

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 13, 2020

As of May 13, 2020, Canada has a total of 71, 486 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 21, 236 cases with Toronto having 7775 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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When will things go back to normal at North Yorkers?

As the province continues to announce the slow re-opening of the economy, we will likely follow a similar approach as we make decisions on how and when to slowly “re-open” North Yorkers.

For example, our first phase of re-opening (which is still several weeks away), may allow visiting nurses to resume supporting some of our residents, and postponed inspections to take place. We will allow some non-essential deliveries to be made in a secure fashion however we **will not** allow visitors, agency staff, resident outings, class, or programs to resume.

The phases of re-opening are only just being discussed now, and we will provide a more fulsome plan when appropriate and when we have enough data, risk analysis and scientific evidence from reliable sources to inform our plan.

Please keep in mind that even as the Government announces the re-opening of more and more retailers and workplaces in the community, it does not mean that we at North Yorkers will also be loosening our current protocols in place. We will ensure that when decisions are made for relaxing our practices, all stakeholders, and the Board of Directors will be involved in the decision making process.

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The closure of Toronto’s iconic annual fair

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) has made an announcement yesterday that they will not be opening for the 2020 season. The CNE has been an annual tradition for many families, and this will be only the second time the CNE will not open in 142 years, the first time being during the Second World War. The closure of the CNE means that the air show will also be cancelled.

The CNE brings in a huge amount of revenue for the Province of Ontario as well as the City of Toronto, and the closure will be sure to have an impact on the economy. Although it is sad to see such a tradition go missed this year, it is essential that we consider the benefits it will have to slowing down the spread of COVID-19. The CNE brings in hundreds of thousands of visitors each year which results in the midways being extremely crowded. As social distancing is the number one thing keeping COVID at bay, it would not make sense for the CNE to be held during a global pandemic.

<https://theex.com/2020-cne-message>

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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