

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 18, 2022

As of February 17, 2022, Canada has a total of 3,225,024 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 1,083,274 cases and Toronto has 283,521 cases.

Please note: As of December 31, 2021, Ontario is only providing PCR tests to symptomatic, high-risk individuals. This has likely resulted in a lower amount of daily cases being reported.

Ontario Covid-19 cases this week:

Sunday February 13: **2944**
Monday February 14: **2265**
Tuesday February 15: **1765**
Wednesday February 16: **1593**
Thursday February 17: **2337**

Ontario reports 1228 people in hospital with COVID-19 and 223 patients in ICU

As of February 17, there are 2337 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, this is likely an underestimate as PCR tests are not widely available. The positivity rate is 10.8%

Ontario is reporting that 1228 people are in hospital with COVID-19. For the 1005 not in ICU, 682 of them are fully vaccinated, 272 are unvaccinated, 51 are partially vaccinated.

There are 223 COVID-19 patients in an intensive care unit. Of all patients, 111 of them are fully vaccinated, 102 are unvaccinated, 10 are partially vaccinated.

New data from the Ontario Science Table suggests that when population size is considered, people who are fully vaccinated are 82.7% less likely to end up in hospital and 91.3% less likely to end up in ICU compared to people who are unvaccinated.

Yesterday's cases were found in: Toronto (306), Peel Region (187), Ottawa (198), Simcoe-Muskoka (164), Durham Region (109), Northwestern (110). All other health units reported fewer than 100 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

In Ontario, 85% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated, meanwhile, 4% of people in Ontario who are eligible for a vaccine have had at least one dose. 11% of the population is unvaccinated.

Sources:

1. <https://covid19tracker.ca/index.html>

2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/covid-19-hospitalizations-in-ontario-drop-below-2-000-another-44-deaths-reported-1.5775905>
3. [Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool | Public Health Ontario](#)
4. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>
5. <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-report-en-2022-02-18.pdf>
6. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data>

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Canadian adults

February 17 marks the day where Novavax’s COVID-19 vaccine was officially approved in Canada for use in adults aged 18 years of age and older.

Novavax has been added to the approved COVID-19 vaccine list alongside Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson. Dr. Supriya Sharma, Canada’s chief medical advisor, has said that the vaccine shows 90% effectiveness at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 100% effectiveness at preventing severe disease. “Preliminary data available at this time suggest that the vaccine also produces neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant, but more data is still needed as a condition associated with the authorization.”

Canada’s chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, the availability of this new vaccine can “help remove barriers to vaccination by providing an additional option to adults who have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine at this time.”

“The Novavax vaccine may be offered to individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive a mRNA vaccine,” Tam said, at the same news conference. “It is not currently authorized for use as a booster dose, but it may be offered as a booster to individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive a mRNA vaccine, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine they received for their primary series,” she said. However, that would have to be an “off-label use” according to Tam. “Informed consent would be needed, of course, to discuss the benefits and risks with the individuals who are getting that booster,” she added.

Source:

1. [Novavax COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Canadian adults | Globalnews.ca](#)

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.