

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – April 5, 2021**

As of April 5th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 011, 222 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 364, 537 cases and Toronto has 116, 546 cases.

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**What does a COVID-19 shutdown mean for Ontario? Your top questions answered**

As of midnight on Friday, every public health unit in Ontario entered a month-long shutdown, which means more restrictions. The shutdown will last at least one month, or until May 3.

***How is the shutdown different from the restrictions already in place under the provincial COVID-19 framework?***

The shutdown rules are similar to the older version of the grey zone, the strictest tier in the province's COVID-19 framework. Last month, the province changed the grey zone rules, so that patios, outdoor fitness, and personal care services could open. Under the new shutdown, all of those services are shut down again.

Also, the number of people allowed to gather outdoors has gone down from 10 to 5.

Click [here](#) for a full list of what you can and cannot do.

***Is there a stay-at-home order?***

No. However, residents are encouraged not to leave their home except for essential reasons, including trips for buying food, medication, medical appointments, supporting vulnerable individuals and exercising outdoors with members of their household.

***Can I go to the store?***

Yes. Retail stores are allowed to operate with strict capacity limits. Essential stores such as supermarkets, pharmacies and other stores that primarily sell food can open at 50% capacity, while all other retailers, including big box stores, are restricted at 25% capacity.

When standing in line to enter a store, customers must maintain two meters distance between one another.

***Can I get together with my family?***

It is illegal to gather indoors with anyone you do not live with. Residents may get together with up to five people outdoors, but a two-metre distance must be maintained.

***Are schools open?***

Yes. Schools and child-care centres are expected to stay open throughout the four-week shutdown. Education Minister Stephen Lecce said that the provincial government is fully committed to keeping schools open and that students will return to “elevated” infection prevention and control measures.

Day camps will be closed.

***Is the April break still happening?***

Yes. The postponed March Break, now scheduled for the week of April 12, is expected to go ahead as planned.

***Can I go to a restaurant?***

No. In-person dining (both indoor and outdoor) is prohibited. Restaurants are allowed to provide takeout and delivery only.

***Are gyms open?*** No. Gyms, as well as outdoor fitness classes, are closed during the shutdown.

***Can I get a haircut?*** No. All personal care services are prohibited during the shutdown.

***Can I host a wedding or hold a funeral?***

Indoor ceremonies or religious services are capped at 15 per cent capacity. There is no cap on outdoor religious services, but all participants must be able to stay two metres apart from one another.

***Can I travel in the province?***

You are being asked not to travel outside of your region or province unless absolutely necessary.

***Why is this happening?***

- The number of COVID-19 variant cases are rising.
- The province has been seeing a record-breaking number of admissions to the intensive care unit as a result of the disease.
- New modelling data released on Thursday suggests that, even with more restrictions in addition to these ones, COVID-19 admissions to intensive care units could reach 800 by the end of the month.

Source: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/what-does-a-covid-19-shutdown-mean-for-ontario-your-top-questions-answered-1.5373066>

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## **Ontario reports nearly 6,000 new COVID-19 cases over past two days, ICU admissions reach all-time high**

Yesterday, the province didn't report any numbers since it was Easter. This article will share the numbers for both days. Ontario reported 2, 938 new infections today and 3, 401 yesterday.

Toronto confirmed 906 cases today and 847 yesterday. Peel Region reported 533 cases today and 644 yesterday. York Region recorded 391 today and 310 yesterday. Ottawa noted 230 today and 214 yesterday. In the past 48 hours, Niagara Region, Durham Region, and Middlesex-London also recorded case numbers in the triple digits.

On Sunday, Ontario's positivity rate was 6.5%, and today it is 7.8%. The province's rolling seven-day average of new cases has risen to 2, 757 new cases per day. A week ago, that number was 2, 094. Two weeks ago, it was 1, 599.

There are 942 reported hospitalizations on Monday and 811 on Sunday (an increase of 146 over the past two days), with 494 in intensive care on Monday and 476 on Sunday (an increase of 43 over the past two days), with 293 on a ventilator Monday and 262 Sunday (an increase of 32).

According to the Ministry of Long-Term Care, one more resident of a Long-Term Care home has died due to COVID-19. The total number of deaths among residents and patients in Long-Term Care homes across Ontario is 3, 755. Currently, there are 50 current outbreaks in homes, and only 4 of those outbreaks have resident cases.

Including today's 10 people and yesterday's 12 people who died due to COVID-19, the province's total number of deaths is now 7, 450. The total number of recoveries is 331, 600.

Ontario has 2, 135 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7. variant (also known as the UK variant), 71 confirmed cases of the B.1.351 variant (also known as the South African variant) and 103 confirmed cases of the P.1. variant (also known as the Brazilian variant).

As of 8:00 PM on Sunday, over 2.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Ontario, which is 121, 577 more shots since Friday's report. So far, 322, 197 people in the province are considered to be fully vaccinated.

Sources:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-nearly-6-000-new-covid-19-cases-over-past-two-days-icu-admissions-reach-all-time-high-1.5374607>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7738727/covid-19-ontario-cases-april-5-coronavirus/>

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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>.

**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 Moment for You: A Conversation Among Caregivers**

Date: Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-moment-for-you-a-conversation-among-caregivers-registration-146756521707?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

### **Resources and Supports for Caregivers**

Date: Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-supports-and-resources-for-caregivers-registration-146646554793?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

### **The Importance of Socialization for Family Caregivers**

Date: Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register:

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

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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)