

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – April 14, 2021

As of April 14th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 078, 562 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 394, 679 cases and Toronto has 126, 463 cases.

Ontario releases more details on how people in COVID-19 hot spots can get the vaccine

Yesterday, government officials said that the vaccine rollout’s progress could be impacted because they are uncertain of the amount of vaccines that will be delivered in May.

Specifically, delayed shipments of the Moderna vaccine have a “significant impact on continuity of clinic operations.” However, while community clinics may close, officials say they don’t believe that Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline will be impacted.

The current timeline for Phase 2, which was updated on April 9, states that those living in the highest-risk communities in Toronto and Peel Region are scheduled to get their vaccine in April while remaining neighbourhoods will be vaccinated in May.

The government also provided further details on how certain groups of people and those living or working in a COVID-19 hotspot will be able to get a vaccine.

Adults 60 years of age and under with highest health risks

This includes: organ transplant recipients, hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, neurological diseases, haematological malignancy diagnosed for over a year and kidney disease. An essential caregiver for someone with one of these conditions is also eligible. Officials say the timing for this category is “underway.”

Hospitals and local physicians will contact eligible patients and provide them with a letter they can show at their appointments. Officials say that eligible individuals will “shortly” be able to book through the provincial system.

Adults 50 years of age or older in COVID-19 hot spots

This includes: Anyone aged 50 and over living in a hot spot community identified by the province by postal code. Check your postal code [here](#).

These individuals can book an appointment at a mass immunization clinic through the provincial booking system or through a local public health unit in a region not using the province's system.

Adults 18+ living in targeted high-risk neighbourhoods

Whether or not you live in a high-risk neighbourhood depends on your postal code, which you can check [here](#). These individuals will not be able to get a vaccine at a mass immunization clinic. Instead, they will be able to go to a mobile or pop-up clinic in their area. These will be hosted by community organizations. Officials say that residents should check with their local public health units for more information.

Employees who work in high-risk settings

The government is working with local public health units, hospitals and employers to explore the feasibility of onsite workplace vaccination clinics in hot spots.

Employers whose workplace is within a hot spot and has had a previous outbreak or is at risk of an outbreak would be eligible. However, the province says that the employer must take on the responsibility of setting up, operating and funding an onsite vaccination clinic. This vaccination clinic must also provide shots to the local community.

Education workers supporting students with special needs

School boards will identify eligible employees and provide a letter as proof of identity.

Starting April 12, special education workers can book a vaccine at a mass immunization clinic through the provincial system. Public health units not using the provincial booking system will make arrangements with school boards.

Education workers in select hot spot communities

Education staff who work, but do not live, in a COVID-19 hot spot can get a letter confirming their employment to be used as proof of identity.

These individuals can book an appointment using the provincial booking system and get vaccinated at a mass immunization clinic as of April 12.

Source:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-releases-more-details-on-how-people-in-covid-19-hot-spots-can-get-the-vaccine-1.5385187>

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Ontario reports more than 4,100 new COVID-19 cases, ICU admissions near 650

There were 4,156 new cases confirmed today, and the number of patients in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with the disease reaches 642, the highest number seen throughout the course of the pandemic. Of those patients, 442 are breathing with the assistance of a ventilator, which is also higher than ever before.

Of today's new cases, 1,254 are in Toronto, 593 in Peel Region, 476 in York Region, 340 in Ottawa, 248 in Durham Region, 192 in Halton Region, 189 in Hamilton, 149 in Niagara Region, 121 in Middlesex-London, and 106 in Waterloo.

Ontario's positivity rate is 8.6%, compared to the year-long high of 10.3% yesterday. The seven-day average is the highest it has ever been at 4,000 new cases per day. This time last week, it was 2,757. In the last 24 hours, 28 more people have died due to the virus.

Since the province began searching for mutations, more than 25,000 tests have been flagged as mutations. In total, scientists have confirmed 24,467 cases of the UK variant, 176 cases of the Brazilian variant, and 84 cases of the South African variant.

Today, 3,980 new cases of the UK variant were found, and yesterday 3,947 cases of this variant were found. Also, there are 33 more new cases of the Brazil variant, and another 3 cases of the South African variant.

In the past 24 hours, more than 112,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine were given out. So far, over 337,000 Ontarians have received both doses.

Sources:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-4-100-new-covid-19-cases-icu-admissions-near-650-1.5386969>

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:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinars

Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks

Date: Starting Thursday, March 4th, at 2:00pm – every Thursday, join anytime

To register for any or all sessions: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-of-dimes-canada-caregiver-conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

The Importance of Socialization for Family Caregivers

Date: Monday, April 19th at 2:00pm

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-importance-of-socialization-for-family-caregivers-registration-146947573147?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

If you or someone you know uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and requires resources related to COVID-19, please contact Sarah (sarah.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 back 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 Outreach Communication

Facilitator Sarah, at 416-222-4448 or

sarah.nydp@gmail.com