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Friday, April 9 Update

Dear Neighbour,

Just one week ago, the Premier said Ontario was doing pretty well. This was despite the fact that consistent and frightening data had been publicly released by his own Science Table since early January 2021.

Doug dithered, and now here we are. Today we hit the second-highest number of cases in Ontario since the pandemic began.

I support the tougher measures that Premier Ford introduced on Thursday. It is necessary for us to get through this rough third wave. I wish the Premier had listened to public health and implemented them sooner, and stepped up to provide the support many of us need to help us economically survive.

In our newsletter this week we summarize the latest restrictions and what it means. We are also hosting an online Q&A townhall on vaccinations with specialist Dr. David Fiseman, and an online education town hall to answer your questions about Ford's bad plan for education in 2021 and 2022 with MPP Marit Stiles and the Ontario Parents Action Network.

Please contact our office if you need anything or want to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

My newsletter for this week includes

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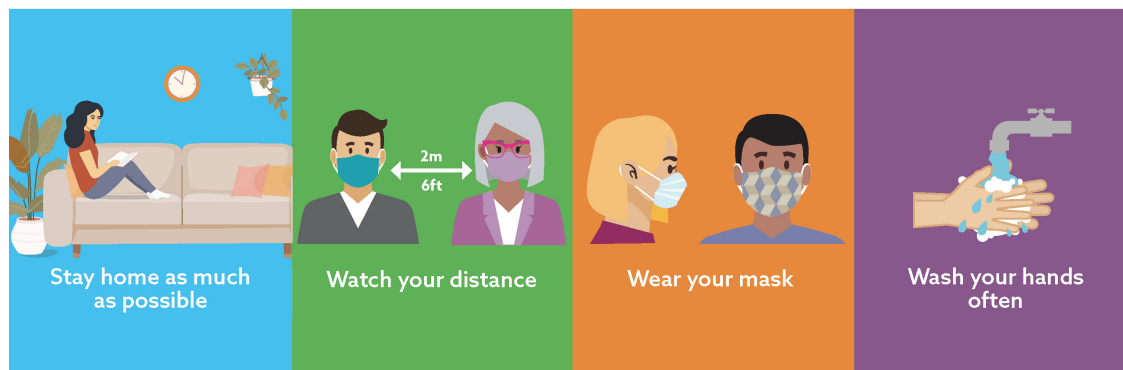
- [State of Emergency & Stay at Home order declared](#)
- [TDSB schools, child care centres closed](#)
- [Hospitals halt non-emergency surgeries as COVID-19 patients fill ICUs](#)

Community News:

- [Townhall Monday: What do Ford's budget and latest announcements mean for education and our kids?](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines and the Vaccine Rollout: Live Q&A](#)
- [Ford's COVID-19 response failing essential workers and IBPOC](#)
- [City of Toronto providing emergency child care for school-aged children of essential workers](#)
- [Residential eviction ban is back on, tied to Stay-at-Home order](#)
- [Ontario Small Business Support Grant feedback form now open](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine information](#)

4 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

We all have a role to play to help reduce COVID-19 spread & keep our city safe:



[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

 **TORONTO** Public Health

State of Emergency & Stay at Home order declared

Beginning Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the Ford government issued a province-wide **Stay-at-Home** order requiring everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise or for work that cannot be done remotely. As Ontario's health care capacity is threatened, the Stay-at-Home order, and other new and existing public health and workplace safety measures will work to preserve public health

[Read more about what this means.](#)

TDSB schools, child care centres closed

Toronto's Medical Officer of Health ordered the [closure of all schools](#) until the end of next week's April Break. As part of this order, licensed child care programs, including licensed home child care, will not be permitted to offer care to school-aged children, with the exception of emergency child care for those who qualify. Licensed child care programs will continue for younger children, which includes infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. This includes child care programs that are co-located in a school.

