

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 29, 2021

As of October 29th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,709,494 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 598,840 cases and Toronto has 180,804 cases.

Ontario reports 419 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 419 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 355, down from 405 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.3%.

Of these 419 new infections, 279 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 (63), Windsor-Essex (34), Peel Region (32), and York Region (30). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 139 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 29 people who are fully vaccinated and 110 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 85 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 71 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 14 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-419-cases-of-covid-19-no-new-deaths-1.5643717>

Halloween and COVID-19

The Windsor-Essex Health Unit has released a list of recommendations on how to celebrate Halloween safely and to limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes staying local, keeping gatherings small, and staying home if you are feeling unwell.

Please remember, it is also ok to forego traditional Halloween festivities if you are not comfortable. Turn off your outdoor lights and enjoy a cozy night inside with some scary movies and candy.

If you are trick-or-treating:

1. Trick-or-treat from a distance – always stay at least 6 feet away from people outside your household
2. Do not sing or shout for your treats – this can increase the spread of respiratory droplets
3. Wear a mask or face covering – try to incorporate it as part of your costume and remember that costume masks are not a substitute for proper face coverings
4. Limit the number of houses you visit
5. Avoid large groups and Halloween parties
6. Stay outdoors
7. Practice frequent hand washing and use hand sanitizer

If you are handing out treats:

1. Practice frequent hand washing and use hand sanitizer when handing out treats
2. Give treats from a distance – you can use tongs, place treats outside, and you can even hand treats out from the bottom of your driveway
3. Wear a mask or face covering
4. Place physical distancing markers leading to your door, so trick-or-treaters stay physically distanced from one another
5. Avoid any decorations that may cause a child to scream or cough as this can increase the spread of respiratory droplets

Alternative activities:

1. Create an at home trick-or-treat hunt
2. Host a virtual costume party
3. Enjoy a family Halloween night with movies, pumpkin carving, and more
4. Deliver treats to family and friends from a safe distance

Stay safe and have a Happy Halloween!



Sources:

1. <https://www.wechu.org/newsroom/news-release-let%E2%80%99s-celebrate-halloween-safely>
2. <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/here-s-how-to-trick-or-treat-safely-this-halloween-1.5639005>

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.