

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

As of February 19th, 2021, Canada has a total of 839, 447 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 290, 771 cases with Toronto having over 93, 850 cases.

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**Stay-at-home order remains in effect for Toronto and Peel, York Region to enter “red zone”**

Today the province announced that Toronto and Peel Region will remain under a stay-at-home order for at least another two weeks, but some restrictions will be eased in York Region next week. On Monday, York Region will enter into the red, or “control” zone of the province’s framework, which will allow indoor dining to resume and gyms and hair salons to reopen with reduced capacity.

Most regions of the province have transitioned back to the framework over the past two weeks, due to declining COVID-19 case counts, deaths and hospitalizations. One region, Lambton Public Health, will be moving from the orange, or “restrict” level to the red zone as a result of worsening public health trends in the region.

Medical officers of health in Toronto, Peel Region and the North Bay Perry Sound District Health Unit have asked for tougher restrictions to remain in effect due to higher levels of transmission of the virus and the variants. This means that these regions will remain under strict lockdown until at least March 8<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, Ontario reported an additional 39 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 variants, bringing the total to 395. However, officials have said that hundreds of additional samples have screened positive for a variant of concern, and that the variants are likely circulating much more widely than what is currently detected.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/stay-at-home-order-remains-in-effect-for-toronto-and-peel-but-restaurants-gyms-will-reopen-in-york-region-1.5315489>

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**No plans to forgo second doses of COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario despite new research**

Recently, there has been research done that suggests one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine could be almost as effective in preventing infections as two doses. The study showed that one dose could be 92 percent effective against COVID-19 just two weeks after it was received. This contradicts earlier research which indicated that a single dose would only be 52 percent effective.

The Government of Canada has not changed its formal recommendation of administering two doses following the publication of the research. Provincial governments are able to make their own decisions on when and if to administer the second doses based on their evidence, as well as their local context.

Ontario officials do not seem to be interested in halting or delaying the distribution of second doses of the vaccine. The coordinator of Ontario's outbreak response, Dr. Dirk Huyer, said that the province believes that; "two doses are required and we strongly believe that two doses should be provided within the 42 days as have been demonstrated by the clinical trials."

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/no-plans-to-forgo-second-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-in-ontario-despite-new-research-official-1.5314731>

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## **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 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>

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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

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)