

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 6, 2021

As of October 6th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,643,470 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 589,041 cases and Toronto has 179,172 cases.

Ontario logs 476 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 476 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 573, down from 610 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.7%.

Of these 476 new infections, 335 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 141 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (84), York Region (44), Windsor-Essex (44), Peel Region (39), Middlesex-London (25), Ottawa (23), Niagara Region (22), and Durham Region (21). All other health units reported fewer than 20 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 280 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 46 people who are fully vaccinated and 234 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 156 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 103 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In Ontario, 32,296 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.6 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 81.6% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 86.6% 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-logs-476-new-covid-19-cases-14-more-deaths-1.5613038>

Ontario's chief medical officer of health says medical exemptions are being granted too frequently

Ontario's top public health official, Dr. Kieran Moore, says that there needs to be a "review" of the exemptions being granted to unvaccinated employees in some workplaces. There is evidence that the exemption rate is hundreds of times higher than it should be.

The medical exemptions are meant for people who experience a severe allergic reaction or have a condition that puts them at risk if they receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The medical exemption rate for employees is around one and two per cent.

“If you put those calculations together we should be seeing medical exemptions of around one to five per 100,000. We are seeing a higher number reported by workers and I think it deserves a review...Certainly we have tried to educate physicians and nurse practitioners who fill out these forms to make sure there are aware of the two major exemptions.”

There are debates as to if the government should verify the legitimacy of these medical claims or if it is up to individuals and businesses to address any concerns they may have regarding vaccine status.

Moore further stated, “I want to ensure that all Ontarians have the benefit of protection of immunization and a false medical exemption or an incorrect one bypasses our ability to protect them. So I would hope these conversations are happening between physician and patient, nurse and patient and the physicians are seeking guidance from their respective college regarding what are the appropriate medical exemptions.”

Source:

1. <https://www.cp24.com/news/i-think-it-deserves-a-review-top-health-official-says-medical-exemptions-being-granted-far-too-frequently-1.5611799>

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.