

October 14, 2020	Community Update #14	COVID-19	A. Lynn Noseworthy Medical Officer of Health
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The COVID-19 pandemic response continues to evolve. As local and provincial activity increases, the Health Unit is once again providing a synopsis of the latest information to help ensure community members stay up-to-date.

#### What's New:

- As of October 14, there are 247 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Health Unit's area. In response to requests from community residents, the Health Unit has launched a new format through which to share data. A link to a [Power BI dashboard](#) is now posted on the Health Unit's website, with updates provided every weekday afternoon. The dashboard includes information and charts that provide information about the number of confirmed cases, gender and age groups of cases, outcomes, hospitalizations and deaths.
- Based on the province's [website](#) today (Wednesday, October 14), there are a total of 61,493 cases reported in Ontario (721 cases more than that was reported on October 13, a 1.2% increase). There are 52,512 resolved cases, and 3,017 deaths.
- The province is posting information on confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools and daycares on its [website](#). As of October 14, there have been 1,040 cases reported, with 421 schools impacted and five school closed.
- On October 9, the province [announced](#) new public health measures to be implemented in **Ottawa, Peel and Toronto**:
  - Limits for all social gatherings and organized public events are reduced to a maximum of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained. The two limits may not be combined for an indoor-outdoor event (**this is the same limit throughout the rest of the province**);
  - Indoor food and drink service is prohibited in restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, including nightclubs and food court areas in malls;
  - The following establishments are closed: Indoor gyms and fitness centres (i.e., exercise classes and weight and exercise rooms); Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; Indoor cinemas; Performing arts centres and venues; Spectator areas in racing venues; Interactive exhibits or exhibits with high risk of personal contact in museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, etc.; personal care services where face coverings must be removed for the service (e.g. makeup application, beard trimming) are prohibited

As well, there are reduced capacity limits for:

- Tour and guide services to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors
- Real estate open houses to 10 people indoors, where physical distancing can be maintained.
- In-person teaching and instruction (e.g. cooking class) to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, with exemptions for schools, child care centres, universities, colleges of applied arts and technology, private career colleges, the Ontario Police College, etc.
- Meeting and event spaces to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors,
- Limiting team sports to training sessions (no games or scrimmages)
- As of October 13, updated public health measures will apply to wedding receptions, including new gathering limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors at event spaces

Schools, child care centres, and places of worship will remain open in these communities and must continue to follow the public health measures in place. Before-school and after-school programs will also be exempt from these new restrictions.

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- The Public Health Agency of Canada has released [a new online tool called COVIDTrends](#) that provides the number of confirmed persons with COVID-19 in a residential area within the past fourteen days. By entering a partial postal code, people can see information about cases in their specific area.
- The province has released two documents: [Guidance for meeting and event facilities during COVID-19](#) and [Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19](#). These guidance documents were revised due to amendments to O. Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3 under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act*, 2020 that came into effect on October 3.
- On October 5, the province added new [visitor restrictions](#) for long-term care homes in Toronto, Ottawa and the Region of Peel. As well, the province also issued an update to a [policy](#) for visitors to all long-term care homes. Both policies went into effect October 7, 2020.
- On October 9, the province released [updated guidance](#) for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19.
- That same day, the province posted the latest version of the document [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) (version 9.1).
- Last week, the province issued [new testing measures](#) and changes to the operation of assessment centres. As of October 6, all COVID Assessment Centres moved to appointment-based testing only.... no more walk-ins/drive-ups.
- A number of new public health measures were [announced](#) on October 2, including that masking rules would now apply in all parts of Ontario (even in those health unit regions that don't have them). Social circles are also now on pause, and people are asked to only be in close contact with people living in their own household.
- On October 1, the provincial government updated its COVID-19 [school and child care screening guidance](#). This additional information is designed to help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.
- The province also issued a revised version of the [School Outbreak Management Guidance Document](#) for public health units on October 1.
- On September 24, the province released a new [reference document for COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Federal, provincial and local health authorities continue to encourage residents to use the new COVID Alert app. The COVID Alert is available for free use and can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play app stores. This new app lets users know if they may have been exposed to the virus.

#### HKPR Actions:

- The Health Unit is continuing to update its website to include new and seasonal information. Information has recently been added to provide information and guidance on [hunting](#) and [Halloween](#).
- The Health Unit is continuing to work with shelters and group homes to provide them with information about infection prevention and control practices and preparation for the upcoming influenza season.
- There are currently no COVID-19 outbreaks in a long-term care home within the Health Unit's area. Updates on outbreaks are provided on the Health Unit's [website](#).
- Health Unit staff are continuing to use the new cases and contact management program that was implemented in the early summer. The new platform replaced the Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) as the tool used by Health Units to facilitate case and contact management.
- The Health Unit is continuing to review its programs and staffing with an eye to resuming additional public health programs and services while continuing to offer services during the pandemic response.
- The Health Unit has received provincial funds to hire eight additional school health nurses to support the reopening of area schools. At this time, seven of the eight positions have been filled with recruitment ongoing to hire for the final opening.
- The HKPR School Health team has been working with area school boards, schools and neighbouring health units to develop resources, review guidance documents and determine processes in the event of a confirmed case within the school setting. As of today (October 13), there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases identified in any school within the Health Unit's jurisdiction.
- Due to COVID-19, the Health Unit has postponed dental screening in the schools and cancelled vision screening for senior kindergarten students.

- In response to questions from the public and media, Dr. Noseworthy has penned a blog outlining why the Health Unit will not share details on where a person who tests positive for COVID-19 lives. The blog is posted on the Health Unit's [website](#).
- The Health Unit continues to participate in regular calls with the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, our health partners, our school board partners, our municipal partners, and our Community Emergency Management Groups (CEMCs) to share information and provide updates.
- Remember to stay up-to-date on the latest information by visiting these sites:
  - The Ontario Ministry of Health ([www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus))
  - Public Health Ontario website ([www.publichealthontario.ca](http://www.publichealthontario.ca))
  - Public Health Agency of Canada ([www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus))