

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – August 27 2021

As of August 27th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,484,089 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 562,756 cases and Toronto has 173,637 cases.

Ontario reports more than 750 new cases of COVID-19

Today, there are 781 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, up from 678 yesterday and 660 the day before. Of these new cases, 22 are from previous days but were found during an administrative data cleanup. But even without these 22 cases, today's daily case count is the highest number of new infections in a single day since June 4, which had 914 new cases.

The seven-day average is 665, up from 518 at this time last week. The positivity rate is at 3%.

Of these 781 new infections, only 147 infections are in people who are confirmed to be fully vaccinated. The other 634 cases are in people who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or their vaccination status is unknown.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (185), Peel Region (96), York Region (93), Windsor-Essex (67), Hamilton (66), Durham Region (40), Ottawa (33) and Simcoe-Muskoka (33). All other health units in Ontario reported fewer than 30 new cases.

The province stated at least 306 people are in hospital due to COVID-19, including 27 people who are fully vaccinated and 279 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. According to the province, there are at least 158 COVID-19 patients in Intensive Care Units in Ontario hospitals, and 87 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

In the last 24 hours, 36,195 doses were given out in the province. In Ontario, more than 9.8 million people are fully vaccinated, and 20.6 million vaccine doses have been given out since the beginning of the rollout.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-nearly-800-new-covid-19-cases-1.5563710>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-600-new-covid-19-case-for-second-straight-day-1.5562120>

If the provincial government doesn't create a vaccine certificate system, Ontario health units are prepared to create systems of their own

Ontario officials have been openly debating the issue of vaccine certificates, also called vaccine passports. Vaccine certificates are documents that prove someone has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Click [here](#) for more context on this debate within Ontario and across Canada.

Premier Doug Ford has repeatedly stated that he is strongly against the idea of a vaccine certificate. In July, he said “The answer is no, we’re not gonna do it. We’re not gonna have a split society.” Also in July, Ontario’s COVID-19 Science Advisory Table published a 21-page document with recommendations on a vaccination certification program.

Two weeks ago, Ontario’s Big City Mayors called on the provincial government to create a local proof-of-vaccination system that would allow people to show they are vaccinated. Also, in a statement on August 13, the leaders of Ontario’s largest municipalities said vaccination records are helping businesses and event spaces reopen safely.

Even more recently, a new voice joined this public debate: the Association of Local Public Health Agencies. The president of this association announced that Ontario’s health units will start to use their own vaccine certificate in September if the Ontario government doesn’t create a province-wide system.

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Eastern Ontario’s Medical Officer of Health, says that the province’s medical officers of health agreed on Wednesday that each jurisdiction would create their own proof of vaccination certificate.

“In the first place, we do need something more digital and that can also be printed, like a card,” said Dr. Roumelitois, noting the current proof of vaccination system is easy to forge.

“We want a provincial one, let’s make it clear. It would be easier if it’s provincial because then it’s across the board and there won’t be interregional differences,” he said. “We need something digital, something that’s confidential and an alternative card, Manitoba has that as well, Quebec and B.C. all have those alternatives.”

Dr. Robert Cushman, Renfrew County’s acting medical officer of health, says medical officers of health do have the legal authority to put in place a vaccine passport in “terms of protecting public places or private places where the public has access.”

Sources:

1. <https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ontario-health-units-prepared-to-create-their-own-vaccine-certificate-eastern-ontario-top-doctor-1.5562012>
2. https://www.nydp.ca/uploads/1/5/1/7/15170544/which_provinces_and_territories_have_vaccine_passports.pdf
3. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-science-table-says-vaccine-certificates-could-be-used-to-speed-up-reopening-of-high-risk-settings-1.5518238>

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

Caregiving and Resources

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

In this webinar, Heather Cresswell will share her the emotional and physical struggles of caregiving and the wonderful support she received for over 34 years. There will be tips and testimonials for all Caregivers. She will discuss her approach with her Mom on how she dealt with regular daily activities, appointments and services. She will give insight on what takes place when caring for a loved one long term.

Register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LgLPEQJhz0Oew_OpyuNE5Y_YdjYHf-hHnLBGvolxLIpUMIAzOTBFMDc0T09PWDk0S00xRUhMWIBMSy4u

3-Part Series with Caroline Tapp-McDougall

Session 3: Slow Caregiving

Date: RESCHEDULED for Monday, September 20th at 2:00pm.

Register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LgLPEQJhz0Oew_OpyuNE5Y_YdjYHf-hHnLBGvolxLIpUMIAzOTBFMDc0T09PWDk0S00xRUhMWIBMSy4u

Caregiver Support e-Learning Sessions (ongoing)

These sessions are delivered entirely online. This learning model enables you to work through these sessions at your own pace and time. There are 7 short videos and 4 modules. Each module takes about 30 minutes. These sessions provide tools to meet the unique needs of caregivers with the aim of reducing stress and learning new coping and problem-solving skills.

Register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LgLPEQJhz0Oew_OpyuNE5Y_YdjYHf-hHnLBGvolxLIpUMIAzOTBFMDc0T09PWDk0S00xRUhMWIBMSy4u

Caregiver Connection Group (paused until September)

Caregiver Webinars and Caregiver Conversations will not take place in August. They will re-start on September 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm. You will need to re-register, and please do this before September.

Register or re-register:

<https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/Pages/Online-Support.aspx#Conversation>

One to One Peer Support Program

The One to One Peer Support program is still running. No one understands quite like somebody who has lived the same experience. Our Peer Support program pairs caregivers with peers who are also experienced in caregiving and can offer practical advice and support by phone or a video chat. Contact Angie Clark by email at aclark@marchofdimes.ca or call 1-905-301-8114 for more information or to get connected.

3-Part Series with Caregiving – A Family Affair

This series happened in April, and answered the question: How can families remain strong and intact throughout the caregiving experience? If you missed it or would like to re-watch it, please click below. The access code for all sessions is Care2021.

Session 1: How Care Shapes Family - The first webinar in this series will explore how families change when care needs cause everyone to examine the workability of old family dynamics. Click [here](#) to watch.

Session 2: Remaking the Family The second webinar in this series will explore how to intentionally reshape family relationships and dynamics in order to build a strong and sustainable care team. Click [here](#) to watch

Session 3: A Toolkit for Caregivers - The third and final episode in this series will offer tools and strategies to assess the wellbeing of family members individually and gauge how well the family is meeting challenges as a team. Click [here](#) to watch.

For recordings of previous webinars please contact Angie Clark at aclark@marchofdimes.ca.

If you or someone you know uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and requires resources related to COVID-19, please contact Jessica (jessica.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 Senior Manager of Client Services/Lead AAC Facilitator Jessica at 416-222-4448 or jessica.nydp@gmail.com.