

Coronavirus: COVID-19 **Current Update – December 2, 2022**

Public Health Ontario’s Weekly COVID-19 Summary

Public Health Ontario (PHO) warns us to interpret these trends with caution because they are not entirely accurate. COVID-19 cases, contacts, and outbreaks are only being managed in high-risk populations and settings. There is also a delay in reporting, especially with severe outcomes and deaths. Recently, experts have said reported case counts are a severe underestimate of the actual extent of COVID-19 infections in Ontario.

This week, the number of reported cases in Ontario was 4,533 compared to 5,179 the week before. The data suggests that COVID-19 is decreasing throughout the province and may remain similar over the next two weeks.

Over the past week, there were 284 hospitalizations and 47 COVID-19-related deaths, which are both lower than the week before.

The total number of ongoing outbreaks in high-risk settings is 225. The number of outbreaks decreased in all settings except for Long-Term Care homes, which increased by three.

Source:

1. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/epi/covid-19-weekly-epi-summary-report.pdf?rev=d75d2e0138684b44beef88a7241080cd&sc_lang=en

Fall Respiratory Illnesses and the Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines Telephone Town Halls for Adults age 18+

Join Toronto Public Health’s Associate Medical Officer of Health Dr. Vinita Dubey at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, December 15**, for a live telephone town hall. Learn about current fall respiratory illnesses including the flu, RSV and COVID-19, the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, and have the opportunity to ask Dr. Dubey questions. Everyone is welcome to attend online at [Toronto.ca/vaccinetownhall](https://toronto.ca/vaccinetownhall) or by phone at 1-833-490-0778.

Accessible Interactive Town Hall for Blind, Deaf, and Diverse Disabled Communities

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians - Toronto Chapter and The Hospital for Sick Children present: What you need to know: Protecting our Young Population from COVID-19

This session is an interactive town hall for Blind and Deaf communities, and a wide spectrum of diverse disabled communities.

Presenter: Allison Boyce, Registered Nurse from the COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

When: Friday, December 16, from 1:00PM -3:00PM

Where: Over Zoom - Registration Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOmorj4jH9QSutDpFrYMPG6jMfZSXoFJ>

Please feel free to submit your questions when you register, or you can ask your questions during the session. Names will not be disclosed. If you need support with registration, please contact Minette at: msamaroo2014@gmail.com. Phone: 437-999-3839.

What will be covered during the town hall:

- Information on the COVID-19 vaccine for children and youth ages 6 months to 17 years of age, as well as those who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to conceive
- An overview of COVID-19 vaccines, doses, benefits, and efficacy for our young population
- Ample opportunity to ask questions!

Accessibility:

- Captioning provided by Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
- ASL-English Interpretation

The deadline to register is **Wednesday December 14**.

This session will be recorded.

AEBC is an Accessibility Collaborative partner, a project led by the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto. Our work is supported by the City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Initiative.

Register today and join us for this important conversation!

Request Drive-Through Vaccinations for Children with Disabilities in East Toronto

- South East Toronto Family Health Team (SETFHT) is offering drive-through vaccinations for children aged six months and older with disabilities.
 - Parents, caregivers and families who need this service should e-mail info@setfht.on.ca with their request.
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All Ages COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic hosted by Surrey Place

When: Sunday December 18 from 11:00 AM – 02:00 PM

Where: 2 Surrey Place, Toronto, ON (Downtown location)

By appointment only, no walk-ins. (**Appointment Deadline Wednesday December 14**)

Accessibility:

- Private room and drive through (in car) vaccinations are available
- Minimal to no wait times and minimal people
- Snacks, beverages, stimulant toys, and other toys/books/playthings
- Calm and quiet environment with patient and accommodating staff

Their clinics are designed to accommodate individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Please contact Surrey Place directly if your child needs other accommodations or if you would like to recommend someone to their clinic who has an additional accessibility need. They will do their best to provide Language and ASL Interpreters, but they cannot guarantee their availability.

To contact Surrey Place, and to book an appointment, please call 416-925-5141 extension 4444 and leave a voicemail with your name, number, and best time to contact you back. They will call you back, and it might show up as a private number. You can also email team.vaccine@surreyplace.ca.

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Flu and COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccine Clinic at Fairbank Memorial Community Centre

When: Every Tuesday until December 13th, from 1p.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Fairbank Memorial Community Centre, 2213 Dufferin St, York, ON M6E 2A8

Note: There is limited parking beside the building.

You can make an appointment, but walk-ins are welcome! Photo ID and OHIP (Ontario Health Card) are required.

