

Coronavirus: COVID-19 **Current Update – May 27, 2022**

As of May 27, 2022, Canada has a total of 3,860,880 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 1,299,874 cases and Toronto has 330,382 cases.

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.

Ontario reports 948 people in hospital with COVID-19 and 154 COVID-19 patients in ICU. Last week, 1,165 people were in hospital, and 163 patients were in ICU. 44% of COVID-19 patients in ICU are breathing with the help of a ventilator, which is a 6% decrease from last week (50%). This week, the province confirmed 36 more deaths related to COVID-19.

Of the people in Ontario who are 12 years old and up, 91% are fully vaccinated, 2% have had just one dose, and 7% are unvaccinated.

Sources:

1. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>
 2. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=summary>
 3. <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-pandemic-data/covid-19-weekday-status-of-cases-data/>
 4. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data/hospitalizations>
 5. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data>
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Vaccine Town Hall Part 2: “Our Journey with COVID”

The Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians is hosting their second interactive town hall for the Blind and Deaf communities, and a wide spectrum of diverse disabled communities.

Join us for this important conversation on June 8th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST.

Accommodations provided include ASL interpreters from Deaf Spectrum and live captioning through the Zoom platform.

Panelists will include those from the medical community and those with lived experience with vaccine hesitancy, long COVID, booster side effects, and fourth dose considerations.

Panelists will discuss:

1. Our journey with COVID: Where we are today, what we have learned, and what the future holds for us
2. An overview of COVID vaccines, doses, benefits, and efficacy
3. Vaccination myth busting and common fears shared by disabled individuals with lived experience
4. Discussing the side effects of COVID vaccination and COVID infection

Registration is free at Eventbrite. Click [here](#) to register, and if you have any challenges with registering, email aebctoronto@gmail.com. You will receive a Zoom invitation one day before the event.

New Changes to the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

As of yesterday, Toronto Public Health (TPH) will now be running the COVID-19 mass immunization clinic at Thorncliffe Park Community Hub (45 Overlea Blvd). TPH will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccines at the site as well as more health services.

One of these health services is providing Hepatitis B, HPV, and Meningococcal vaccines for youth. Soon, eligible Grade 7 to 12 students can book appointments for any and all of these vaccines on the TPH Appointment Booking System website. Anyone born in 2002 and 2003 can book an appointment at this clinic for the Hepatitis B and Meningococcal vaccines. This clinic also offers the HPV vaccine to women who were born in 2002 or 2003 and men who have sex with men and are 26 years old or younger. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the TPH Appointment Booking System website.

The clinic will be open Monday to Friday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will operate by appointment or on a walk-in basis. It will provide first, second, third, fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccines to eligible residents, including vaccines for children. An Ontario health card (OHIP card) is not required.

Sources:

1. <https://www.toronto.ca/news/toronto-public-health-continues-to-offer-covid-19-vaccination-opportunities-and-youth-vaccinations-at-thorncliffe-park-community-hub/>
 2. <https://www.tphbookings.ca/Default.aspx?PageID=11180>
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Vaccine Clinic at Fairbank Memorial Community Centre

When: Until June 7th, there will be a vaccine clinic every Tuesday from 12:00 PM to 4 PM.
Where: 2213 Dufferin Street. There is limited parking beside the building.

Both appointments & walk-ins are welcome. Please bring a piece of photo ID & your OHIP card (also called Ontario health card). Book your appointment by contacting York-Fairbank Centre at (416) 651- 8300 or yorkfairbank@on.aibn.com.

“We Move Together”: National Accessibility Week 2022

Celebrate National Accessibility Week with the creators of “We Move Together”: Kelly Fritsch, Anne McGuire & Eduardo Trejos!

“We Move Together” is a bold and colourful exploration of all the ways that people navigate through the spaces around them and a celebration of the relationships we build along the way.

“We Move Together” follows a mixed-ability group of kids as they creatively negotiate everyday barriers and find joy and connection in disability culture and community. Click [here](#) to learn more about the book.

Join the author-illustrator team for a reading of the book, followed by a discussion and an “access is…” activity. This event is open to people of all ages!

When: Saturday June 4, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Where: Over Zoom (register to receive the link)

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqduiuqDIqHtDbo5Hm2XiMFNUNDX37nYgZ>

If you need support with registration, please contact Rebecca at rebecca.wood@cilt.ca or call 416-599-2458 extension 291.

This event will have CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), ASL to English interpretation and image descriptions as the book is being read.

The author-illustrator team says: “‘We Move Together’ is about sharing some of the gifts we have received by being lucky enough to be a part of disability culture and community as disabled people, disability studies scholars, and disability activists. As an author-illustrator team, we came together through our shared belief in the power of storytelling as well as a shared frustration about the lack of stories reflecting our own experiences of disability justice, culture, and community.”

The Centre for Independent Living’s Parenting with a Disability Network would like to thank their partners for this event: Silent Voice, The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy and the University of Toronto Disability and Pregnancy Study.

City of Toronto releases video series called “Pandemic Perspectives”

The City of Toronto and ArtWorksTO produced a series of short videos featuring Toronto residents telling their personal COVID-19 stories. Best of all, these videos are directly to, from and by communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the disability community. Click [here](#) to watch!

The four video themes are: families, faith leaders, youth, and accessibility. The videos deliver a personal and powerful message about the importance of vaccination, addressing barriers and hesitations along the way.

Pandemic Perspectives will be released weekly beginning today on the [City’s COVID-19: Vaccine Resources webpage](#) and on the [City’s YouTube](#) channel.

Source:

1. <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-releases-pandemic-perspectives-video-series/>

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’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.

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.