

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – April 28 2021**

As of April 28th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 199, 638 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 455, 606 cases and Toronto has 143, 741 cases.

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**Ontario reports more than 3, 400 COVID-19 cases as test positivity rate drops**

Today, Ontario is recording an additional 3, 400 COVID-19 cases. The province's positivity rate is now 7.2%. This is the first time in two days that number has been below 10%.

Of today's new cases, there are 961 in Toronto, 589 in Peel Region, 290 in York Region, 221 in Durham Region, 180 in Ottawa, and 116 in Halton Region. Niagara Region also reported 341 cases and Hamilton recorded 255. In an email, the Ministry of Health said that these numbers may be higher today due to a "data catch-up process".

Of the 2, 281 COVID-19 patients in Ontario's hospitals, 877 are in Intensive Care Units and 571 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In the last 24 hours, 24 more people have died due to the virus, and 4, 517 more people have recovered from it, bringing Ontario's number of recovered patients up to 408, 765.

Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-ontario-april-28-2021-cases-slowing-1.6005192>

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**Ontario moving patients from hospitals to long-term care without their consent due to COVID-19 third wave**

Earlier today, the provincial government announced that hospitals will be able to move chronically ill hospital patients out of hospitals and into Long-Term Care homes or retirement homes without the consent of the patient or their substitute decision maker.

This applies to chronically ill hospital patients who are considered healthy enough to be discharged. Nobody is being moved out of critical care. "Hundreds of individuals in hospital are waiting to be discharged to a Long-Term Care home or another more appropriate care setting," the province said.

Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliot stated that "every effort to speak with the person and their family to obtain their consent" for the transfer will be made, but in "extremely rare" instances, the consent of the patient is no longer required before they are moved.

North Yorkers for Disabled Persons, Inc. Updated April 28, 2021

Also, Elliot said the province will be “making every effort possible” to prevent moving people away from their families. The province stated, “first priority will be given to patients with less complex care needs and those who are able to be moved close to their preferred choice [of Long-Term Care home].”

According to Ontario Health CEO Matt Anderson, this action will not be taken in every community in the province, but in areas where hospitals are experiencing “major surge events where the demand for critical care threatens to overwhelm a hospital and compromise care.”

The government’s ability to do this comes from an amendment to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

This past month, a variety of changes have been made to Ontario hospitals. Elliott and Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Williams have:

- called for all non-emergency surgery in hospitals to be postponed
- signed off on orders to transfer patients between hospitals without their consent
- allowed medical professionals to conduct activity outside the scope of their normal practice in emergency situations, and
- appealed abroad for more temporary healthcare workers to help out.

Using the ORNGE Air Ambulance service, the province has transferred hundreds of patients from the GTA to hospitals in other parts of Ontario in order to free up space. There are now six field hospitals set up across the province, adding hundreds of acute care beds to the system.

Sources:

1.<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-to-move-patients-from-hospitals-to-long-term-care-without-their-consent-due-to-covid-19-third-wave-1.5405366>

2.<https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-allows-hospitals-to-move-patients-to-long-term-care-without-their-consent-due-to-covid-19-third-wave-1.5405246>

3.<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-ontario-april-28-2021-cases-slowing-1.6005192>

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### **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.

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**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>.

**In Scarborough? SCC Sedan Taxi has a new name and logo:**

The Scarborough City Cab, also known as SSC Sedan Taxi, is changing its name and logo! As of Sunday, May 2, its new name is Toronto 1 Taxi (TTM). This rebranding will not impact its services or the delivery of your trip. This is the new logo that you will see on their cars:



Questions? Call 416-393-4111 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or email [wtcs@ttc.ca](mailto:wtcs@ttc.ca).

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March of Dimes**

**Caregiver Webinars**

**Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks**

Date: Starting Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 2: Remaking the Family, Responding to Crisis, Chaos and Change

Date: Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/3-part-series-caregiving-a-family-affair-remaking-the-family-registration-147152913325>

➤ Session 3: A Toolkit for Caregiver and Family Well-Being

Date: Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/3-part-series-caregiving-a-family-affair-a-toolkit-for-caregivers-registration-147153587341>

### **Navigating the Healthcare System**

Date: Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/navigating-the-healthcare-system-registration-151067826937>

## **Better Living Health and Community Services**

### **Wellness Breaks and Lunch n' Learns**

Using Music to Promote Health, Wellness and Care

Date: Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00pm

To register: [https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJYvfuuprzopE9a5UjiOUd7IhtP\\_pV3f62n6](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJYvfuuprzopE9a5UjiOUd7IhtP_pV3f62n6)

Reconnecting with Mind and Body

Date: Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 3:20pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJUkdOmrrD0uGtew2bbwWADn812Aa62KrYJr>

Basic Ways to Improve Your Diet

Date: Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJ0ldeygqTIpG9Oob0TxQDcDqmLzmSRgyOgx>

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:sarah.nydp@gmail.com)