

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 9, 2021

As of November 9th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,736,078 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 604,152 cases and Toronto has 181,439 cases.

Ontario reports 441 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 441 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 492, up from 371 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 3.1%.

Of these 441 new infections, 268 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 173 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Sudbury (61), Toronto (55), Simcoe-Muskoka (37), Ottawa (34), York Region (30), Durham Region (17), and Peel Region (15). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 159 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 90 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status and 69 people who are fully vaccinated. There are 77 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 57 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 20 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 13,049 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 85.1% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 88.5% 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-441-new-cases-of-covid-19-three-new-deaths-1.5658220>

Lack of demographic data may leave potential gaps in COVID-19 vaccine policy

A lack of data about who is and is not getting the COVID-19 vaccine may be causing people of certain races or socio-economic backgrounds to fall through the cracks. This leaves some marginalized groups more vulnerable to the virus and disproportionately impacted by vaccine mandates.

It is important that we consider race and socio-economic status when discussing vaccination rates. The government is tracking how many doses are given, but provincial governments and the Public Health Agency of Canada are not collecting detailed information about those who receive their shots.

Without accurate data, it's difficult to know who those 15 percent of unvaccinated, eligible people are and how to develop strategies to increase vaccination rates and reach out to these communities.

A report by the Black Opportunity Fund, African-Canadian Civic Engagement Council, and Innovative Research Group found a 20-point gap between white and Black Canadians who had received at least one vaccine dose between May 18 to June 4, according to a survey of 2,838 respondents.

This “research reveals a strong need for data to inform the policies and practices that will ensure an equitable COVID-19 recovery for [racialized] Canadians and Canada as a whole.”

At the time, the agency found only 56.4 percent of Black respondents were very or somewhat willing to get a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to the Canadian average of 76.9 percent. Latin Americans also reported more hesitance to get vaccinated, with only 65.6 percent responding that they were very or somewhat willing.

The hesitancy can be linked to historic medical abuses and disenfranchisement, or even a lack of access due to other socio-economic factors that disproportionately impact racialized people.

Advocates have cautioned against lumping historically marginalized groups in with anti-vaxxers and say different strategies must be employed to win the former over and protect them against the virus.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/lack-of-demographic-data-leaving-potential-gaps-in-covid-19-vaccine-policy-1.5657391>

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.