

May 13, 2020	Community Update #11	Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)	A. Lynn Noseworthy Medical Officer of Health
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The situation involving COVID-19 is constantly evolving. In an effort to ensure our community partners stay up-to-date, here is a synopsis of recent information.

### What's New:

- As of today, there are 160 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Health Unit's area. Updates about confirmed cases are posted on the Health Unit's website each day just after lunch. As well, the daily epidemiology report is posted on the website and includes information on resolved cases, current probable cases and current high-risk contacts.
- Based on the province's website, as of today there are now 21,236 confirmed cases in Ontario. This includes 15,845 resolved cases and 1,765 deaths.
- The province has not updated the announcement that publicly funded schools will remain closed until May 31.
- The province has extended its Declaration of Emergency until [June 2](#). This order covers a number of closures including: recreational facilities, libraries, private schools and daycares (except for health care workers), bars and restaurants (except for take out or delivery), churches and faith settings, theatres and concert venues. The list of essential businesses was also expanded earlier this month to include the closure of trailer parks and seasonal camp grounds, except where those businesses provide accommodation to people with no other residence in Canada.
- Health Unit offices will remain closed until at least June 2 to align with the province's Declaration of Emergency.
- The Ontario government [announced](#) May 9 that provincial parks and conservation reserves would open for limited day-use access. The first areas opened on Monday, with the remaining areas opening on Friday, May 15. At this time, recreational activities will be limited to walking, hiking, biking and birdwatching. Day visitors will also be able to access all parks and conservation reserves for free until the end of the month.
- The province has expanded the testing protocols and symptoms to include a list of atypical symptoms. These are reflected in the updated self-assessment tool.
- The Ministry of Health has released a new [reference document](#) for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Under the [Framework for Reopening our Province](#), the province announced that garden centres and hardware and safety supply stores could now reopen for business and that retail stores, that have a door to the street, could open for [curb side pick up only](#). Other than garden centres and hardware stores, customers are still not permitted inside retail stores. To assist workplaces, the province has released a [guidance document](#) that outlines measures to protect staff and customers.
- The Ministry of Health [website](#) is updated daily at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm, so please be sure to visit the site for additional updates.

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## HKPR Actions:

- HKPR Medical Officer of Health Dr. Noseworthy will participate in a virtual COVID-19 forum for Northumberland County residents on Wednesday, May 13. The event is being hosted by the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland and will take place from 7 to 8 pm. Dr. Noseworthy will join a panel of other health care partners to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in Northumberland County and the work of each partner's organization in the response.
- The Health Unit is continuing to work with its health partners to implement enhanced surveillance within long-term care homes, retirement homes and additional congregate settings. The testing in long-term care homes, retirement homes and emergency daycares has been completed. The Health Unit is continuing to work with shelters and group homes to determine what testing will be completed.
- The Health Unit has developed posters that can be used in workplaces, community gardens, and most recently, for older adults living in retirement homes or communities. These resources are available on the Health Unit's [website](#) and can be downloaded and printed.
- The Health Unit has provided information and guidance on [community gardens](#).
- The Health Unit has updated its website to provide information on [garage sales](#) and [farmer's markets](#).
- Information for businesses looking to reopen can also be found on the Health Unit's website at [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca).
- There are currently three outbreaks in long-term care homes within the Health Unit's area – two in the City of Kawartha Lakes and one in Northumberland County. Updates on outbreaks are provided on the Health Unit's [website](#). Health Unit staff continue to work with staff from the Pinecrest Nursing Home in the management of the facility's COVID-19 outbreak. Many of the experiences of Pinecrest have been shared with the province and are being used to shape new provincial directives on the testing and retesting of residents and staff, staffing and the restriction on staff from working in more than one facility.
- Health Unit staff are continuing to work with area farms that employ migrant farm workers to ensure they are following self-isolation protocols as they arrive in Canada. As well, the farms have been asked to develop plans to address accommodation issues should one of the workers become ill.
- The Health Unit is developing internal recovery plans to determine how its offices may reopen and programs and services may resume with the appropriate physical distancing protocols in place.
- We are continuing to participate in regular calls with the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, our health partners, our municipal partners and provincial politicians, 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:
  - Ontario Ministry of Health ([www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus))
  - Public Health Ontario ([www.publichealthontario.ca](http://www.publichealthontario.ca))
  - Public Health Agency of Canada ([www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus))