

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – April 7, 2021

As of April 7th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 024, 108 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 367, 602 cases and Toronto has 118, 477 cases.

Ontario government suggests more COVID-19 restrictions coming, but details not revealed

Since last Thursday, the province has been in shutdown, which will continue until May 3. On Tuesday afternoon, Premier Doug Ford spoke about the need for additional restrictions. When he was asked about another stay-at-home order, he said “we’ll discuss that tomorrow”.

Later today, Ford, Health Minister Christine Elliott, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones and Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams are scheduled to speak about this possibility of another stay-at-home order.

During separate news conferences yesterday, both Ford and Williams indicated that all options are “on the table.” At time of writing, there aren’t any concrete details on the specific measures that are being considered or when those measures might start.

CP24 and CTV News Toronto report that sources told them a stay-at-home order will be approved and announced today. If that happens, it would be expected to start at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 8 and last for four weeks, ending on May 6. This is still unconfirmed.

A stay-at-home order means that all retail outlets for in-person shopping would be closed, except for grocery stores and pharmacies. Big box stores would be allowed to open to sell essential goods only. All other retailers, including malls, would be restricted to curbside pickup.

Yesterday, Ford made reference to a packed parking lot at Yorkdale Mall over the weekend, after the province entered its most recent shutdown. “It was absolutely jampacked and I truly was hoping that people wouldn’t be going in there to the volume that we saw,” he said. Five days before Ford made these comments, his government chose not to close malls when they set the rules for the province’s shutdown.

In addition, he said: “We’re going to have further restrictions moving forward very, very quickly, and again we have to focus on where we see the problem. Three regions: York, Peel and Toronto represent 60 per cent of the COVID cases.”

During a news conference after Ford spoke, Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams North Yorkers for Disabled Persons, Inc. Updated April 8, 2021

was asked if he will be recommending a stay-at-home order. He said the government's public health measures advisory body was reviewing recommendations from medical officers of health and other stakeholders, but an exact timeframe was unclear.

During his update, Williams noted that Ontario's Intensive Care Units have seen more patients during the third wave than the past two waves, including more patients under the age of 60.

Sources:

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7741499/covid-new-ontario-restrictions/>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-to-enact-month-long-stay-at-home-order-beginning-thursday-sources-1.5377410>

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Ontario reports more than 3,200 COVID-19 cases, 17 deaths

Ontario reported 3,215 new infections today. Ontario has 27,359 active cases, which is up from 26,568 the previous day, and up from 20,155 one week ago. At the peak of the coronavirus surge in January, the number of active cases was above 30,000.

Of today's new cases, 1,095 were recorded in Toronto, 596 in Peel Region, 342 in York Region, 225 in Ottawa, 187 in Durham Region, 113 in Middlesex-London and 104 in Hamilton. All other local public health units reported fewer than 100 new cases.

Ontario's positivity rate is 6.7%, down from yesterday's number of 7.8%. Last week, it was 4.8%. In the last 24 hours, 49,889 tests were processed. There is currently a backlog of 41,624 tests awaiting results.

Across the province, 1,397 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 (up by 236 from the previous day) with 504 in intensive care units (down by 6) and 311 patients in ICUs on a ventilator (up by 1).

17 more people have died due to COVID-19, and the province's total number of deaths is now 7,475. The total number of recoveries is now 335,983 as 2,407 more people have recovered.

Regarding variants, Ontario has 2,291 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7. variant (also known as the UK variant), 72 confirmed cases of the B.1.351 variant (also known as the South African variant) and 120 confirmed cases of the P.1. variant (also known as the Brazilian variant).

As of 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the provincial government reported administering 104,382 vaccines, which is the most they have ever given in one day! Before yesterday, the province had never administered more than 100,000 vaccines in 24 hours. So far, a total of 2,726,221 COVID-19

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vaccine doses have been given, and 324, 148 people in the province are considered to be fully vaccinated.

Sources:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7742689/covid-19-ontario-cases-april-7-coronavirus/>

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

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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>

Resources and Supports for Caregivers

Date: Monday, April 12th 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 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