

Aurora passes 300 total cases of COVID-19 amid ongoing residential outbreak

Aurora has surpassed 300 cumulative cases of COVID-19 since the start of the global pandemic.

The community passed this grim milestone over the weekend, with 30 cases remaining active.

Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported locally this past March, Aurora has seen 326 cases of the virus since the start of the pandemic as of November 19. Of the remaining active cases, 19 are related to local transmission or close contact. 10 further cases are related to institutional outbreak, and a single case each related to workplace cluster.

On November 11, an outbreak of COVID-19 was declared at Chartwell Park Place. The outbreak was first declared after a caregiver tested positive for the virus. At press time this week, 2 of the residence's complement of 40 caregivers had tested positive, as had 9 of their 65 residents.

There are, at press time, no schools within Aurora with active outbreaks or under surveillance for the virus.

15 of Aurora's 326 cases have proved fatal, and 281 recoveries are now reported.

As the community settles into the new Red (?Control?) Zone of the Ontario Government's plan to re-open the Province, Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's Chief Medical Officer of Health, urged continue vigilance as we settle into colder temperatures and approach the holiday season.

?We're seeing? a rise in cases in neighbouring health units as well as, of course, in the U.S. and internationally,? he said. ?We're not an island unto ourselves, so that, again, is a problem. We are also entering the season where we tend to buy gifts for our friends and families. Shopping is going to be a big concern, particularly crowding that occurs in stores with Black Friday being just around the corner. Please, I appeal to businesses, to make sure that they ensure that there is no crowding in their stores and for every individual who goes shopping, you have to take personal responsibility to extract yourselves from places where you see crowding occur.

?That having been said, we have to get across this winter safely. There is hope around the corner with a number of effective vaccines coming onto the market. We now have to go back to what we used to practice in the early days of the lockdown, so stay home wherever possible, only go out for essential visits, and you'll remember those essential visits were visits to your physician, getting your medications, getting groceries maybe once a week.

?Make sure that you're able to do much of your shopping online, if that is possible, and do not socialize with members outside your household as much as possible.?

By Brock Weir Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter