

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – April 20, 2021

As of April 20th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,136,379 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 424,911 cases and Toronto has 127, 769 cases.

Ontario reports 3, 469 new COVID-19 cases, 22 more deaths

The province has reported more than 3, 400 new COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths today, as hospitalizations continue to rise sharply. The seven-day rolling average now stands at 4, 319, up from 3, 868 one week ago. According to provincial data, there are currently 42, 941 active cases of the virus across the province.

Provincial health officials also reported nearly 2, 700 lab-confirmed cases of the highly-contagious variants of concern, with all but one being the dominant B.1.1.7 variant. Overall, nearly 40, 600 tests were completed in the past 24 hours, putting the province's positivity rate at 10 percent.

Most of the cases continue to be in the GTA, and 1, 074 new cases were reported in Toronto today. There were 775 cases reported in Peel Region, 406 in York Region, 256 in Durham, and 130 in Halton.

The number of hospitalizations in the province continues to climb, and the Ministry of Health says that there are now at least 2, 360 COVID-19 patients in Ontario hospitals. Of those hospitalized, there are 773 patients in intensive care units, and 537 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-3-469-new-covid-19-cases-22-more-deaths-1.5394432>

Ontario lowering age eligibility for AstraZeneca vaccine to 40

Starting today, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine will be offered to individuals 40 years old and over in pharmacies and primary care settings in Ontario. This change was confirmed on Sunday evening, as there have been growing calls for the provincial government to make the vaccine more widely available during the third wave of the pandemic.

The AstraZeneca vaccine had only been offered to those 55 and over, after a recommendation from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). This was in response to several cases of

younger people developing rare blood clots after receiving the shot. So far, there have been two of these cases reported in Canada.

Despite these cases, Health Canada maintains that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh the risks of getting COVID-19. NACI is currently reviewing data on the vaccine, and federal and provincial health ministers are hoping that there will be an updated recommendation to use the vaccine on all who are 18 and over.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-lowering-age-eligibility-for-astrazeneca-vaccine-to-40-1.5392496>

Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine booking portal:

Those eligible for a vaccine can book here.

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>

A 3-Part Series for Caregivers: Caregiving: A Family Affair

Session 1: How Care Shapes Family

Date: Monday April 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/3-part-series-caregiving-a-family-affair-how-care-shapes-family-registration-147128530395>

Better Living Health and Community Services

Lunch n` Learns

Stress Reduction Facilitator Dr. Marcia Kostenuik

Date: Wednesday, April 21st from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoce-grTwwGtXAXMFIY134th5r0WaTWtjw>

Tuning In: Using Music to Promote Health, Wellness and Care Facilitator Sarah Rose Black

Date: Wednesday, April 28th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvfuuPrzopE9a5UjiOUd7IhtP_pV3f62n6

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