

Coronavirus: COVID-19

Current Update – October 6, 2023

Public Health Ontario's Weekly COVID-19 Summary

The number of reported COVID-19 cases on September 30th, 2023 was 3,215.

The total deaths caused by covid reported in the week was 21. The total number of covid-19 outbreaks in Ontario during this period was 153.

Health Canada has given its stamp of approval to Pfizer's new COVID-19 vaccine that targets the Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant. It is said that the vaccine is authorized as a one-dose vaccine for individuals five years of age and older, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination history. Infants and children between six months and less than five years of age, who have not previously received a complete COVID-19 primary series, should receive three doses. If they have completed a primary series, officials say they should receive one dose.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is anticipated to provide guidance on the rollout of the newly approved COVID-19 vaccines in the coming months.

Additionally, the latest vaccines are not referred to as "boosters" anymore, instead referring to them as updated vaccines designed to better match the latest circulating strains of the virus. Health Canada stated that they emphasize this is an updated COVID-19 vaccine, just like the flu shots that are available every year. Their idea is that we'll get to a place where it may be much like the flu vaccines, where people may be on a regular schedule getting an updated vaccine.

Sources:

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

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/why-health-officials-aren-t-calling-new-covid-19-vaccines-boosters-anymore-1.6561294>

<https://ctvnews.ca/health/health-canada-approves-pfizer-s-new-covid-19-vaccine-targeting-omicron-xbb-1-5-subvariant-1.6581628>

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.