

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – January 19, 2021**

As of January 19th, 2021, Canada has a total of 716, 985 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 242, 277 cases with Toronto having 77, 327 cases.

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**Ontario reports fewer than 2, 000 new infections amid big drop in testing**

The province is reporting 1, 913 new cases today, however only 34, 000 tests were processed in the last 24 hours. This the lowest number of tests completed in a 24-hour period in several weeks. A spokesperson for Ontario confirmed that Toronto Public Health, which reported a significant drop of only 550 new cases today, experienced a technical issue which resulted in what was likely an underreporting of cases. There were 46 additional COVID-19-related deaths confirmed in the province over the past 24 hours.

On Monday afternoon, Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, said that the province's case growth is starting to level off, but it is too early to say if this trend will continue. He warned that the province would have to see a dramatic reduction in the number of new cases per day before lockdown measures should be lifted. Dr. Williams said that in order to bring virus-related hospitalizations and ICU admissions down to an acceptable level, Ontario would likely need to see fewer than 1, 000 new cases per day.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ont-reports-fewer-than-2-000-new-covid-19-cases-amid-big-drop-in-testing-1.5272755>

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**A new COVID-19 challenge: Mutations rise along with cases**

Mutations of the COVID-19 virus are rapidly popping up, and eventually it could be possible for a variant of the virus to elude current testing, treatments and vaccines. On Friday, the World Health Organization urged more effort to detect new variants.

It is normal for viruses to acquire small changes or mutations as they reproduce, and ones that help the virus flourish eventually crowd out other variants. In the case of COVID-19, there have been three variants of concern since September, including the one first identified in the United Kingdom. This variant quickly became dominant in certain parts of the U.K., and has since been reported in nearly 30 countries.

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Other variants found include ones in South Africa and Brazil, both of which some lab tests suggest may be less susceptible to antibody drugs which help people fight off the virus.

The current COVID-19 vaccines include broad immune responses that should remain effective against different variants of the virus. Eventually, the vaccine may require some tweaking to adjust for changes in the virus, but this will probably take years rather than months.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/a-new-covid-19-challenge-mutations-rise-along-with-cases-1.5272620>

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **March of Dimes**

##### **Caregiver Webinar Series**

New CRA Scams: Protect yourself against fraud

Date: January 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cra-scams-protect-yourself-against-fraud-jan-25-registration-136301999951>

Three-part series for Caregivers: Caring for self while caring for others

Date for first session: February 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-consideration-of-self-feb-1-registration-136440839223>

Caregiver Conversation Group:

Caregiver conversation on challenges and triumphs of the holidays

Date: January 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-conversation-on-challenges-and-triumphs-of-the-holidays-jan-21-registration-136294625895>

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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.

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://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](mailto:sarah.nydp@gmail.com)