

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 24, 2022

As of March 23, 2022, Canada has a total of 3,412,972 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 1,143,014 cases and Toronto has 295,730 cases.

Ontario reports 661 people in hospital with COVID-19 and 165 patients in ICU

As of March 22, there are 2149 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, this is likely an underestimate as PCR testing is not widely available. The positivity rate is 13.3%

Ontario is reporting that 661 people are in hospital with COVID-19. For the 496 not in ICU, and the 62 patients who have tested negative, but are showing COVID-19 related symptoms, 404 of them are fully vaccinated, 131 are unvaccinated, 23 are partially vaccinated.

There are 165 COVID-19 patients in an intensive care unit. Of all patients, 62 of them are fully vaccinated, 33 are unvaccinated, 3 are partially vaccinated and 67 have unknown vaccination status.

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 (565), Hamilton (122), York Region (148), Peel Region (163), Ottawa (139), Simcoe-Muskoka (146), Kinston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington (109) and Durham Region (100). All other health units reported fewer than 100 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

In Ontario, 86% 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. 10% of the population is unvaccinated.

Sources:

1. <https://covid19tracker.ca/province.html>
2. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=summary>
3. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-total-of-661-people-in-hospital-with-covid-19-including-165-in-icu-1.5832743>
4. <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-report-en-2022-03-23.pdf>
5. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data/hospitalizations>

Endemic Vs. Pandemic

Medical professionals have stated due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, we could see this pandemic move towards an endemic by early spring.

How is a pandemic different than an endemic?

Pandemics are an epidemic (epidemics are those which effect many people at the same time, in one area) which has spread over a large area, such as an entire country, continent or throughout the world. In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreaks of COVID-19, as a pandemic due to the global spread we have witnessed.

How is an endemic different than a pandemic?

Endemic is a term used for a disease that is prevalent in a specific area. Malaria is described as an endemic, and is specific to tropical regions.

Is COVID-19 an endemic?

No, not at this time. The outbreak is still currently described as a pandemic, and a large factor of this comes from the many mutating strains of the virus. Once enough people have developed immunity to the virus through vaccinations and infections, we may start to describe COVID-19 as similar to that of the common flu. Even though many professionals are saying this is highly likely, there's no tell-tale sign of when this may occur.

Source:

1. <https://www.dictionary.com/e/epidemic-vs-pandemic/>
2. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/when-could-the-covid-19-pandemic-switch-to-endemic-1.5746481>

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.