

We have regular contact with the residents' physicians and pharmacists and are able to reach out with when needed to these professionals when other concerns or questions about the residents' health care arise. This will enable our external healthcare practitioners to triage and prioritize support for the residents according to needs on matters both related and unrelated to COVID-19.

All staff working within NYDP are aware that COVID-19 symptoms may present differently for each resident, depending on their existing medical fragility and the apparent lack of specificity of the virus (i.e., it appears to infect individuals in different ways). We will make every effort to be particularly vigilant in recognizing any deterioration in the health of or presentation of possible symptoms by the residents. If there are any noticeable signs of health deterioration, the primary family contact, Public Health officials and the primary health care physician will be contacted as soon as realistically possible.

Ontario Health has put forth an order, which does not allow for a Personal Support Care Worker (PSW) or other Health Care worker to simultaneously work in a Long Term Care facility and other similar agencies, such as NYDP. This is to minimize the possibility of cross-contamination between agencies or facilities as staff may carry the virus from one job to another. As a result, some of our staff members are in a position where they must choose where they will work, as some of our staff have other part-time jobs as PSWs in other health care settings.

Please note that the NYDP Board of Directors has provided their full support and we also really appreciate the support and cooperation of family and friends of the residents. These are certainly exceptional times and we recognize that this is a very anxious time for everyone.

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We know you have questions about the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and now is the opportunity to get answers straight from the most trusted sources. Toronto's top doctor Eileen de Villa will answer your questions about COVID-19, live online, for 30 minutes on Wednesday April 22, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST.

Submit your questions about COVID-19 in the chat window during the live stream, or post them on Twitter using the hashtag #COVIDanswers.

Live Online: <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2020/04/19/coronavirus-ama-dreileendevilla/>

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If you or someone you know uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and requires any resources related to COVID-19, please contact Jessica (Jessica.nydp@gmail.com) and she can assist you in accessing and/or creating various communication tools.

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) Communication Rights Toolkit
<https://www.cdacanada.com/resources/covid-19/covid-19-communication-rights-toolkit/>

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at 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

Thank you to Jennifer Ribedoux for the shout out to all Residential Staff!

