

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – April 8, 2021

As of April 8th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 032, 945 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 374, 112 cases and Toronto has 119, 598 cases.

Ontario reports 3, 295 new cases of COVID-19, ICU occupancy sets new record high

The province has reported 3, 295 new cases of the virus today, along with 19 more deaths, as hospital ICU admissions reach an all-time high. Today's reporting is the highest daily standalone count of cases since Jan. 17th. The current seven-day rolling average of new cases is now 3,093, up from 2,988 yesterday. There are now more than 28,000 known active cases of infection confirmed in the province.

Locally, there were 933 new cases reported in Toronto today, 649 in Peel Region, and 386 in York Region. Ontario began a second 28-day stay-at-home order and provincial state of emergency today, which is aimed to reduce COVID-19 case growth enough to prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed. Hospital admissions has increased exponentially recently, and the Ministry of Health has reported a total of 1,417 people in hospital with the virus today, and 525 patients in intensive care units. This is over 100 more people in intensive care than the province's previous peak in Wave 2 of the pandemic, which was 420.

Labs processed 63, 846 tests in the past 24 hours, which generated a positivity rate of 6 percent. There are another 42, 400 specimens currently under investigation.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-3-295-new-covid-19-cases-icu-occupancy-sets-new-record-high-1.5379135>

Ontario issues emergency alert on new stay-at-home order to curb spread of virus

Today, Ontarians across the province have received emergency alerts on their cellphones, radios and televisions telling them to stay home. The message asks people to only leave their homes for essential purposes, such as food, healthcare, exercise or work. The stay-at-home order was announced by Premier Doug Ford on Wednesday, and was prompted by a surge in cases driven by more infectious variants.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-issues-emergency-alert-on-new-stay-at-home-order-to-curb-covid-19-1.5378949>

Ontario prioritizing everyone 18+ in hardest hit neighbourhoods as part of vaccine rollout

Premier Doug Ford announced the province's plan to prioritize everyone over the age of 18 for the vaccine in the hardest hit neighbourhoods. This will take effect in Phase 2 of the vaccine distribution plan. Phase 2 is meant to run from April to July, but no timeline on when younger people will be eligible for a shot has been given.

Starting next week, all education workers in high-risk neighbourhoods in Toronto and Peel Region will be eligible to receive a vaccine, and this will be expanded to all residents over the age of 18 once mobile teams have been organized to go into the neighbourhoods. Pop-up vaccine clinics will be set up in the hardest hit neighbourhoods, and there are currently 100 postal codes that have been deemed "hot spot communities."

For a full list of these neighbourhoods, check out this article: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ont-prioritizing-everyone-18-in-hardest-hit-neighbourhoods-as-part-of-phase-2-of-vaccine-rollout-1.5378057>

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>

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