

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 14, 2021

As of October 14th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,670,039 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 593,020 cases and Toronto has 179,940 cases.

Ontario 417 new COVID-19 cases, and sees the lowest positivity rate since August

Today, there are 417 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 476, down from 565 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.5%. The last time the province saw a positivity rate this low was August 6, 2021, at 1.4%.

Of these 417 new infections, 271 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 146 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (69), Eastern Ontario Health Unit (55), Peel Region (43), Hamilton (30), Ottawa (29), Windsor-Essex (23), York Region (18), and Durham Region (14). All other health units reported fewer than 20 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 254 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 31 people who are fully vaccinated and 223 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 158 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 101 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In Ontario, 28,756 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.7 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 82.6% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 87.2% 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-417-new-covid-19-cases-lowest-positivity-rate-since-august-1.5622784>

Ontario's new plan for lifting COVID-19 restrictions coming next week

Ontario Premier Doug Ford's government is set to announce its plan to lift more COVID-19 public health restrictions next week. Premier Ford is also expected to speak this Friday about Ontario exiting Step 3 and working towards reopening.

“We owe people a clear plan to exit the roadmap...The work began months ago, we are finalizing the plan now and we expect to release it late next week.”

A senior official in Ford’s government said that the easing of pandemic measures will include ending capacity limits in locations where proof-of-vaccination requirements are in place, such as restaurants, bars, and gyms. The Ontario government will not lift all public health measures. For example, indoor-masking requirements will remain in place.

This “revised pandemic plan” takes into account the province’s COVID-19 vaccination success, while also limiting exposure to the highly contagious delta variant.

The plan will likely also set out (1) travel restrictions, (2) when physical distancing and capacity limits can be lifted in settings where proof of vaccination is not required, and (3) the circumstances where restrictions would be put back in place.

This news is reported to come next week now that Ontario is seeing an average of 500 daily COVID-19 cases, the seven-day average has been declining since September 5, in-person classes returned without spiking the province’s total number of cases, and with the province’s high vaccination rates.

More information about Ontario’s COVID-19 plan will be shared in the North Yorkers daily updates when Premier Ford officially makes his announcement.

Sources:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-covid-19-restrictions-exit-stage-3-1.6209162>
2. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>

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.