

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – October 28, 2021**

As of October 28th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,707,288 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 598,840 cases and Toronto has 180,735 cases.

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**Ontario reports 409 new COVID-19 cases**

Today, there are 409 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 1.3%.

Of these 409 new infections, 265 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 144 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (54), Peel Region (45), and York Region (25). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 131 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 28 people who are fully vaccinated and 103 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, 68 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 16 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 20,408 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.9 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 84.1% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 88% 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-409-new-cases-of-covid-19-three-deaths-1.5642104>

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**Ontario aims to add 2,000 more nurses in long-term care sector**

The province is aiming to increase direct care for long-term care residents to four hours a day. This decision was made to recognize the complex needs of seniors and other individuals living in long-term care.

“The level of care those residents need has increased dramatically, but the amount of care they receive each day has not kept up”

Ontario plans to spend up to \$100 million to add 2,000 nurses to the long-term care sector over the next few years. This is part of a larger plan to increase staffing levels and improve care for residents.

The funding will go towards several programs over the next four years. This includes up to \$6,000 a year in tuition for personal support workers to become registered practical nurses, and up to \$10,000 a year in tuition for registered practical nurses to become registered nurses.

The Ontario government is also aiming to increase access to nursing programs at publicly funded colleges. For example, up to \$6,000 per year for internationally trained nurses to gain required work credentials.

“This support will help address barriers people face when they want to further their education”

The Ontario Long-Term Care Association welcomed this news. As right now, there is a critical shortage of staff in this sector.

The proposed legislation is expected to be introduced today. The legislation will set standards in long-term care, including the government's pledge that residents will receive four hours of direct care per day by 2025.

Source:

1. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-long-term-care-more-nurses-1.6226928>

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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).