

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 20, 2021

As of October 20th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,687,834 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 595,867 cases and Toronto has 180,266 cases.

Ontario marks lowest COVID-19 daily case count in months with 304 new cases

Today, there are 304 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 406, down from 500 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.3%.

Of these 304 new infections, 220 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 84 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (46), Sudbury (24), York Region (22), Windsor-Essex (21), Hamilton (20), Ottawa (19), Durham Region (15), Peel Region (13), Southwestern Public Health (13), and Middlesex-London (11). All other health units reported fewer than 10 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 258 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 31 people who are fully vaccinated and 227 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 159 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 113 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In Ontario, 25,284 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.8 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 87.6% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 83.3% 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-marks-lowest-covid-19-daily-case-count-in-months-with-304-new-cases-1.5630615>

Pfizer officially requests Health Canada approval for kids' COVID-19 shot

Pfizer-BioNTech has requested approval from Health Canada for the first COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years old. This comes after authorization for people over 12 earlier this year.

Pfizer submitted clinical trial data for its child-sized dose to Health Canada at the beginning of the month, stating that the results were similar to those for people aged 16-25. Doses for children will be about one-third the size given to adults and teens over 12.

Health Canada says it will prioritize its review of the submission, while maintaining high scientific standards for safety, efficacy, and quality.

“Health Canada will only authorize the use of [Pfizer] if the independent and thorough scientific review of all the data included in the submission showed that the benefits of the vaccine outweighed the potential risks in this age group.”

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been tested on children as young as six months old. Data for children under five years old is expected as soon as the end of the year.

Aside from protecting children against severe COVID-19 symptoms, the vaccine also reduces the risk of children passing the virus to a vulnerable family member and school peers.

Once the vaccine is approved for kids, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization will discuss if the benefits of the vaccine outweigh potential risks for young children.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/pfizer-officially-requests-health-canada-approval-for-kids-covid-19-shot-1.5627999>

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.