I know this announcement came with little notice and left many parents and students scrambling. We know that children learn best in class, face-to-face with teachers and education workers - but in order to keep schools safely open, we need the Ford government to invest heavily in school community safety, like vaccinating education workers, smaller class sizes, and on-site COVID-19 testing.

I want to thank our local education and child care workers who have been going above and beyond to support students right now, while also dealing with the stress, anxiety and risk of working in schools as cases have surged.

Hospitals halt non-emergency surgeries as COVID-19 patients fill ICUs

Due to rising COVID-19 caseloads, hospitalizations, and the pressures put on critical care, [elective surgeries and non-urgent procedures have been ordered to ramp down](#) in order to preserve capacity.

This is disappointing news. Ontario already has a [backlog of more than 245,000 medical procedures](#) deferred from earlier in the pandemic, and I am concerned about worsening health outcomes for Ontarians waiting for organ transplants, cancer treatments, and more. There was so much the Ford government could have done to prevent us from getting to the point where scheduled surgeries had to be halted again, like legislating paid sick days, on-site workplace testing, vaccinating essential workers, and more.

The situation in our healthcare system is extraordinarily serious and I urge everyone to do their part by following all public health guidelines and supporting hospitals as they grapple with this historic crisis. Ensuring equitable access to critical care services must be our paramount priority.

EDUCATION TOWNHALL: WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR KIDS?



MPP JESSICA BELL



MPP MARIT STILES



SPECIAL GUEST

WATCH LIVE HERE:
facebook.com/UniRoseJessicaBell

MON APRIL 12 6-7 P.M
FACEBOOK LIVE



Townhall Monday: What do Ford's budget and latest announcements mean for education and our kids?

Ontario's 2021 budget confirms Doug Ford's government is cutting \$1.6 billion from education and there is also news the Ford government is looking to make [full-time online learning permanent](#).

There is so much that needs to be done to control the spread of COVID-19 and make our schools safe this year and next. That's why I am hosting a virtual town hall to discuss what Ford's budget and latest announcements mean for education and our kids.

When: MONDAY, APRIL 12 -- 6-7 pm

Where: FACEBOOK LIVE -- facebook.com/UniRoseJessicaBell

Submit questions in advance by [visiting my website](#) by emailing jbelleco@ndp.on.ca.

[Click here](#) to demand safe communities and safe schools!

COVID-19 VACCINES AND THE VACCINE ROLL-OUT

**Join MPP Jessica Bell and
Epidemiologist Dr. David N. Fisman
for a virtual Q&A.**

Wednesday, April 14: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FACEBOOK LIVE: facebook.com/UniRoseJessicaBell/



Dr. David N. Fisman

Professor of Epidemiology: University of Toronto,
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
Infectious Diseases Consultant:
University Health Network



Jessica Bell

MPP University—Rosedale
Critic: Tenant Rights,
Housing, Urban Planning

COVID-19 Vaccines and the Vaccine Rollout: Live Q&A

The number one issue that my office is hearing about right now is vaccines. You want to know where, how, and when you will be getting one. You want to know if they are safe and effective. You want to know if the vaccines protect against the new variants.

With new information coming out every day from our scientific community and changes in eligibility within the vaccine rollout, I want to make sure that you have the most up-to-date information. That's why on Wednesday, April 14th I am hosting a virtual Q&A on Facebook Live with special guest Dr. David Fisman. Dr. Fisman is a professor of Epidemiology at the University of Toronto, Dalla Lana school of public health, and an infectious diseases consultant for the University Health Network.

If you have any questions about vaccines or the vaccine rollout, then please visit my website and [fill out this form](#). You may also send an email to jbelle@ndp.on.ca.

Ford's COVID-19 response failing essential workers, IBPOC

Right now, workplace outbreaks are driving COVID-19 cases in the City and despite the Stay-at-Home order, essential workers cannot stay home and cannot safely physically distance. Most cannot afford to take a day off because they are feeling unwell, or even to go and get a vaccine. Critically, most essential workers in Ontario are Black and racialized people who have been [disproportionately burdened](#) throughout the pandemic.

