

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – February 8, 2021

As of February 8th, 2021, Canada has a total of 805, 525 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 279, 472 cases with Toronto having over 90, 192 cases.

Ontario reports 1, 265 new cases of COVID-19, testing rates drop by 45 percent

The province is reporting 1, 265 new cases of the virus today, along with 33 additional deaths. Testing rates fell more than 45 percent in the past 24 hours, which has been common after a weekend.

Locally, Toronto reported 421 new cases of the virus, Peel Region reported 256 new cases, York Region reported 130, and Durham Region reported 61 new cases. Provincial labs processed 28, 303 specimens in the past 24 hours, generating a positivity rate of 4.4 percent province-wide.

The seven-day rolling average now stands at 1, 327, and there are currently 14, 331 lab-confirmed active cases of the virus in Ontario. The intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy in Ontario has held steady at 335, while 226 of the patients are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

The number of cases of the highly contagious variants have increased, and there are now 219 fully-confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 variant that originated in the U.K. There is also one confirmed case of the B.1.351 variant that originated in South Africa, as well as one case of the P.1 variant that originated in Brazil. Ontario modelling continues to indicate that the B.1.1.7 variant will be the dominant strain by March.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-265-new-covid-19-cases-testing-down-45-percent-1.5299863>

Doug Ford set to announce plans for gradually reopening business in Ontario

Premier Doug Ford is expected to announce plans to slowly reopen businesses in the province today. This announcement comes about a month after the state of emergency and stay-at-home order was declared in Ontario. Ford will apparently announce that the state of emergency that is set to expire on Tuesday, Feb. 10th will be allowed to expire, but that the stay-at-home order will remain in effect. This will continue as regions of the province gradually transition back to the government's colour-coded restrictions system over the coming weeks.

Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, said that he would like to see daily cases in the province fall below 1, 000 per day before relaxing any measures. The province has been reporting 1, 000 to 1, 600 cases per day over the past week, and Dr. Isaac Bogoch says that a “slow” reopening is needed in order to ensure that transmission rates do not increase.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/open-for-business-doug-ford-set-to-announce-plans-for-gradually-reopening-ontario-1.5299691>

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