

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – November 5, 2021**

As of November 5th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,725,159 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 601,524 cases and Toronto has 181,201 cases.

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**Ontario reports 563 new COVID-19 cases**

Today, there are 563 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 404, up from 355 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.8%.

Of these 563 new infections, 314 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 249 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: York Region (52), Toronto (44), Peel Region (44), Ottawa (44), Windsor-Essex (37), Sudbury (33), Southwestern Public Health (29), North Bay Parry Sound District (28), Niagara Region (23), and Haldimand-Norfolk (22). All other health units reported fewer than 20 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 255 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 168 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status and 57 people who are fully vaccinated. There are 129 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 81 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

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-health-officials-report-563-new-covid-19-cases-five-more-deaths-1.5653641>

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**Antiviral pills: Merck and Pfizer**

Lately, there has been a race among pharmaceutical companies to develop an easy-to-use medication against COVID-19. All treatments right now require IV or injection. The hope is that these pills will reduce symptoms, speed-up recovery, and reduce any burdens placed on hospitals and doctors.

Merck's COVID-19 pill is currently under review with Health Canada and has been approved by the United Kingdom for use. The company reported in September that its drug cut rates of hospitalization and death by 50%.

Pfizer announced that its experimental antiviral pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90% in high-risk adults. Pfizer has said that it will ask the FDA and international regulators to authorize the pill as soon as possible.

Pfizer released preliminary results of their research today. The study included 775 adults. Patients who received the company's drug along with another antiviral shortly after showing COVID-19 symptoms had an 89 per cent reduction in their combined rate of hospitalization or death after a month.

Fewer than 1% of patients taking Pfizer's antiviral drug needed to be hospitalized and no one died. In the comparison group, who were given a placebo, 7% were hospitalized and there were 7 deaths.

Study participants were unvaccinated, with mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and were considered high risk for hospitalization due to health problems like obesity, diabetes, or heart disease.

Treatment began within three to five days of initial symptoms and lasted for five days. Patients who received the drug earlier showed slightly better results, highlighting the need for speedy testing and treatment.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/pfizer-says-covid-19-pill-cut-hospital-death-risk-by-90-per-cent-1.5653457>

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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](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 ([jessica.nydp@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jessica.nydp@gmail.com).