

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 12, 2020

As of May 12, 2020, Canada has a total of 70,342 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 20,907 cases with Toronto having 7557 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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Updated Measures for COVID-19 Prevention at North Yorkers

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to be a threat to our vulnerable population, it is important that we maintain vigilant infection prevention protocols at North Yorkers. We have seen that people in the community are relaxing their efforts as time goes on, but we encourage our staff on a daily basis to maintain all safeguards that we have in place, with maximum efforts.

We have provided our staff with many policies, protocols and guidelines for infection prevention while at work. We will follow these protocols and guidelines exactly as they are written, until we have direction from Public Health that there is no more risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. Until the management and Board of Directors provides written instruction to relax the current practices in place, we expect our staff to maintain our current infection prevention measures.

Updated infection Prevention Measures Include:

- Updated staff screener based on Ontario Health symptom updates, are completed at the start of each shift.
- Frequent reiteration that the current PPE protocols in place are what is considered best practice by Public Health
- PPE protocols include:
 - Gloves must be worn while supporting each consumer, and must be discarded between bookings and when soiled
 - Masks must be worn for the entire duration of the shift. When eating, staff must remain isolated from all coworkers and residents
 - Goggles must be worn during bookings and can be disinfected and reused throughout the shift. Each staff member has their own individual set and are not shared amongst staff.
 - Increased hand hygiene is mandatory
 - Increased disinfectant practices are in place and performed by dedicated staff (not incorporated into existing shifts)
 - Extra PPE (Face shields, goggles, gowns) are available if and when needed
 - Extra stock of PPE including N95 masks are being purchased on a frequent basis
 - Recommendations from Ontario Health for PPE conservation have been shared, such as when to (and not to) extend the use, or reuse PPE

We are doing everything in our power to provide the staff and residents with all the resources needed to stay protected from the virus, and we do not want to see our efforts go to waste.

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A very Canadian solution to a problem we'll hopefully never face

In today's Big Story Podcast, special guest Kenny Smith, *Temporary Healthcare Creative*, discusses Canada's creative plan on creating temporary coronavirus care centres if and when needed.

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2020/05/12/coronavirus-health-care-solution/>

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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.

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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