

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 1, 2021

As of February 1, 2021, Canada has a total of 782, 074 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 270, 180 cases with Toronto having 87, 644 cases.

Ontario reports close to 2, 000 new cases, 36 more deaths

Health officials in the province reported 1, 969 new COVID-19 cases today, and 36 additional COVID-19-related deaths. Nineteen of the deaths reported in the past 24 hours involved residents of Long-Term Care (LTC) homes. Locally, there were 886 new cases in Toronto, 330 in Peel, and 128 reported in York Region. The current seven-day average of new cases stands at 1, 889.

There are approximately 19, 017 active cases in the province as of today, which is significantly lower than 24, 153 one week ago. There have also been improvements in the number of hospitalizations, and hospital networks and local public health units say that there are currently 1,332 COVID-19 patients in Ontario.

Over the past 24 hours, there were 12 new cases of the U.K. coronavirus variant B.1.1.7 that were detected in Ontario. This raises the total confirmed in the province to 69, and there are currently 39 confirmed in York Region, and 10 in Simcoe-Muskoka. This mutation of the virus makes it approximately 50 percent more transmissible, and the head of Ontario's COVID-19 Science Table says that it will be the dominant strain in the province by sometime in March.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-969-new-covid-19-cases-and-36-deaths-some-cases-due-to-toronto-data-cleanup-1.5290527>

Provinces effectively stop administering first COVID-19 vaccine shots

Canada's national rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine has effectively been halted, due to vaccine delivery delays. The two companies whose vaccines have been approved for use in the country recently stated that they would not be able to deliver their promised shipments of the vaccines due to production delays in Europe. This has resulted in provinces not administering first doses of the vaccine, as both vaccines require two doses, in order to ensure that there is enough supply for the second dose.

The federal government has stated that both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna still intend to fulfil their promised delivery schedules and that current delays are temporary. There are at least three other

companies, Novavax, Astra-Zeneca and Johnson and Johnson, that have all launched the process of the having Health Canada approve their vaccines.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/feds-under-fire-as-provinces-effectively-stop-administering-first-covid-19-vaccine-shots-1.5290301>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinar Series

Three-part series for Caregivers: Caring for self while caring for others

Date for first session: February 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-consideration-of-self-feb-1-registration-136440839223>

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 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