

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – October 12, 2021**

As of October 12th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,659,136 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 591,866 cases and Toronto has 179,521 cases.

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**Ontario reports 848 new COVID-19 cases over the last two days**

Today, there are 390 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. This comes after 654 on Saturday, 535 on Sunday, and 458 on Monday. Monday's numbers were reported today because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The seven-day average is 524, down from 576 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.9%.

Most of the new infections involve people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The exact numbers were not reported today.

Cases in the last 2 days were mainly found in: Toronto (221), Peel Region (125), York Region (129), Windsor-Essex (76), Ottawa (108), and Hamilton (86).

According to the province, there are 155 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 149 patients in an Intensive Care Unit.

In Ontario, over 10.7 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 82.2% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 87% 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-848-new-covid-19-cases-over-the-last-two-days-1.5619760>

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**Merck asks U.S. FDA to authorize promising anti-COVID-19 pill**

Merck, a pharmaceutical company, has asked regulators in the United States to approve its pill for treating COVID-19. The decision will likely come in the next few weeks, and this would be the first pill that can be used to treat the illness. All other treatments right now require an IV or injection.

The antiviral pill can be taken at home to reduce COVID-19 symptoms and speed-up recovery. The hope is that this would reduce hospitalizations and deaths, as well as decrease outbreaks in countries with weak healthcare systems.

The company reported earlier this month that the pill cut hospitalizations and deaths by half among patients with early symptoms of COVID-19.

Merck said they asked the FDA to grant emergency use for adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at risk for severe disease or hospitalization.

“The value here is that it's a pill so you don't have to deal with the infusion centres and all the factors around that...I think it's a very powerful tool to add to the toolbox.”

Health officials continue to promote vaccinations as the best way to protect against COVID-19. As Dr. Anthony Fauci said, “It's much, much better to prevent yourself from getting infected than to have to treat an infection.”

Several other companies, including Pfizer and Roche, are studying similar drugs. AstraZeneca is also seeking FDA authorization for a long-acting antibody drug intended to provide protection for patients who have immune system disorders and do not adequately respond to vaccination.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/merck-asks-u-s-fda-to-authorize-promising-anti-covid-19-pill-1.5618895>

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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).