

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 23, 2021

As of February 23rd, 2021, Canada has a total of 851, 443 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 295, 119 cases with Toronto having over 95, 640 cases.

Ontario logs less than 1, 000 new COVID-19 cases, 12 more deaths

The province is reporting 975 new infections today, marking the first time in nearly one week where the daily case count dipped below 1, 000. Ontario labs processed close to 26, 000 tests in the past 24 hours, which is the smallest number of tests processed in the province since November 3rd. The province's overall positivity rate now stands at 4.2 percent.

Provincial health officials are reporting no new cases of the highly-contagious COVID-19 variants today. To date, there have been 390 lab-confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 variant that originated in the U.K., and nine of the B.1.351 variant which was first found in South Africa. There has only been one confirmed case of the P.1 variant, which was initially discovered in Brazil.

However, on Monday, Ontario's Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, said that more than 14 percent of all confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ontario over the last week have screened positive for a variant of concern. This includes 16, 495 specimens which are awaiting full genomic sequencing to confirm their identity.

Of the new cases today, 343 were reported in Toronto, 186 in Peel, and 89 were reported in York Region.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-logs-fewer-than-1-000-new-covid-19-cases-12-more-deaths-1.5320400>

Mass vaccinations not only factor in Canada's reopening timeline: Tam says

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Teresa Tam, says that the timing of when Canada will return to some state of normalcy is not solely dependent on the country achieving mass vaccination. There are a variety of factors that the country's reopening depends on, including the rate of transmission of the virus, ICU admissions, hospitalizations and the overall impact on the healthcare system.

Canada is expecting a record number of vaccine shipments this week from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna after a notable decline in deliveries. The Canadian government is still aiming for six million doses to be administered by the end of March.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/mass-vaccinations-not-only-factor-in-canada-s-reopening-timeline-tam-1.5320617>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Caregiver Webinars

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

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>

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