

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 5, 2021

As of October 5th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,641,175 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 589,041 cases and Toronto has 179,083 cases.

Ontario reports 429 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 429 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 576, down from 605 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.8%.

Of these 429 new infections, 301 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 128 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (108), Peel Region (55), Ottawa (47), York Region (29), Hamilton (23), and Durham Region (13). All other health units reported fewer than 20 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 277 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 41 people who are fully vaccinated and 236 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 155 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 101 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Over 10.6 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 82% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 87.2% 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-429-new-covid-19-cases-three-more-deaths-1.5611505>

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine antibodies disappear for many people by seven months, a small study suggests

A small study, analyzing the blood samples of 46 healthy, young and middle-aged adults, found that six months after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, many recipients no longer had vaccine-induced antibodies. These are the antibodies that can neutralize COVID-19 and its variants.

Neutralizing antibodies “are critically important in protecting against SARS-CoV-2 infection.”

“Our study shows vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine induces high levels of neutralizing antibodies against the original vaccine strain, but these levels drop by nearly 10-fold by seven months”

In about half of the participants, neutralizing antibodies that fight infection against COVID-19 variants such as Delta, Beta, and Mu were undetectable six months after the second dose.

The study recommends administering a booster dose six or seven months after immunization to help protect against COVID-19 and its variants.

This study comes after Moderna’s president warned Canadians that they may need to receive a booster by Christmas to prevent breakthrough cases.

Canada’s National Advisory Committee on Immunization has only recommended booster shots for people with compromised immune systems and those living in congregate care settings as of today.

Sources:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-antibodies-disappear-in-many-by-7-months-small-study-suggests-1.5609826>
2. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8233115/canada-covid-19-boosters-christmas-moderna/>

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.