

ONTARIO PAUSES REOPENING PLAN

PROVINCE WILL REEVALUATE LIFTING RESTRICTIONS IN 28 DAYS

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With COVID-19 numbers rising across the province, Ontario is pausing its reopening plan.

The province will not go ahead with the next step of restrictions that were to be lifted Nov. 15.

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The pause will keep capacity limits and proof of vaccination in place for the following:

- food and drink establishments with dance facilities, nightclubs and wedding receptions in meeting/even spaces where there is dancing
- strip clubs
- sex clubs and bathhouses

"Out of an abundance of caution, we are pausing the next step to reopening Ontario and managing COVID-19 for the long term," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's chief medical officer of health. "We will continue to monitor trends and will evaluate in 28 days if it is safe to move forward."

Moore said there is no plan to roll back any of the restrictions that have already been lifted.

"I don't see us taking a step



Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, announces that Ontario will not move ahead with the next stage of its re-opening plan. Herb Garbutt screenshot

backwards," he said. "If we have to, we'll pause, but we won't take a step backwards."

The only scenario he could see for a rollback would be the introduction of a strain of the virus that was resistant to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The seven-day average for new cases has risen every day in No-

vember, from 348 on Oct. 31 to 492 on Nov. 10. Ontario's top doctor said the recent rise in cases was expected as temperatures dropped and people spent more time indoors. The province has also seen an increase in other key indicators such as the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests and the effective reproduction number, which

indicates how many infections result from each COVID-19 case. Areas of the province that had previously had low infection rates have seen a significant increase in infections recently, said Moore during his weekly briefing on Nov. 10. Areas such as Sudbury and Muskoka have recently seen a sharp increase in the number of cases.



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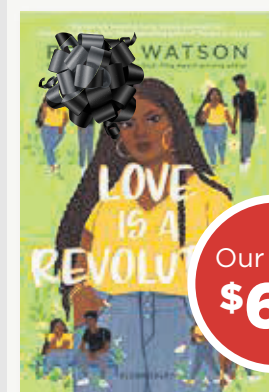
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