

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – September 23, 2021

As of September 23rd, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,591,044 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 581,908 cases and Toronto has 177,644 cases.

Ontario reports fewer than 700 new COVID-19 cases for fourth straight day

Today, there are 677 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 665, down from 731 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.9%.

Of these 677 new infections, 529 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 148 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (136), Peel Region (76), York Region (73), Durham Region (39), Hamilton (38), Middlesex-London (31), and Windsor-Essex (29). All other health units reported fewer than 30 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 307 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 34 people who are fully vaccinated and 273 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 193 patients in an Intensive Care Unit, and 134 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In Ontario, 44,754 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.3 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 80.2% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 86.1% 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-fewer-than-700-new-covid-19-cases-for-fourth-straight-day-1.5597285>

NEW STUDY: Coronavirus variants 'better at travelling through the air,' raising transmission risk

A new study published in the Clinical Infectious Diseases medical journal found that COVID-19 variants are becoming airborne more easily. This has created concern that loose-fitting face masks will not work well enough to prevent infection. Additionally, public health measures such as improved ventilation and sanitization need to be enhanced for public-facing jobs and indoor work "until vaccination rates are very high."

Masks were still found to be effective at reducing the amount of virus exhaled into the air, but loose-fitting masks did not completely prevent virus particles from going into the air.

The study showed that people infected with the Alpha variant breathed 43 to 100 times more virus into the air compared to people infected with the original strain of the virus.

“We know that the Delta variant circulating now is even more contagious than the Alpha variant. Our research indicates that the variants just keep getting better at travelling through the air, so we must provide better ventilation and wear tight-fitting masks, in addition to vaccination, to help stop spread of the virus”

With the virus learning to travel through the air more easily it is very important to get vaccinated, socially distance, wear a face mask, hand sanitize and reduce your contact with other people whenever possible.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-variants-better-at-travelling-through-the-air-raising-transmission-risk-study-finds-1.5589942>

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.