

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 5, 2021

As of February 5th, 2021, Canada has a total of 795,334 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 275,330 cases with Toronto having over 88,553 cases (Toronto Public Health has halted its reporting).

Ontario reports 1,670 new COVID-19 infections, but extra Toronto cases resulted in overestimation of count

The province is reporting close to 1,700 new cases of COVID-19, however it is warning of an overestimation due to additional cases reported by Toronto Public Health. Ontario health officials this overestimation could account for about 125 additional cases that should have been included in previous days.

Locally, 667 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Toronto, 317 in Peel Region, 125 in York Region, and 100 were reported in Halton Region. Another 45 virus-related deaths were confirmed in the province over the past 24 hours, which has brought the total number of deaths to 6,438. Of the deaths reported today, 14 were residents of Long-Term Care (LTC).

There were almost 63,000 tests processed over the past 24 hours, which has resulted in a positivity rate of 2.5 percent. This is the lowest positivity rate reported in Ontario since late October. The rolling seven-day average of new cases has declined to 1,575, down from 2,010 last Friday. The number of active cases in the province also continues to drop, with just under 16,000 as of today.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ont-reports-1-670-new-covid-19-infections-but-extra-toronto-cases-resulted-in-overestimation-of-count-province-1.5297131>

Four COVID-19 cases at North York geriatric hospital screen positive for variants of concern

As of today, four cases of COVID-19 at Baycrest Hospital did screen positive “for a mutation associated with variants of concern,” and are now undergoing further testing. Officials say that at least one of the cases has been reported positive for the B.1.1.7 variant that originated in the United Kingdom, which is believed to be 50 percent more contagious.

Yesterday, the province released data from a study on COVID-19 cases, and it found that 5.5 percent of all positive cases reported in Ontario on Jan. 20th were confirmed or highly likely to be either the UK B.1.1.7 variant, or the South African B.1.353 variant.

The head of Ontario's COVID-19 Science Table has said that the B.1.1.7 variant will become the dominant strain detected among positive cases by March.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/four-covid-19-cases-at-north-york-geriatric-hospital-screen-positive-for-variants-of-concern-1.5297672>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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 – 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