As hospitalizations of young, essential workers with COVID-19 rise, it is vitally important that Ontario ensures vaccines are reaching those who are most at risk of infection. That is why the Ontario NDP is calling on the Ford government to vaccinate all high-risk essential workers now, legislate paid sick days, deliver on-site testing, in-workplace vaccine clinics, and more.

The more we can target populations like essential workers, who are at high risk of contracting the virus, the more effective we will be in preventing the spread of COVID-19 to other lower risk groups.

Add your name in [support of paid sick days here](#).



Residential eviction ban is back, tied to Stay-at-Home order

The Ford government has [resumed its ban on residential evictions](#) for the duration of the Stay-at-Home order.

Despite this temporary pause on evictions, Ontario's Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) will continue to hold hearings and issue eviction orders for residential tenancies during the province's eviction moratorium. This means while sheriffs will not actively enforce evictions until the state of emergency is lifted, landlords can still seek eviction orders, hearings will still be held, and tenants will presumably be removed from their homes as soon as the moratorium is lifted.

This comes amongst concerns virtual proceedings at the LTB are making it very difficult for tenants to participate fairly. The LTB's virtual operations have been increasingly reported for systematic procedural unfairness, particularly impacting people with disabilities, those lacking access to technology and those facing language barriers.

In order to ensure every Ontarian has a safe place to stay during the pandemic, the eviction ban must include eviction notices, hearings and orders. The

Add your name in support of NO COVID EVICTIONS [here](#).


ACT NOW

Tell Premier Ford and Minister Clark
No COVID Evictions

Premier Doug Ford
416-325-1941
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of
Municipal Affairs and Housing
416-585-7000
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Support Bill 244!

Ontario NDP  **NDP** de l'Ontario

City of Toronto providing emergency child care for school-aged children of essential workers

Beginning the week of April 12, emergency child care services will be available at no cost to eligible families who are not able to accommodate care at home for their school-aged children.

Four City-operated Toronto Early Learning & Child Care Centre (TELCCCS) locations will provide emergency child care during this period: Chester Le, O'Connor Satellite, Shoreham and Taylor Creek. Toronto Home Child Care (THCC) will also provide child care for younger children and school-aged children of essential workers. Toronto Children's Services will work closely with

for school-aged children beginning the week of April 12.

For more information, visit [the City of Toronto website](#).



Ontario Small Business Support Grant feedback form now open

Since the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBG) was launched, our office has heard from a number of business owners who have struggled to access this grant. We want to hear what has and what has not been working, and your thoughts on how to improve the process before the second round of funding is released.

To participate, please [fill out this form](#).

To request an "I Shop Local Sign" like the one pictured above, please [click here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

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many residents have been reaching out looking for information about vaccination rollout since it was announced the City of Toronto would be responsible for immunization efforts. I have worked to break down what we know, right now, below. However, this information is changing quickly and constantly. By the time you read this, circumstances could change, so it is integral you receive your updates from the [City of Toronto website](#).

Mass Vaccination Updates

Individual COVID-19 vaccination appointments for people age 60 and over (and 50 and over in select postal codes) are now available at the City of Toronto's mass immunization clinics. At the time of booking, residents will schedule their first vaccination appointment and an appointment to receive their second dose.

To register, those who will be 60 (or 50) or older in 2021 and wish to make an appointment – or a trusted person they have delegated to make vaccination appointments on their behalf – can visit the provincial booking system. The link will bring registrants or delegates to the Province of Ontario's online booking system where they will be asked for information on the registrant's provincial health card, birthdate, postal code and email and/or mobile phone number.

People with existing confirmed appointments at a hospital or health sector partner COVID-19 vaccination clinic do not need to book another appointment at a City-run clinic; their existing appointment remains confirmed. Anyone with an existing appointment who chooses to book appointments at a City-operated clinic instead should cancel their hospital or clinic bookings so as many people as possible are able to receive their vaccine as quickly as possible.

