

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 26, 2021

As of February 26th, 2021, Canada has a total of 860, 293 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 298, 569 cases with Toronto having over 96, 363 cases.

Ontario reports more than 1, 200 new COVID-19 cases; no new Long-Term Care deaths for first time in 4 months

The province reported 1, 258 new cases of the virus today, along with 28 additional deaths. Today marks the first day in four months where nobody in LTC died of the disease. This is the fourth straight day of increasing case counts in Ontario, and the seven-day rolling average now stands at 1,114, up from 1,016 one week ago.

The number of active cases in the province also rose for the second day in a row, and now stands at 10, 294. This is still well below the January peak of more than 30, 000 active infections. Across the GTA, there were 362 new cases reported in Toronto today, 274 in Peel, 104 in York Region, 42 in Durham and 64 in Hamilton.

Provincial labs processed 64, 049 tests in the past 24 hours, generating an overall positivity rate of 2.3 percent. Hospitalization numbers have had little change, and the Ministry of Health has reported 683 people in hospital, with 284 in intensive care and 193 breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-200-new-covid-19-cases-no-new-long-term-care-deaths-for-first-time-in-4-months-1.5325509>

Canada approves Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for immediate use

Health Canada announced today the approval of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is the third vaccine for COVID-19 to be approved in Canada. Like the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, the AstraZeneca vaccine requires two doses several weeks apart. However, it does not have the same deep-cold storage requirements as the others, which makes it easier to distribute. According to Health Canada, the vaccine can be kept at normal refrigerated temperatures (2 to 8 degrees C) for at least six months.

Premier Doug Ford expressed his excitement for this approval, and said that this will reduce the timeline for getting shots into arms in Ontario. The province has said that it will start vaccinating

members of the general population over 80 years of age by mid-March. Those between the ages 60 and 79 are currently expected to receive vaccinations between April and July. Vaccines for people younger than that are expected to begin in August.

This schedule may change depending on vaccine shipments, future approved vaccines, as well as the province's decision on who should get what vaccine.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-hopeful-astrazeneca-s-covid-19-vaccine-will-speed-up-vaccination-timeline-1.5325735>

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>

Better Living Health and Community Services

Series of Wellness Breaks

Music and Movement with Cari Shim

Date: Thursday, March 4th, at 3:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcldumvrDoqG9UvtxdRoBMGMLjXFehn8sAT>

Chair Yoga with Trisha Lanns

Date: Tuesday, March 9th, at 10:45am

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcOytpz4iGt0gjM3Faea036plwv2x9NSJ>

Reconnecting the mind and body with Ashely Dipchan

Date: Thursday, March 11th at 3:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfu2qpz8uH9FbqlvNGHv5N8ukz8fRsi15>

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