

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

As of September 29th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,616,817 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 585,502 cases and Toronto has 178,398 cases.

Ontario reports another 495 new COVID-19 cases

Today, there are 495 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 610, down from 691 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 1.7%.

Of these 495 new infections, 380 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 115 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (107), Hamilton (39), Ottawa (39), York Region (35), Peel Region (33), Windsor-Essex (33), and Niagara Region (32). All other health units reported fewer than 30 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 292 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 32 people who are fully vaccinated and 260 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. There are 172 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 164 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 8 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 38,297 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 10.5 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 81.3% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 86.8% 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-another-495-cases-of-covid-19-eight-additional-deaths-1.5604867>

National vaccine panel recommends COVID-19 boosters for long-term care residents

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that Canadians living in long-term care homes and other congregate-care settings, such as retirement homes or assisted-living facilities, receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. This comes two weeks after NACI recommended that immunocompromised people receive a booster shot.

Specifically, NACI recommends that long-term care residents receive an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna. A booster shot for these populations will provide more protection and prevent outbreaks during the fourth wave of this pandemic.

NACI does not direct policymakers, but their recommendations have helped guide us throughout the pandemic.

NACI stated that “Canadians residing in long-term care homes and seniors living in other congregate settings, such as retirement homes or assisted-living facilities, are at increased risk for COVID-19 infection because of their daily interactions with other residents and staff”

The statement also said that those living in long-term care make up 1.1% of the Canadian population, but account “for approximately two thirds of all reported deaths associated with COVID-19 during the first and second waves of the pandemic, and half of all reported deaths to date.”

The recommendation was made in response to evidence that vaccine effectiveness decreases over time, and that these groups were some of the first to receive their vaccinations. Furthermore, the rise of Delta variant cases has created a need for stronger immunity responses as it is more transmissible than the original COVID-19 strain.

Several provinces, including Ontario, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have already started offering booster shots to specific populations.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/national-vaccine-panel-recommends-covid-19-booster-shots-for-long-term-care-residents-1.5603872>

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.