

New COVID-19 Variant in Ontario

A newer COVID-19 variant, known as BA.3.2, has now been detected in Ontario, as part of its spread across multiple countries.

The variant was first identified in South Africa in November 2024 and later appeared in the United States in mid-2025 through traveller surveillance. Since then, it has been detected in dozens of countries and across many U.S. states, including through wastewater monitoring.

In Ontario, Public Health Ontario has reported a small number of confirmed cases, with 21 infections identified between mid-January and mid-February.

What does this mean?

According to infectious disease expert Dr. Isaac Bogoch, this variant does not represent a major shift in how COVID-19 behaves.

Symptoms, transmission, and prevention remain consistent with what we've seen in recent years. This means that existing public health guidance such as staying home when sick, practicing good hygiene, and staying up to date with vaccinations continues to be effective.

Current risk level

COVID-19 is no longer considered a novel virus, as most people now have some level of immunity through vaccination or prior infection. While it can still cause serious illness, the greatest risks remain for:

- Older adults
- People who are immunocompromised
- Individuals with underlying health conditions

Importantly, current data from Public Health Ontario shows that COVID-19 activity in the province has recently declined and stabilized after a seasonal increase over the winter months.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/article/a-new-covid-19-variant-named-ba32-has-been-detected-in-ontario-heres-why-one-doctor-says-you-shouldnt-be-alarmed/>

For more information on the topics discussed or questions, please contact us at info@nydp.ca

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