

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 26, 2021

As of October 26th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,702,913 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 598,110 cases and Toronto has 180,605 cases.

Ontario reports lowest COVID-19 case count in months

Today, there are 269 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, this is the lowest case count since early August. The seven-day average is 364, down from 407 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.5%.

Of these 269 new infections, 176 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 93 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (39), Peel Region (36), and York Region (13). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 151 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 30 people who are fully vaccinated and 121 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 84 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 67 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 17 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 18,428 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.9 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 83.9% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 87.9% 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-lowest-covid-19-case-count-in-months-with-269-new-infections-1.5638620>

People with an allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine can still get a second dose

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has said that people who had severe allergic reactions to their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine can still safely get a second dose.

In Canada, there have been 419 reports of anaphylactic reaction to mRNA vaccines as of October 15th. Anaphylaxis causes people to go into shock and not be able to breathe. This is out of 58 million doses administered.

Studies now show that those who had a severe reaction to an mRNA vaccine do not typically have this reaction with the second dose. The second dose is well tolerated with either no or mild reactions to the vaccine.

Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer, says: “The bottom line is that we hope this is good news for people who've been worried about allergic reactions”

Even with these studies, people with severe allergic reactions to the vaccine may still be eligible for a vaccine exemption and are encouraged to speak with a medical doctor or allergist before receiving a second dose.

For people who had a severe reaction to the first dose and get their second dose, they are encouraged to stay longer for observation after vaccination to make sure the allergic reaction is not repeated. NACI is suggesting they stay for 30 minutes as opposed to the usual 15 minutes.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/people-with-allergic-reaction-to-covid-19-vaccine-can-still-get-second-dose-naci-1.5634346>

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.