

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – December 22, 2020

As of December 22nd, 2020, Canada has a total of 515, 314 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 158, 053 cases with Toronto having 54, 009 cases.

Ontario reports more than 2, 200 new cases of COVID-19 as the number of hospitalizations exceed 1, 000

The province is reporting more than 2, 200 new cases of COVID-19, as well as 21 virus-related deaths over the past 24 hours. The number of virus-related hospitalizations in Ontario reached 1,005 today, and 273 of those patients are in intensive care. This is the first time in the second wave of the pandemic that hospitalizations have reached over 1, 000 in Ontario, however during the first wave of COVID-19 in the province the number of hospitalizations peaked at 1, 043 on May 5th.

Of the new cases reported today, 636 were in Toronto, 504 were in Peel Region, 218 were in York Region and 172 were in Windsor-Essex County. There were about 45, 000 tests completed over the past 24 hours, which means that the test positivity rate increased to five percent. There are currently 19, 300 active infections in the province, up from 17, 031 one week ago. There has also been an increase in the number of active outbreaks in Long-Term Care homes, which is now at 173 in the province, up from 139 last week.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-more-than-2-200-new-cases-of-covid-19-as-hospitalizations-exceed-1-000-1.5241358>

Ontario-wide lockdown to begin on Boxing Day, list of essential retailers narrowed

Yesterday, Premier Doug Ford announced a province-wide lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19 that will take effect on Saturday, Dec. 26th. This order will force even more retailers to prohibit in-person shopping. The order will require all non-essential retailers to move to curbside pickup as of 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 26th. Many other businesses, including gyms and personal care services, will be forced to close entirely. Restaurants across the province will be prohibited from allowing in-person dining.

Grocery stores, big box and discount retailers that sell groceries will continue to be open for in-North Yorkers for Disabled Persons, Inc. Updated December 22, 2020

person shopping, but they will face stricter capacity limits. Schools in southern Ontario will switch to remote-only learning for a period of time after the holiday break. Elementary schools will be closed until Jan. 11th, and secondary schools will be closed until Jan. 25th.

The lockdown announcement comes just as new modelling projections were released for the province, which warn that the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals could increase drastically very quickly. In all projected scenarios, the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care units across the province will exceed 300 within the next 10 days. The modelled worst-case scenario is that there will be 1, 500 COVID-19 patients in intensive care units by mid-January.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-wide-lockdown-to-begin-on-boxing-day-list-of-essential-retailers-narrowed-1.5239773>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Harmony Place

Online Music Therapy Sessions

Date: Wednesdays and Fridays, starting Friday August 7th, and Wednesday August 19th, 2020

Time: 2:30 – 3:30pm

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054622001?pwd=Z2xyZjFZQUpNRFB6YzAwU085N3pGUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5462 2001

Passcode: 051424

For more information, contact Wanda by email at: wanda@harmonyplace.on.ca

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

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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