



## **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health

May 25, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

### **Overall Trends**

- We continue to see signs of stabilization in our numbers of new cases.
- In carefully conducting our data quality checks, we determined that an additional person associated with the Forest Heights outbreak who had been in hospital, had passed away in mid-May but had not been counted yet in our dashboard numbers. So our overall, total number of COVID-associated deaths is now 113.
  - Of these, 20 deaths are associated with cases in the community, and 93 are associated with long-term and retirement home outbreaks.
- These are positive signs but we are still in a precarious state.
- We will also need to carefully monitor the trends going forward as a result of the lifting of restrictions.

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### **Community Paramedicine / Paramedic Services Week**

- Yesterday marked the start of Paramedic Services Week, an annual celebration of paramedics across Canada.
- I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Paramedic Services.
- Our paramedics play an important role in our community. They are on the front lines of the healthcare system and they remain committed to excellence in patient care.
- One component of our Service is the Community Paramedicine Program. It is a non-emergency service that works to prevent unnecessary 911 calls and emergency departments visits, while supporting people in their home or in the community.
- As testing has expanded, the Community Paramedicine program is also supporting testing in the region, as a mobile team.

- They are helping to perform expanded testing in congregate settings such as retirement homes, and they are also testing individuals who need to be tested before being admitted to long-term care or hospice, and who are unable to leave their home to travel to a testing site.
- Thank you for your service to our community.

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## Closing Remarks

- Everything we do as a community will continue to determine how the rates of infection progress in the weeks ahead, especially as businesses continue to open up, and more and more people come into closer proximity with each other.
- So I'd like to remind all residents that it is critically important that we continue to follow public health measures.
  - Continue to practice physical distancing whenever you leave your home, and wear a non-medical mask when you are around others.
  - Continue to wash your hands often.
  - Continue to only spend time with your household contacts for now, do not socialize in groups.
  - If you have any symptoms, stay home, and make an appointment to get tested.
  - **As a reminder, a negative test result does not exempt you from continuing to follow these measures.**
- I've been hearing reports of our citizens practicing physical distancing and wearing masks this past weekend. I really want to thank those in our community who are practicing these types of behaviours.
- You are setting an example for all of us.
- Let's continue to work together.
- Thank you.