

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 3, 2021

As of February 3rd, 2021, Canada has a total of 786, 417 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 270, 925 cases with Toronto having over 87, 644 cases (Toronto Public Health has halted its reporting).

Ontario reports 1, 172 new COVID-19 cases, 67 more deaths

The province has reported 1, 172 new infections of COVID-19 today, however the accuracy of this data is not entirely assured, as there is an ongoing effort between Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the Ontario government to reconcile data. It appears that there is data reporting now for TPH, as the city reported 444 new cases today. Peel Region reported 199 new cases, and York Region reported 110.

There are currently 16, 811 active cases of COVID-19 across the province, with 6, 305 total deaths related to the virus. One week ago, there were 21, 932 active cases, which shows a significant decrease over the past 7 days.

Provincial labs processed 52, 418 test specimens in the past 24 hours, which generated a positivity rate of 3.3 percent. The Ministry of Health says that there were 1, 066 people in hospital for COVID-19 treatment today, down from at least 1, 382 one week ago. Of the numbers reported today, there are 336 patients in intensive care units across Ontario, and 254 were breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-172-new-covid-19-cases-67-more-deaths-1.5293687>

Health experts warn of dangers of B.1.1.7 variant as it emerges in more provinces

The variant of COVID-19 that was first found in the U.K. is spreading across Canada, and reached two new provinces today, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. Emerging evidence suggests that this variant not only spreads faster, but could be transmitted more easily and during very brief encounters. There is a growing fear across the country that this variant could lead to extremely rapid outbreaks in seniors' homes and hospitals.

The variant that has arrived in Canada has also developed another mutation, called E484K, which makes it more likely to evade any immunity people have developed, either naturally or with vaccines.

In some situations that have been assessed in Canada, the variant of the virus has a shorter incubation period as well. In one case, it was only 18 hours to two days, which indicates that the virus is much more transmissible.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/health-experts-warn-of-dangers-of-b-1-1-7-variant-as-it-emerges-in-more-provinces-1.5293379>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinar Series

Three-part series for Caregivers: Caring for Self While Caring for Others

Date for Session #2: February 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-considering-others-feb-8-registration-136446235363>

Caregiver Connection Group

Caregiver Conversation – Strategies for Caregiver Burnout

Date: Thursday, February 4, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-conversation-strategies-for-caregiver-burnout-feb-4-registration-136448951487>

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