

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 4, 2021

As of November 4th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,723,005 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 601,524 cases and Toronto has 181,144 cases.

Ontario reports 438 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 438 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 383, up from 366 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.7%.

Of these 438 new infections, 279 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 159 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (72), Niagara Region (40), Simcoe-Muskoka (34), York Region (37) and Peel Region (26). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 146 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 89 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status and 57 people who are fully vaccinated. There are 82 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 67 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 15 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 16,588 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 84.7% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 88.3% of people in Ontario who are eligible for a vaccine have had at least one dose.

Sources:

1. <https://covid19tracker.ca/index.html>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-438-new-cases-of-covid-19-five-new-deaths-1.5651943>

New studies suggest that antibodies from vaccines wane much faster in seniors

Studies involving long-term care residents and funded by the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force have found that COVID-19 antibodies wane much faster than expected among seniors and those with comorbidities.

The findings support policy decisions and recommendations to provide booster shots to vulnerable populations.

The studies consistently demonstrated that the quantity of antibodies from mRNA vaccines (such as Pfizer and Moderna) declined faster than expected in older populations when compared to younger individuals. This finding was especially evident among those living in long-term care homes.

Several studies also reinforced existing data that showed age and comorbidities as major factors in the effectiveness of the vaccines.

The report did note that while antibody levels eventually wane, there are other factors that also determine a person's immunity, and that antibody levels alone do not provide a complete picture of a person's ability to fight COVID-19.

“That said, the antibody wane in [long-term care] residents and older Canadians living in the community is so significant compared to younger, healthier Canadians, that a third dose is certainly a safer approach to avoid more deaths and sickness.”

It is important to remember that “the third dose may help, but some residents may still not mount an adequate long-term antibody response and therefore other protection measures in [long-term care] homes continue to be of the utmost importance.”

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/ltc-studies-suggest-antibodies-from-vaccines-wane-much-faster-in-seniors-task-force-report-1.5644726>

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.