

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 16, 2021

As of February 16th, 2021, Canada has a total of 829, 461 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 287, 736 cases with Toronto having over 92, 858 cases.

Ontario reports 904 new COVID-19 cases today, restrictions eased in most regions

Health officials say that the province reported fewer than 1, 000 new COVID-19 cases on both Monday and Tuesday as daily case counts continue to trend downward. This includes data from Toronto Public Health, and therefore is an accurate case count across the province after many inaccurate reporting from TPH.

Of the new cases today, 320 were reported in Toronto, 154 were in Peel Region, and 118 are from York Region. The Ministry of Health says that the province-wide positivity rate today is now 3.3 percent, which is on par with the rate reported last Tuesday. There are currently 742 COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the province today, with 292 of these patients in intensive care. This is down from 909 and 318 respectively, reported one week ago.

The Ontario government has eased restrictions in most regions of the province today. Niagara Region is the only area that has been placed in the grey “lockdown” zone of the framework, and the rest are in less restricted levels. Toronto, York Region, Peel Region and the North Bay Parry Sound District Public Health Unit have not been placed in the framework, and therefore have the heaviest restrictions due to high levels of community transmission.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-904-new-covid-19-cases-today-964-on-monday-26-more-deaths-1.5310733>

Ontario officials provide update on who is next in line to receive vaccine

This past weekend, provincial health officials specified the priority list for the COVID-19 vaccine in the province. The provincial target to offer a first dose to residents of all Long-Term Care (LTC) homes in the province has been reached, including for First Nations elder care homes. According to the province, the groups next in line for the vaccine include; Indigenous adults in northern remote and higher risk communities, and healthcare workers with high risk of exposure to the virus. The province has broken down the priority of healthcare workers into four categories; highest priority, very high priority, high priority, and moderate priority.

Highest-priority healthcare workers include all hospital and acute care staff in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients or a high-risk of exposure, as well as medical first responders, and community healthcare workers serving specialized populations. The “very high priority” list includes healthcare workers that work in congregate and community care settings, including community health centres, birth centres, dentistry clinics, pharmacies and walk-in clinics. These two categories have been identified as groups who should be vaccinated “immediately.”

High-priority healthcare workers include those who work in community care settings with a lower risk of exposure to the virus, such as mental health and addiction services and campus healthcare workers. The moderate priority category includes non-frontline healthcare workers, such as those who work remotely and do not require PPE.

The province says that once all reasonable steps have been taken to complete the first dose of vaccinations of all staff, essential caregivers and residents of LTC homes, and high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care homes, first-dose vaccinations will be made available to the remainder of the Phase One populations. This includes all adults aged 80 and over, as well as healthcare workers in the highest, very high, and high priority groups.

In Ontario, an estimated 467, 626 doses have been administered and 174, 643 people are now fully vaccinated.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-officials-provide-update-on-who-will-be-next-in-line-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine-1.5308623>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Caregiver Webinars

A Three-Part Series for Caregivers: Caring for self while caring for others

Session #3: Considering Care

Date: Monday, February 22, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-considering-care-feb-22-registration-136447238363>

Session #4: Wills and Powers of Attorney in Ontario

Date: Monday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/wills-and-powers-of-attorney-in-ontario-march-1-registration-136855768287>

Caregiver Connection Group

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>

Caregiver Conversation – How to Maintain Personal Health

Date: Thursday, February 25, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-conversation-how-do-you-maintain-personal-health-feb-25-registration-136452500101>

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