

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – March 8, 2021**

As of March 8, 2021, Canada has a total of 888, 205 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 309, 927 cases with Toronto having over 99, 506 cases.

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**Ontario reports highest COVID-19 case count since Feb. 5; 10 more deaths**

Ontario reported another 1,631 cases of COVID-19 on Monday along with 10 deaths the highest daily tally of cases in more than a month. It's the highest count of cases reported in Ontario since Feb. 5, when there were 1,670 cases reported. During that time, most schools were still closed and the entire province was under a stay-at-home order that formally expired in Toronto, Peel and North Bay at midnight last night.

The province reported 1,299 new cases on Sunday, 990 more cases on Saturday and 1,250 new cases on Friday. Across the GTA, Toronto reported 568 cases, the highest daily total that city has seen since Feb. 5, while Peel Region reported 322 new cases, the highest daily total the region has disclosed since Feb. 2. York Region reported 119 new cases on Monday, while Durham Region reported 68 new cases, Halton reported 51 and Hamilton reported 22.

Provincial labs processed 38,063 tests in the past 24 hours, generating a positivity rate of at least 3.4 per cent. None of the ten deaths reported on Monday occurred in the long-term care system. Meanwhile, hospitalizations stayed relatively flat when compared to Sunday. The Ministry of Health says there were 626 people in hospital on Monday, up 20 from Sunday.

Of those, 282 were in intensive care and 184 were breathing with the help of a ventilator. Public Health Ontario confirmed an additional 63 cases of coronavirus variants of concern in the past 24 hours, bringing the total confirmed through whole genomic sequencing in the province to 935.

Source: [Ontario reports 1,631 new coronavirus cases; 10 more deaths | CP24.com](#)

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**Most retail stores reopen in Toronto, Peel Region today as stay-at-home order lifted**

All non-essential retail stores in Toronto and Peel Region are opening their doors to customers for the first time in months as the two COVID-19 hot spots move to the grey zone of the province's tiered reopening framework.

With the exception of stores that offer essential goods, customers have been barred from entering shops in both regions since Nov. 23, purchasing items instead through curbside pickup or delivery.

Starting today, those stores can welcome customers inside once again but must only operate at 25 per cent of their regular indoor capacity.

Groceries stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores are permitted to operate at 50 per cent capacity in the grey zone.

The Ford government has also lifted stay-at-home orders in both Toronto and Peel Region and outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people are now permitted.

Mayor John Tory said the city is constantly assessing the situation to see how the virus is spreading in the community. “We are watching it every day with a view to make sure we open further as soon as we possibly can with an eye always on making sure we avoid a further lockdown later,” Tory told CP24 on Monday.

Other regions of the GTA are in the red zone of the framework, which allows restaurants to reopen indoor dining with up to 10 patrons inside at one time. In the red zone, many other businesses, including gyms, hair salons, and other personal care services, are allowed to reopen.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **March of Dimes**

#### **Caregiver Webinars**

A Three-Part Series – Empowering Caregivers to Cope

Date: Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-addressing-the-losses-caregivers-experience-registration-141419003045?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks

Date: starting Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm

To register for any or all sessions: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-of-dimes-canada-caregiver-conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

### **Better Living Health and Community Services**

#### **Series of Wellness Breaks**

Chair Yoga with Trisha Lanns

Date: Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45am

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcOytpz4iGt0giM3Faea036plwv2x9NSJ>

Reconnecting the mind and body with Ashely Dipchan

Date: Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfu2qpz8uH9FbqlvNGHv5N8ukz8fRsi15>

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If you or someone you know uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and requires resources related to COVID-19, please contact Sarah ([sarah.nydp@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.nydp@gmail.com)) and she can assist you in accessing and/or creating various communication tools.

If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus). Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675

Please refer back to previous updates as lots of important information has been provided that may still be relevant. If you have any questions or require more information on how you can protect yourself and those around you from the COVID-19 virus, please contact our Outreach Communication

Facilitator Sarah, at 416-222-4448 or

[sarah.nydp@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.nydp@gmail.com)