To book an appointment, contact York-Fairbank Centre for Seniors. Phone: 416 - 651- 8300.

Email: yorkfairbankscvaccine@gmail.com.

Pfizer Bivalent vaccine is available for anyone who is 5 years old (on the day of vaccination) and older. Moderna Bivalent vaccine is available for anyone who is 18 years of age and older.

If you choose, you can get the flu shot and vaccine together. It's optional!

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SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

SickKids Hospital is hosting weekly COVID-19 vaccine clinics for any infant/child aged six months to under five years who requires accommodations due to medical complexity, developmental disorder, mobility challenges, communication, behavioural and other specialized needs (including significant needle phobia).

This clinic will happen each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More dates and times are expected to become available soon.

It's by appointment only. To make an appointment, you need to be referred through your doctor. For any questions regarding patient referrals, contact mobile.vaccination@sickkids.ca.

Do you have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine for children? Book an appointment with the SickKids COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service. Visit sickkids.ca/vaccineconsult to book an appointment!

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Opportunity to Apply to Join the City of Toronto's Board of Health

Are you a thoughtful leader with an interest in public health, community services, or policy development? Do you have experience in administration or budget development? The Board of Health sets public health policy and advises City Council on a range of issues and services, including health assessments, health protection, disease prevention, and health promotion. The Board also works with Public Health staff to develop plans and policies that impact Torontonians on a daily basis.

Learn more about this exciting opportunity and apply by December 15th at: <https://secure.toronto.ca/pa/decisionBody/44.do>.

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Health Connect Ontario - 811

Connect with a Registered Nurse day or night for free, secure and confidential health advice.

Check your symptoms, get health advice with referrals to local & specialized services as needed and access to a medical library. Access safe, high-quality care and avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency room. This service is an easy way to get connected to care you or your loved ones need, but it does not replace your other touch point with your health care provider. In a medical emergency call 911 immediately.

OHIP not needed. Anonymous calls accepted.

Refugee Health Hotline calls are now redirected automatically to 811

Online (including live chat): [Ontario.ca/healthconnectontario](https://ontario.ca/healthconnectontario)

Call: 811 or toll free TTY line 1-866-797-0007

Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine booking portal:

Those eligible for a vaccine can book here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.

Or by phone at: 1-833-943-3900.

For general information about vaccines, call: 1-888-999-6488.

In Toronto? Here are two transportation options to go to your vaccine appointment:

1. The Ontario Community Support Association's Accessible Drive-to-Vaccines program provides door-to-door rides to vaccination sites for people with disabilities, including seniors with mobility issues. You must have a vaccination appointment booked. You need to request a ride at least 48 hours before the appointment. To book, call 211 or click [here](#) to request an appointment online.

2. Wheel-Trans is committed to providing vaccine rides to the elderly and people with disabilities in Toronto. Wheel-Trans is offering individual rides to City-run mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, doctor's offices, and clinics that are giving out vaccines. Customers may be joined by one Support Person on their Wheel-Trans ride.

You may be eligible for Wheel-Trans service if your disability prevents you from using the TTC's conventional transit for all or part of your trip.

If you are not yet a Wheel-Trans customer, and you think you may qualify for Wheel-Trans service, you are invited to apply by calling Wheel-Trans Customer Service at 416-393-4111, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Existing Wheel-Trans customers can book their rides to and from their vaccine appointments by calling Wheel-Trans Reservations at 416-393-4222, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or through the Wheel-Trans Self-Booking Website. Access the website by clicking here: <https://mywheel-trans.ttc.ca/SelfBooking2020/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fSelfBooking2020>.

Upcoming Events:

North Yorkers

The Communication Enrichment Class (ongoing)

The class is running virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. You can find the online blog at <https://nydpcec.wordpress.com/> where class activities will be posted before each class. If you or someone you know has a communication disability and may be interested in

participating in the class, please contact Jessica, our Manager of Client Services via email at jessica.nydp@gmail.com.

March of Dimes

One to One Peer Support Program

The One to One Peer Support program is still running. No one understands quite like somebody who has lived the same experience. Our Peer Support program pairs caregivers with peers who are also experienced in caregiving and can offer practical advice and support by phone or a video chat. Contact Angie Clark by email at aclark@marchofdimes.ca or call 1-905-301-8114 for more information or to get connected.

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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 Jessica (jessica.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. Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Health Connect Ontario: 811
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 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 Senior Manager of Client Services/Lead AAC Facilitator Jessica at 416-222-4448 or jessica.nydp@gmail.com.