

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – June 17, 2022

Recent change: Our weekly updates will no longer include case numbers because public health units are no longer required to report them. Even before this change, the reported case counts were already likely lower than the actual number of cases. This is because, as of December 31, 2021, Ontario has only been providing PCR tests to high-risk individuals who are also showing symptoms. The number of hospitalizations and people in Intensive Care Units (ICU) are more accurate indicators of the current COVID-19 situation.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) will not be updating data about COVID-19 in Ontario from June 16 to 22. This is because they are releasing a new, comprehensive weekly COVID-19 epidemiological summary. They will also be discontinuing the Daily and Weekly Epidemiological Summary, Cases with Severe Outcomes report, and COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Homes report. The data from these reports will now be included in the new weekly report published every Thursday. The Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool will also transition to weekly updates on Thursdays starting June 23.

North Yorkers will include this data in next week's update!

Sources:

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<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=summary>

Get your Summer Boost! Accessible Drop-in Vaccine Clinic for 2SLGBTQ+ Deaf and Disabled Youth and Allies

As we get ready for a busy summer, make sure to have your up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination to help you and your community stay safe!

When: **Today** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. Where: 519 Church Street, Toronto

These clinics will have:

- ASL interpreters
- Vaccine ambassadors with sighted guide training
- Onsite attendant assistance
- Private rooms and quiet space available
- Accessible building with an elevator and exterior ramp

- Pfizer and Moderna available while quantities last

Other Details:

- Priority will be given to youth aged 16-25
- Wearing a mask is mandatory while at the clinic
- OHIP card is optional
- Doses Available: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th (for those eligible)
Please check your eligibility [here](#) or contact Toronto Public Health.
Phone: 416-338-7600 or TTY: 416-392-0658. Email: publichealth@toronto.ca

For questions about the clinic, please contact: Barbara Dos Santos, 519 Vaccine Engagement Coordinator at (416) 995-6241, bdossantos@the519.org

For questions related to accessibility, please contact: Kim Adlard, Project Coordinator, Accessibility Collaborative at (647) 499-3861, kim.adlard@cilt.ca

TTY: Dial 711 for Bell Relay Service

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Scarborough COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for People with Disabilities

Hosted by Surrey Place in partnership with the SAAC Autism Centre.

When: Sunday June 26 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: 10 Milner Business Ct, Suite #102, Scarborough, ON M1B 3C6

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd doses available! Ask for eligibility criteria.
- No OHIP required
- Private quiet rooms with one-on-one personalized support
- Drive through option
- Family members are welcome!
- No walk-ins. By appointment only.

To book an appointment, please call 416-925-5141 x 4444 or email covid@surreyplace.ca. We can provide other accommodation resources, such as specialized volunteers (e.g., ASL interpreters) or specialized equipment (e.g., wheelchairs to use). Please let us know well in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

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Federal Government lifts mandatory vaccination for federal employees

On June 20, 2022, federal employees of the Core Public Administration will no longer be required to be vaccinated in order to be employed. The mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy was put in place on October 6, 2021.

As of June 20, 2022:

- Federal public servants who were put on administrative leave without pay, as a result of the vaccination policy, can return to regular work duties with pay.
- Accommodation measures that were put in place as a result of the vaccination policy will end.
- Outstanding accommodation requests will not be reviewed.
- Verification and audits currently underway will continue.

As of May 30, 2022:

- 98.5% (279,124) of these employees are fully vaccinated as defined in the policy
- 0.3% (740) of these employees are partially vaccinated
- 0.3% (773) of these employees are unvaccinated

These numbers will continue to be counted and validated by each federal organization.

As of May 30, 2022, there have been 2,598 requests by employees to be accommodated when it comes to the mandatory vaccination policy. Only 47% of the requests based on medical reasons were approved (310/654), 38% of the requests based on religious reasons were approved (642/1,659), and 14% of the requests in the “other” category were approved (41/285).

Along with this announcement, the federal government stresses that the pandemic is not over yet. There is still the possibility of cases increasing again, and new variants of concern may come up. The federal government states that it will continue to closely monitor domestic and international scientific evidence to assess the need for more public health measures. This means that a mandatory vaccination policy for employees may be brought back in the future.

Source:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/news/2022/06/backgrounder-government-of-canada-suspends-mandatory-vaccination-for-federal-employees.html>

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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.

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In Toronto? Here's a safe transportation option to go to your vaccine appointment:

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 their 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 1pm. 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:

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.