

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – March 25, 2020**

As of March 25, 2020, Canada has a total of 1959 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 688 cases with Toronto having 280 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 and residents as soon as possible.

During this pandemic, part of our daily routine at North Yorkers is screening both staff and residents for symptoms of COVID-19. This is also the case for most other Health Care and Attendant Service Providers. Screening a consumer is usually a quick and easy process of asking a few vital questions, and moving on to the booking if there are no concerns. What happens if your consumer has a communication disability and uses an alternative form of communication? Getting through these “few simple questions” may become a more challenging feat. Answering these questions might not be possible for some individuals without the use of pictographs or a communication device/display. At North Yorkers, we have created an Augmentative and Alternative Communication friendly screening tool that is designed to allow staff members to ask the important and necessary questions while remaining at a safe distance, and providing opportunities for the consumer to easily answer the questions in their own way. Please email Jessica at [Jessica.nydp@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.nydp@gmail.com) if you would like a copy of this adapted screening tool.

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Is a climate wakeup the silver lining on a horrible situation? The link below will direct you to a podcast asking this exact question. As many of us are at home in self-isolation, enjoying a podcast might help pass the time and we can learn about the positive things that are happening to our climate while we practice social distancing.

Podcast: <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2020/03/25/coronavirus-environment/>

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:

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)