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Five-case COVID-19 spike all from same household: Region

A five-case spike of COVID-19 cases in Aurora last Tuesday were all from the same household, according to the Region of York.

Last week, the Town saw a significant spike in cases of the virus after the number of active cases within the community plateaued in the high single digits for multiple days.

?All five cases reported in Aurora on July 28 were from the same household,? said Patrick Casey, Director of Corporate Communications, for the Region of York, on Thursday after the cases were investigated. ?These cases were also from the same household in which we reported two cases on July 26.?

As of Tuesday, August 4, Aurora is grappling with 14 active cases of COVID-19.

To date, the community has seen a total of 141 confirmed cases of the virus, 15 of which have proved fatal. 112 cases are now marked as recovered.

13 of the 14 active cases are related to local transmission and close contact with the remaining case attributed to an institutional outbreak outside Aurora.

There are now 237 active cases across York Region.

From the start of the pandemic, the Region has seen a total of 3,306 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 252 of which have resulted in death.

2,817 cases have recovered.

Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's Medical Officer of Health, reminded residents in his weekly update that despite encouraging statistics, it is important to remember that COVID-19 is ?still here.?

?While Stage 3 permits larger gatherings, we urge you to stick to your local circles and keep the social gatherings small,? he said. ?It is important that as we navigate Stage 3 that we understand that COVID-19 is still around and given the greater human interactions is more likely to spread. Therefore, please physically distance, wear masks when in indoor public spaces or on transit, and wash your hands frequently, disinfect commonly-used surfaces and stay home if you're not well.?

As of this Friday, August 7, face masks will be required in the common areas of condominiums, apartment buildings and multi-residential across York Region.

Additionally, the Province of Ontario has also amended regulations to require restaurant and bar patrons to have their contact information taken for the purposes of contract tracing.

?[Patrons] will also be required to remain seated most of the time, with exceptions for limited tasks,? said Dr. Kurji before turning his attentions to the younger crowd. ?It is nice to be able to take the children to playgrounds as the summer is here with us and I would urge you not to do so if you the children are not well or, for that matter, if you find the playgrounds are crowded. In any case, make sure they physically distance and wash their hands before and after and don't touch their faces.

?Remember, there is COVID-19 testing available through the three assessment centres at the three hospitals and they are open seven days a week. Please stay vigilant and please stay safe.?

By Brock Weir