

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 19, 2021

As of November 19th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,760,332 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 610,222 cases and Toronto has 182,167 cases.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday November 15: **552**
Tuesday November 16: **481**
Wednesday November 17: **512**
Thursday November 18: **711**
Friday November 19: **793**

Ontario's daily COVID-19 cases hit highest mark in months with 793 new infections

Today, there are 793 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 625, up from 537 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 2.6%.

Of these 793 new infections, 470 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 323 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (115), Simcoe-Muskoka (71), York Region (60), Peel Region (54), Windsor-Essex (51), Hamilton (41), Southwestern (37), Sudbury (37), and Ottawa (31). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 269 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 128 patients in an Intensive Care Unit.

In Ontario, 13,897 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11.1 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 79.2% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 82.1% of people in Ontario who are eligible for a vaccine have had at least one dose. The percentages have lowered as children over the age of 5 are now eligible for the vaccine in Ontario.

Sources:

1. <https://covid19tracker.ca/index.html>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-s-daily-covid-19-cases-hit-highest-mark-in-months-with-793-new-infections-4-deaths-1.5673125>

Canada authorizes first COVID-19 vaccine for kids

Health Canada has now authorized the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 5-11. These doses will be smaller than those offered to people 12 and up.

Health Canada has approved the doses to be given 21 days apart, however the National Advisory Committee on Immunization is recommending that doses be given eight weeks or more apart.

It is also recommended that children wait at least 14 days before or after receiving another vaccine before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

“This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group and marks a major milestone in Canada's fight against COVID-19...After a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, the Department has determined that the benefits of this vaccine for children between 5 and 11 years of age outweigh the risks.”

The main reactions experienced by children from the vaccine were similar to other eligible populations, but less frequent. Possible side effects include redness and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and flu-like symptoms. Most reactions were mild to moderate and resolved quickly on their own.

According to Health Canada’s authorization, clinical trials have shown that the Pfizer vaccine was 95% effective for those 16 years and older, 100% effective for those 12-15 years old, and 90.7% effective for those 5-11 years old.

Dr. Tam said that this is a “welcome additional prevention option,” given “the current and prevailing epidemiology of COVID-19 in Canada, where incidence rates have remained highest in children aged five to 11 years for most of the fourth wave.”

“During this time, it is very important that we support children and their caregivers and making informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination while respecting their choices and pace of decision making”

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/canada-authorizes-first-covid-19-vaccine-for-kids-1.5673038>

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.