

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 21, 2021

As of October 21st, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,691,120 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 596,280 cases and Toronto has 180,379 cases.

Ontario reports 413 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 413 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 406, down from 476 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.6%.

Of these 413 new infections, 273 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 140 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (66), Peel Region (54), Ottawa (36), York Region (29), Windsor-Essex (21), Simcoe-Muskoka (20), and Durham Region (16). All other health units reported fewer than 20 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 274 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 40 people who are fully vaccinated and 234 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 161 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 107 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In Ontario, 22,689 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, 83.4% 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-413-new-covid-19-cases-four-more-deaths-1.5632386>

A new Delta descendant is rising in the U.K.

British and international authorities are monitoring a subtype of the Delta variant in the United Kingdom which is contributing to a growing number of COVID-19 cases.

This descendant of the Delta variant, known as AY.4.2, accounted for approximately 6% of cases in the week of September 27 and has been increasing since. It is not yet classified as a “variant of concern” as is mostly in the U.K. as of right now.

Nevertheless, the strain has been found in other European countries and the United States, but it has not contributed to clusters of the virus in these locations.

Some experts have suggested that it may be slightly more transmissible than the original Delta variant, but because it is relatively new, more studies are needed to determine if this is true.

“As AY.4.2 is still at fairly low frequency, a 10% increase its transmissibility could have caused only a small number of additional cases. As such it hasn't been driving the recent increase in case numbers in the U.K.”

This is different from other variants that quickly overtook strains to become dominant, but “that's not what we're seeing here, we're seeing sort of a slow increase in proportion that suggests that it's not hugely more transmissible, it might be slightly more transmissible.”

The emergence of AY.4.2 in the U.K. emphasizes what scientists have warned throughout the pandemic – that soaring transmission can create new variants. The U.K. has had the highest rate of daily COVID-19 cases and deaths per million people in Western Europe since most pandemic restrictions were dropped in the summer.

Reminding us that: “The [virus's] evolution will continue ... we need to suppress cases and suppress the virus.”

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/a-new-delta-descendant-is-rising-in-the-u-k-here-s-what-to-know-1.5630786>

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.