

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 10, 2021

As of February 10th, 2021, Canada has a total of 811, 869 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 281, 566 cases with Toronto having over 90, 965 cases.

Ontario reports 1, 072 new COVID-19 cases, 41 more deaths

The province is reporting 1, 072 new cases of COVID-19 today, which continues a downward trend of new infections. Provincial health officials also reported 41 more deaths due to the virus, and 13 of them were residents of Long-Term Care (LTC).

In the past 24 hours, 52, 504 tests were processed, which is an increase from previous days. According to the Ministry of Health, the province's positivity rate now stands at 2.5 percent. There are currently 41, 700 test specimens still under investigation.

These numbers come as Ontario begins gradually reopening its economy today. The province's lockdown and stay-at-home orders have been lifted in three public health units, including Hastings Prince Edward; Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington; and Renfrew County. These regions are moving into the green "prevent" category of the colour-coded COVID-19 response framework, which means that restaurants and non-essential businesses can reopen.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-072-new-covid-19-cases-41-more-deaths-1.5303029>

What changes to the colour-coded COVID-19 system mean for Ontario

Premier Doug Ford announced that beginning today, some regions of the province will gradually be moving back into its colour-coded framework. Changes to the five-categories of the framework have also been announced.

The Prevent, or green category means that regions have to focus on education and awareness of public health safety measures. It requires people to maintain at least two metres of physical distance and wear a face covering in indoor settings. For a region to be assigned this status, the test positivity rate must be under 0.5 percent.

The Protect, or yellow category enhances targeted enforcement, fines and education to limit further transmission. Additional public health measures are required in certain settings, including

restaurants and gyms. For a region to be placed in this category, the test positivity rate must be between 0.5 and 1.2 percent.

The Restrict, or orange category means that a region will have enhanced measures such as active screening taking place as people enter indoor malls. The test positivity rate must be between 1.3 and 2.4 percent for a region to be moved into this level.

The Control, or red phase means that regions will implement broader-scale measures and restrictions across multiple sectors. These restrictions will be the most severe before moving into a lockdown. There will be capacity limits on both essential and retail shopping, and active screening of people entering indoor malls would continue at this stage. The positivity rate must be above 2.5 percent in order for a region to be placed in this category.

The Lockdown, or grey category of the framework has had the most changes made. It initially meant the closure of all non-essential businesses, but will now become more lenient. This means that in-person shopping will now be permitted for retail stores with capacity limits, and essential stores will also have capacity limits. Also in this stage, 10 people are allowed to gather outdoors but two metres of distance needs to be maintained, and outdoor recreational activities will be open but with restrictions.

Source: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/what-changes-to-the-colour-coded-covid-19-system-mean-for-ontario-1.5300201>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Caregiver Connection Group

Caregiver Conversation – Coping with Difficult Emotions

Date: Thursday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-conversation-coping-with-difficult-emotions-feb-11-registration-136450488083>

Caregiver Conversation – How to Grocery Shop Smarter and Faster?

Date: Thursday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-conversation-how-to-grocery-shop-smarter-and-faster-feb-18-registration-136451198207>

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