

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 18, 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.

Over the past week, there were 356 hospitalizations and 62 COVID-19-related deaths, which are both lower than the week before.

This week, the number of reported cases in Ontario was 5,881 compared to 8,035 the week before. The data suggests that COVID-19 is decreasing throughout the province.

The total number of outbreaks in high-risk settings is down to 133 from 146 the week before. The number of outbreaks decreased in all settings.

Sources:

1. https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/epi/respiratory-virus-overview-ontario.pdf?rev=1dee1491d8ce45608a153061f321e099&sc_lang=en

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If Education Workers Go on Strike on Monday, These School Boards Will Close

Depending on negotiations with the Ministry of Education, education workers with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) may go on strike on Monday, November 21.

If you are a parent, be prepared for remote learning and alternative childcare arrangements. Both parties have agreed to set a deadline of 5 p.m. on Sunday evening “so we can provide parents and caregivers as much notice as possible.” Click [here](#) to read more.

If CUPE members go on strike, school boards across Ontario may close on Monday. This is because these education workers (such as early childhood educators, education assistants, and custodians) play an important role in keeping children safe at school.

The following school boards said they will close their schools to students if CUPE members strike on Monday: the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, York Region District School Board, and Peel District School Board.

Source:

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/9286145/ontario-memo-cupe-worker-strike/>

Ontario Government is Investing \$182 Million to Upgrade and Improve Hospital and Community Health Care Settings

Yesterday, the Ontario government announced that it is investing over \$182 million this year on critical upgrades and repairs at 131 hospitals and 65 community health care facilities across the province.

“Our government is making investments to ensure Ontario’s hospitals and community health infrastructure continue to be state-of-the-art facilities,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This funding will also help build the capacity we need to end hallway health care and ensure people continue to receive world-class care.”

Ontario is providing \$175 million to hospitals through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund and over \$7.6 million to community health service providers through the Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

This funding from the province allows its health care system partners to address urgent infrastructure renewal needs such as upgrades or replacements of roofs, windows, security systems, fire alarms and back-up generators (in case of a power outage). These are essential improvements that will help them care for patients in a safe and comfortable environment.

To support growing demands on the health care system, Ontario’s investments over the next 10 years will lead to \$40 billion in health infrastructure across the province. These investments will increase capacity in hospitals, build new health care facilities and renew existing hospitals and community health centres.

Source:

1. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002485/ontario-building-better-more-modern-health-care-facilities>

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 both **Wednesday, November 30 and 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.

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 November 27 from 11:00 AM – 02:00 PM

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

By appointment only, no walk-ins. (Appointment Deadline Wednesday Nov 23)

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.

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!

COVID-19 Walk-In Clinics Offering Bivalent COVID-19 Booster and/or Flu Vaccine in East Toronto

These are hosted by Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) and East Toronto Health Partners' (ETHP) COVID-19 work in East Toronto, including testing, vaccines and treatments.

Site operated by ETHP	Offers bivalent COVID-19 booster ?	Offers flu vaccine ?	Where & When
<p>Vaccine clinic at East York Community Centre</p> <p>1081 ½ Pape Ave.</p> <p>Please use the main entrance and follow the signage.</p>	Yes!	Yes!	<p>Open November 20 and 27.</p> <p>12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Last walk-in at 7:15 PM.</p> <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tehn.ca/VaccinePopUps • Download updated flyers for November
<p>Vaccine clinic at Warden Woods Community Centre</p> <p>76 Firvalley Ct., Scarborough, ON M1L 1N9</p> <p>Please use the entrance behind the building. Walk around the parking lot to enter the clinic. The main entrance is accessible.</p>	Yes!	Yes!	<p>Open November 22, 24, and 29.</p> <p>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Last walk-in at 1:45 PM.</p> <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tehn.ca/VaccinePopUps • Download updated flyers for November

It is the door closest to the intersection.			
<p>Health Access Taylor-Massey</p> <p>4 The Market Place, East York, ON M4C 5M1</p> <p>Located inside Crescent Town Hall Centre.</p>	Yes!	Yes!	<p>Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of November.</p> <p>1 p.m. to 6 p.m.</p> <p>Walk-ins welcome! No appointment or health card needed.</p> <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ethp.ca/HATM • Download updated flyer
<p>Community Outreach Centre in Flemingdon Park</p> <p>10 Gateway Blvd., Unit 100A, Toronto, ON M3C 3A1</p> <p>Located to the right of the apartment entrance.</p>	Yes!	Yes!	<p>Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday of November.</p> <p>1 p.m. to 6 p.m.</p> <p>Walk-ins welcome! No appointment or health card needed.</p> <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tehn.ca/CommunityOutreachCentres • Download updated flyer

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!

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.