

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – October 7, 2021

As of October 7th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,647,198 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 589,517 cases and Toronto has 179,292 cases.

Ontario reports 587 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 587 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 565, down from 574 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.7%.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (114), Peel Region (55), York Region (42), Windsor-Essex (45), and Ottawa (32). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, 121 COVID-19 cases were identified in Ontario schools, with 106 of those cases in children. Eight schools are currently closed as a result of COVID-19. Twelve additional cases have been identified in child-care facilities. Seventeen child-care facilities are closed.

There are 279 COVID-19 patients in hospital, and 149 of those patients are in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 134 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 15 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 25,240 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.6 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 81.8% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 86.7% 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-587-new-covid-19-cases-ahead-of-releasing-new-thanksgiving-guidelines-1.5614732>

NEW STUDY: Without masks, 2-metre distancing not enough to prevent spread of COVID-19 indoors

A study published in the *Building and Environment Journal*, used coughing dynamics to analyze the flow of liquids and gasses in indoor settings. This research aimed to find out how far particles travel when we cough. The study found that when not wearing a mask, 2-metres is not a long enough distance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 indoors.

In fact, wearing a mask reduces the range of particles by approximately 67%.

“Mask mandates and good ventilation are critically important to curb the spread of more contagious strains of COVID-19, especially during the flu season and winter months as more people socialize indoors.”

Coughing is a main contributor to the spread of COVID-19, which is why it is so important to wear a tight-fitting mask without any gaps around the edges, and to physically distance whenever possible.

The study found that when people are unmasked, more than 70 percent of airborne particles pass the two-metre threshold within 30 seconds, and particles can reach as far as five metres. By comparison, less than one percent of particles cross the two-metre mark when masks are worn.

The researchers also found that ventilation, a person’s posture, and mask-wearing impacted the spread of particles significantly. These results can help policymakers make decisions that will better protect all of us.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/without-masks-2-metre-distancing-not-enough-to-prevent-spread-of-covid-19-indoors-study-1.5611798>

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.