

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – December 31, 2020

As of December 31st, 2020, Canada has a total of 572, 982 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 178, 831 cases with Toronto having 60, 054 cases.

Ontario reports record number of COVID-19 cases for third straight day as number of patients in ICU reaches new high

The province is reporting a record number of new cases of COVID-19 for the third consecutive day, logging 3, 328 new infections over the past 24 hours. This is a significant increase from the previous record the day before of 2, 923 new cases, and the day before that which reported 2, 553 infections. There is now an average daily growth rate of 17 percent in new cases reported in Ontario. Modelling that was released on Dec. 21st warned that in a worst-case scenario, Ontario could see 30,000 new cases per day by Jan. 24th, if there was an average seven percent growth rate on a daily basis.

Today, there are reportedly 352 COVID-19 patients being treated in intensive care in the province. This also exceeds the worst-case scenario projected by the modelling, which warned that we could see 350 ICU patients today and 500 by Jan. 8th. Therefore, infection rates are accelerating at a much more rapid pace in Ontario than what was previously predicted.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/ontario-reports-record-number-of-covid-19-cases-for-third-straight-day-as-number-of-patients-in-icu-reaches-alarming-new-high-1.5249601>

Ontario government releases ethical framework for COVID-19 vaccine decisions

During a press conference on Wednesday, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, stated that the Ontario government will largely defer to the expertise of local public health units when it comes to making decisions about the COVID-19 vaccine. She said that while the province has prioritized health-care workers, Long-Term Care residents, home care patients with chronic conditions, and First Nations communities as part of the first wave of its vaccine rollout, it will be up to local public health units to determine who is most at-risk within these broader classifications.

This means that decisions around which Long-Term Care homes get the vaccine first and how health-care workers will be prioritized will mostly be made at the local level. The ethical

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framework released by the province specifically identifies “biological, social, geographical and occupational factors” among those that will be used to assess risk.

The six overarching principals in Ontario’s ethical framework for the vaccine distribution include; to minimize harm and maximize benefits, equity, fairness, transparency, legitimacy, and public trust. Descriptions for each principal can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ethical-framework-covid-19-vaccine-distribution>

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-government-releases-ethical-framework-for-covid-19-vaccine-decisions-1.5248684>

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

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

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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