

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – May 7, 2020**

As of May 7, 2020, Canada has a total of 63, 895 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 19, 121 cases with Toronto having 6665 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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The Premier of Ontario announced yesterday that they are slowly beginning to open the economy back up. The first phase of this is allowing hardware stores and garden centres to open up for public entry using the same infection prevention guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies. It was also announced that non-essential businesses are allowed to re-open on the basis that they provide curb side pick-up only. However, we want to emphasize to everyone that although the government is taking steps towards opening the economy, they are still monitoring the situation very closely as they begin this process, and **the emergency order** continues to remain in place.

Despite what you hear on the news, we are asking all family members and friends to please continue to respect the protocols that we put in place at North Yorkers. We will maintain the efforts that have been keeping the virus from entering our home, such as not allowing visitors and having the residents remain inside until further notice. The decision on when these protocols will be relaxed will be decided by the management team as well as the Board of Directors. We know that you will support us in these decisions as they are made with the health and safety of our staff and residents in mind.

We would all like to see things go back to normal. Having family and friends visit is something that keeps our spirits lifted and a smile on our resident's faces. 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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### **Virtual Ways to Celebrate Mother's Day!**

With Mother's Day coming up this weekend, most of us are trying to figure out different ways to celebrate our moms while we socially distance due to COVID-19. Fortunately, there are still many creative things we can do for mothers and mother figures thanks to technology.

- Send an e-gift card: most retailers offer online gift card options that can be purchased and sent virtually.
- Send a personalized video message expressing how much your loved one means to you!
- Create your own eCard: Instead of running to the store, hop online and create a virtual card that you can send off with the click of a button!
- Send a gift basket or care package: create your own or purchase one already made to be dropped off at her front door!
- Host a virtual party using the likes of Zoom, Skype or FaceTime.

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The city has launched a 24 hour “Bloom Cam” so residents can still participate in watching the High Park Sakura blossoms virtually. Check out the city of Toronto’s website below to watch the live cherry blossom feed, as well as keep informed of various live events taking place virtually to learn more about the Sakura cherry blossom trees!

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/cherry-blossoms/>

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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](mailto: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](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)