

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 15, 2021

As of October 15th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,674,683 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 593,933 cases and Toronto has 180,009 cases.

Ontario reports 496 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 496 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 465, down from 573 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.4%.

Of these 496 new infections, 334 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 162 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (74), Peel Region (60), Windsor-Essex (40), York Region (28), and Durham Region (15). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 163 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 148 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 15 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 29,762 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.7 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 82.7% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 87.3% 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-496-new-covid-19-cases-and-two-deaths-1.5624491>

Experts warn the flu could make a comeback this winter

Last winter, because of public health measures related to COVID-19, the flu was almost nonexistent. These measures include masking, social distancing, and lockdowns. However, experts are warning that this year the flu may have a resurgence.

Last year, the Public Health Agency of Canada only reported 79 lab-confirmed cases of influenza. This is a huge drop compared to the year before the pandemic where we had 54,000 cases.

Yet, there has already been an increase in children and adults with colds and respiratory viruses reported by doctors this year.

“Without question, we are going to see influenza this year higher than we saw last year,” Dr. Gerald Evans, an infectious disease expert.

Since there are still many public health measures in place, it is likely that flu cases will be lower than pre-pandemic levels, but higher than last year. On the other hand, some experts warn that because of lower flu levels last year, our immune systems are “outdated” when it comes to fighting the virus.

“We’re very much hoping that some of the reduction in influenza we saw last year might have been because COVID was circulating at the same time...But if that doesn’t happen this year, then we’re in for the infamous, what people like to call the ‘twindemic,’ which is two viruses causing a lot of cases, which can result in serious illness, and that would be very tough on the system to deal with.”

If flu cases are to rise at the same time as COVID-19, this could put a strain on our hospitals and resources such as ICU beds and ventilators.

To reduce the likelihood of this, it is important to get your flu shot. Flu shots are safe to get with the COVID-19 vaccine. Some experts even suggest that the flu vaccine provides added protection against COVID-19 and severe illness.

“Although it isn’t exactly known yet how the flu vaccine provides protection against COVID-19, most theories speculate that the flu shot may boost the innate immune system -- general defences we are born with that do not protect against any one specific illness.”

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/experts-warn-the-flu-could-make-a-comeback-this-winter-1.5618763>

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.