

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – October 27, 2021**

As of October 27th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,704,699 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 598,431 cases and Toronto has 180,672 cases.

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**Ontario reports 321 new COVID-19 cases**

Today, there are 321 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 366, down from 406 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.4%.

Of these 321 new infections, 203 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 118 people are fully vaccinated.

Cases in Ontario today were mainly found in: Toronto (66), York Region (33), Ottawa (27), Sudbury (27), Windsor-Essex (17), Halton Region (17), Peel Region (16), and Middlesex-London (16).

According to the province, there are 215 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 27 people who are fully vaccinated and 188 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 134 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 118 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 16 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 21,761 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.9 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 84% 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-321-new-covid-19-cases-10-additional-deaths-1.5640254>

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**NEW STUDY: Brain fog in COVID-19 patients can persist for months, even in those not hospitalized**

A new study found that almost a quarter of COVID-19 patients in a Mount Sinai Health System registry are experiencing issues with their memory, also known as brain fog, which is a form of cognitive impairment. These issues can persist for months and are more likely to be present in hospitalized patients.

“We found a relatively high frequency of cognitive impairment several months after patients contracted COVID-19. Impairments in executive functioning, processing speed, category fluency, memory encoding, and recall were predominant among hospitalized patients”

The study used data gathered in April 2020 to May 2021 from 740 COVID-19 patients. The patients had no history of dementia, the average age was 49, and cognitive functioning was assessed for each participant.

The results of the research were:

1. 15% of patients showed deficits in phonemic fluency in their speaking
2. 16% showed deficits in a set of mental skills called their executive functioning
3. 18% showed deficits in their cognitive processing speed
4. 20% showed deficits in their ability to process categories or lists
5. 23% showed deficits in memory recall
6. 24% showed deficits in memory encoding
7. Hospitalized patients were more likely to have impairments in attention, executive functioning, category fluency and memory. For example, for memory recall, the researchers found 39% of hospitalized patients had impairment in that area compared with 12% of outpatients.

The researchers did note the possibility for bias in the sample because patients came to Mount Sinai Health System because they were experiencing symptoms.

A separate study published in the Lancet Psychiatry Journal found that as many as 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 had longer term mental health or neurological symptoms.

More studies are required to understand long-term treatments for COVID-19 and the risk factors that may lead to increased risk for cognitive impairment.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/brain-fog-in-covid-19-patients-can-persist-for-months-even-in-those-not-hospitalized-study-finds-1.5634561>

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**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.

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:aclark@marchofdimes.ca) or call 1-905-301-8114 for more information or to get connected.

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jessica.nydp@gmail.com).