

Coronavirus: COVID-19

Current Update – March 8, 2024

Public Health Ontario's Weekly COVID-19 Summary

The number of reported COVID-19 cases on March 2, 2024 was 855. The total number of deaths caused by COVID-19 reported in the week was 18. The total number of covid-19 outbreaks in Ontario during this period were 36. The average daily hospital bed occupancy reported during the week was 416.1.

In March 2020, things were far from normal. Vaccines and face masks were suddenly aspects of mainstream culture. Shoppers lined up, sometimes for hours, outside stores. Once inside, they followed strict instructions and sometimes encountered empty shelves and supplies in low stock. Schools were closed and students learned from home.

The majority of Canadian employees were suddenly living with a new reality: working from home. During the first wave of COVID-19 restrictions, that number spiked to 40 per cent in April 2020.

Almost two years later, it dropped to 30 per cent.

As of November 2023, 20 percent of Canadians still work from home. A significant decrease, but still almost three times as much compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Working from home also brought on a technological shift felt around the world.

COVID-19 closures and restrictions brought a shopping boost as big box stores and online commerce exploded. However, smaller, independent, businesses faced an existential threat.

During this time there have been numerous closures of small businesses and organizations across Canada. Independent owners are struggling to pay back government loans and deal with interest rates that are higher than they were pre-pandemic.

Sources:

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

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/more/the-covid-19-pandemic-four-years-later-1.6803219>

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.