



# COVID-19 Update

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April 24, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

## Overall Trends

- I am very sad to report an additional 6 deaths since yesterday, for a total of 14 since Wednesday's briefing.
- All of these cases were residents of long-term care home and retirement homes, over the age of 70.
- Very sadly, I expect to see an increase in deaths in these settings going forward.
- Some of these deaths were identified through posthumous testing.
- This is due to the fact that, in these settings, we are testing people who have passed away, even if they previously tested negative.
- The loss of a loved one is always painful, and our current situation has made grieving even more difficult.
- I wish to express my deepest condolences to the families, friends and caregivers of all who have passed.
- There are currently 10 long-term care or retirement homes in outbreak
  - Seven facilities have had their outbreaks declared over.
- While more facilities coming out of outbreak is more encouraging, I expect with the expanded testing, we will detect more cases in more homes, and more other homes will go into outbreak.

## Community transmission

- While community transmission has slowed, it is precisely because people are following the public health measures.
- We need to stay the course and by continuing to follow public health measures, including:
  - Staying home

- Limiting trips in our community
- Practicing physical distancing when you are out
- And washing your hands often
- Now is not the time to relax these public health measures.
- Cases continue to be identified in vulnerable settings such as long-term care facilities, retirement homes and congregate settings.
- I appreciate that this has been a difficult time for everyone.
- But by maintaining these public health measures, we are working to slow the spread in our community and protect those most vulnerable in our community.
- And by doing that we will get through this, together, as a community.

## **Closing remarks**

- Your efforts are making a difference. Your efforts have helped to prevent our health care system from becoming overburdened, and many times more the number deaths we would have otherwise seen.
- Your efforts have helped ensure critical health resources are available for those in need.
- Our challenge is not over.
- I thank-you for your continued patience and perseverance as we work together to battle COVID-19.
- Thank you.