

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – December 15, 2020**

As of December 15th, 2020, Canada has a total of 472, 884 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 144, 396 cases with Toronto having 49, 236 cases.

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**Ontario reports over 2, 000 cases in single day for first time in pandemic**

The province is reporting nearly 2, 300 new cases of COVID-19 today, which greatly exceeds past records. Tuesday's reports also revealed significant increases in hospitalizations, and there were an additional 20 deaths in the past 24 hours. Locally, there were 711 new cases reported in Toronto, 586 in Peel Region, 185 in Windsor-Essex County and 154 in York Region.

There are now more than 17, 000 active cases of infection across the province, which is the highest that the number has ever been. Test positivity reached 5.4 percent today, as 39, 500 tests were completed. The number of people hospitalized in the province hit 921 today, which is up from less than 800 one week ago, with 249 patients in intensive care and 156 breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-more-than-2-000-covid-19-cases-a-day-for-first-time-in-pandemic-1.5231849>

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**Canada's mass COVID-19 vaccination rollout expands**

Today, more frontline healthcare workers received the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine across the province. Personal Support Workers have been some of the first to receive the vaccine, many at the University Health Network in Toronto. By the end of this week, the number of people vaccinated at the University Health Network should reach 1, 500. The Pfizer vaccine must be kept at ultra-cold temperatures, which requires freezers and dry ice to manage the product.

The other vaccines that are likely to arrive in Canada in the coming months have fewer barriers to their transportation, and the Moderna candidate requires a storage temperature of -20 degrees C. This will allow the vaccine to be transported to a broader range of locations, including rural communities that might not have the same capacity for freezing requirements. The Moderna vaccine is expected to be approved by Health Canada by the end of the month.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/canada-s-mass-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-expands-1.5231839>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **March of Dimes**

#### **Caregiver Webinar Series:**

How to use technology to supplement Caregiving

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 2:00pm

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/how-can-you-use-technology-to-supplement-caregiving-registration-130453230123>

How to be “Caregiver Smart” and changing roles

Date: Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 2:00pm

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-workshop-session-4how-to-be-caregiver-smart-changing-roles-registration-130266000113>

### **Harmony Place**

#### **Online Music Therapy Sessions**

Date: Wednesdays and Fridays, starting Friday August 7<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 2:30 – 3:30pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054622001?pwd=Z2xyZjFZQUprNRFB6YzAwU085N3pGUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5462 2001

Passcode: 051424

For more information, contact Wanda by email at: [wanda@harmonyplace.on.ca](mailto:wanda@harmonyplace.on.ca)

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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 North Yorkers for Disabled Persons, Inc. Updated December 15, 2020

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)