

## **Coronavirus: COVID-19**

**Current Update – September 15, 2023**

### **Public Health Ontario’s Weekly COVID-19 Summary**

The number of reported COVID-19 cases up to September 2, 2023 was 1,571. The total hospitalizations due to covid was 70, and the total deaths caused by covid was 10. The total number of covid-19 outbreaks in Ontario during this period was 67. The outbreaks have been on a rise during the past 2 months.

As we enter the fall season, we start to see rising numbers in covid cases and even new covid variants. Public Health officials continue to warn Canadians about the threat of covid-19, and remind people about the importance of taking preventative measures. Although Canadian vaccination rates are relatively high, experts warn that many Canadians are likely experiencing waning immunity since they received their last booster about a year ago.

In recent weeks, COVID indicators have again started to swing up, including Ontario’s wastewater signal, which has shown a slow and steady rise since early August. A return to school and more indoor activities as colder weather arrives, coupled with more transmissible variants, will likely continue to fuel a further rise in COVID infections, experts say.

Source: [https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/as-we-face-another-fall-season-with-covid-the-re-s-good-reason-to-take-precautions/article\\_e3641046-a271-5d53-86c7-35d891c37fb3.html](https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/as-we-face-another-fall-season-with-covid-the-re-s-good-reason-to-take-precautions/article_e3641046-a271-5d53-86c7-35d891c37fb3.html)

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

## **Updates about the vaccine:**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that people receive boosters this fall if it's been more than six months since their last shot or infection. New boosters, which may protect against some of the new variants, should be available in a few months, and can be taken together with the flu vaccine.

Health Canada has authorized the use of an updated Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 ahead of an expected fall booster campaign. The reformulated vaccine — approved for those six months and older — targets the XBB.1.5 subvariant that has been dominant in 2023.

Federal health officials believe the updated vaccine offers better protection against the currently circulating Omicron variants and is expected to be rolled out by the provinces and territories in the coming weeks with the goal of blunting a fall and winter wave.

Receiving the booster this fall with an updated formulation is expected to increase individual protection against infection, symptoms and severe disease. Health Canada is recommending people five years and older get one dose of the updated vaccine “regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination history.”

In its updated guidance, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization also known as NACI stressed the new vaccines are particularly important for vulnerable groups, which include adults 65 and older, residents of long-term-care homes and other congregate living settings, pregnant people and those with underlying health conditions.

As well, NACI recommends the vaccines for individuals in or from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities, and people who provide essential community services.

Source: [https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/health-canada-approves-updated-moderna-vaccine-for-fall-booster-campaign/article\\_050f08f9-1560-501c-8a85-331bc5cc2636.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/health-canada-approves-updated-moderna-vaccine-for-fall-booster-campaign/article_050f08f9-1560-501c-8a85-331bc5cc2636.html)

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:aclark@marchofdimes.ca) or call 1-905-301-8114 for more information or to get connected.

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jdunn@nydp.ca).