The City has also developed an FAQ for any other questions you may have.

Other Vaccine Opportunities

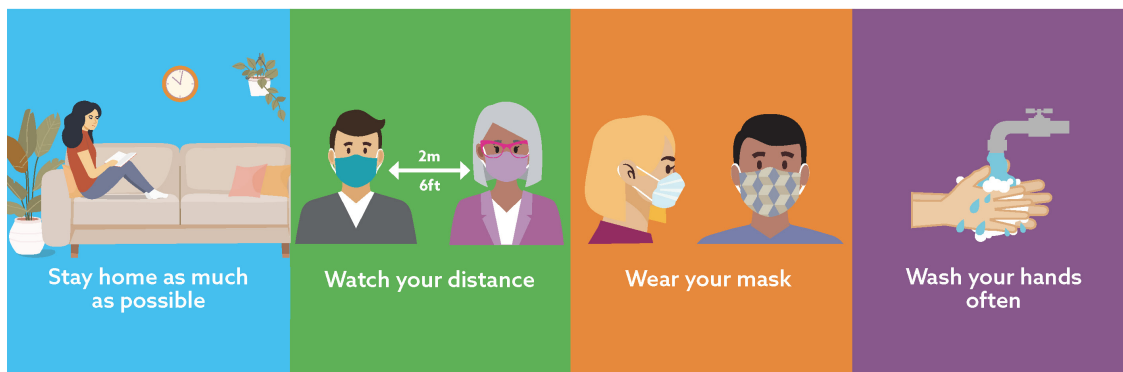
Currently, health sector partners in Toronto are vaccinating priority group residents by using the vaccine allocated to them directly by the province. Registration information for those eligible to be vaccinated by health sector partners can be done at [vaccineto.ca](#) or 1-888-385-1910.

Ontario Health Teams and hospital mobile clinics and pop-ups will be vaccinating people age 18 and older in select neighbourhoods, identified by their postal codes. Some hospital immunization clinics are also vaccinating younger residents who live in specific priority neighbourhoods and local residents with highest-risk and high-risk medical conditions. Please visit [vaccineto.ca](#) for details on hospital vaccination clinics, eligibility criteria and booking information.

A number of pharmacies have started booking appointments for vaccines provided directly by the province. You can also use the province's search tool to determine the closest one near you and determine eligibility.

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We all have a role to play to help reduce COVID-19 spread & keep our city safe:

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

The logo for Toronto Public Health, featuring a stylized building icon and the text 'Toronto Public Health'.

Now is the time to follow public health guidelines

As COVID-19 cases climb in Ontario, please consider these reminders from Toronto Public Health to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

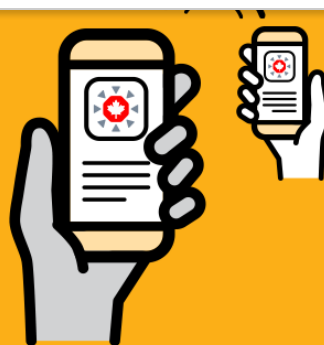
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed:

- Limit non-essential trips out of your home and follow [travel advice](#)
- Keep [two metres \(six feet\) distance](#) from others
- [Wear a mask or face covering](#) in indoor public spaces and when you can't keep physical distance
- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based (70-90 per cent) hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell

Download the [COVID Alert app](#) so you can be notified directly if you have been in close contact with someone who was contagious with COVID-19. I have downloaded the app and I encourage you to do the same.

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**Protect your
community.
Download the
COVID Alert app.**

Health
CanadaSanté
Canada

Canada

Note that this email and all previous COVID-19 updates are available at: www.jessicabellmpp.ca/coronavirus

As always, if you require urgent assistance from my office, please contact my team at 416-535-7206 or email us at jbell-co@ndp.on.ca



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