

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – December 23, 2020**

As of December 23rd, 2020, Canada has a total of 526, 169 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 162, 663 cases with Toronto having 54, 732 cases.

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**Province reports more than 2, 400 new cases of COVID-19, as well as 41 more deaths**

Ontario health officials are reporting 2, 408 new COVID-19 cases today, which pushes the rolling seven-day average above 2, 300 cases per day. This is a dramatic increase from the rolling seven-day average of daily infections last Wednesday, which stood at 1, 962 new cases per day. There were 56, 660 tests processed over the last 24 hours, which pushes the positivity rate down to 4.8 percent.

There were 41 more COVID-19-related deaths confirmed today, which included 16 residents of Long-Term Care homes. According to the latest data, virus-related hospitalizations remain just above 1, 000, and intensive care (ICU) admissions currently stand at 275. The modelling that was released earlier this week shows that in all scenarios, ICU admissions will surpass 300 before the New Year, which will result in the cancellation of surgeries and will reduce access to necessary care.

Locally, Toronto reported 629 new cases of the virus today, Peel Region reported 448, York Region reported 190, and Hamilton reported 150.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-more-than-2-400-new-cases-of-covid-19-41-more-deaths-1.5242822>

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**Health Canada approves Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**

Canada is now the second country in the world to approve the Moderna vaccine, after the United States. Today, Health Canada deemed the Moderna vaccine effective and safe for use on Canadians, and this means that deliveries of the vaccine will be received imminently, and even sooner than initial timelines. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the country is set to receive 168, 000 doses of the vaccine in December, with deliveries arriving between 24 and 48 hours after approval.

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Moderna has promised 40 million doses of the vaccine to Canada by the end of 2021. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was approved two weeks ago, and has already been distributed to thousands of Canadians. This vaccine has to be kept at extremely cold temperatures, between -60 and -80 degrees Celsius. The Moderna vaccine is more easily transportable, as it can remain stable at just -20 degrees Celsius. This will make it more easily accessible to Canadians who live in rural and isolated communities. The Moderna vaccine is being called a ‘game changer’ in Canada’s fight against the pandemic, and in the long-term it is likely that more Canadians will be receiving this vaccine than the Pfizer vaccine.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/health-canada-approves-game-changer-moderna-covid-19-vaccine-1.5242821>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **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=Z2xyZjFZQUpNRFB6YzAwU085N3pGUT09>

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 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

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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)