

Coronavirus: COVID-19

Current Update – February 23, 2024

Public Health Ontario's Weekly COVID-19 Summary

The number of reported COVID-19 cases on Feb 17, 2024 was 1,160. The total number of deaths caused by COVID-19 reported in the week was 13. The total number of covid-19 outbreaks in Ontario during this period were 54. The average daily hospital bed occupancy reported during the week was 516.9.

Since March 2020, the federal government has announced a series of economic measures to help stabilize the economy and address the widespread fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the key measures in [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) that are still active include:

- the [Canada Recovery Benefit \(CRB\)](#), which provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who have stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50 per cent due to COVID-19, and who are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI)
- the [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit \(CRSB\)](#), which provides \$500 per week for up to two weeks for workers who are unable to work for at least 50 per cent of the week because they contracted COVID-19 or are self-isolating due to COVID-19
- the [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit \(CRCB\)](#), which provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers:
 - unable to work for at least 50 per cent of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19
 - because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine or is at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19
- the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#), which helps employers that experienced revenue declines due to COVID-19 cover wages, re-hire terminated employees, prevent further job losses and facilitate normal operations – and is available until June 2021

- the [Business Credit Availability Program \(BCAP\) Guarantee](#) for Canadian small and mid-sized businesses to help cover payroll and operating costs during a period where revenues have been temporarily reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- the [Canada Emergency Business Account \(CEBA\)](#), which provides interest-free, partially forgivable loans of up to \$60,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits that have experienced diminished revenues due to COVID-19 but face ongoing non-deferrable costs, such as rent, utilities, insurance, taxes and wages
- the [Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy \(CERS\)](#), which provides support to businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic – support is provided as a subsidy to cover part of their commercial rent or property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021 (lockdown support may also be available)

Sources:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

<https://www.cpacanada.ca/public-interest/public-policy-government-relations/federal-updates-covid19-financial-economic-support>

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 healthcare 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): <https://health811.ontario.ca/static/guest/chat-online>

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.

Upcoming Events:

North Yorkers - The Communication Enrichment Class (ongoing)

The class runs 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 jdunn@nydp.ca

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 (jdunn@nydp.ca) 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 jdunn@nydp.ca.