

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – January 22, 2021

As of January 22nd, 2021, Canada has a total of 734, 113 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 250, 226 cases with Toronto having 80, 541 cases.

Ontario reports 2, 664 new cases of COVID-19, 87 deaths

Ontario is reporting close to 2, 700 new cases of the virus today, as well as 87 more deaths. The province is seeing some evidence that transmission in the community is slowing, as hospitalizations and active cases continue to decline and the positivity rate drops to its lowest level in over a month.

There were nearly 72, 000 tests processed over the past 24 hours, and Ontario is reporting a positivity rate of just 3.3 percent. This is the lowest it has been since Dec. 13th. The rolling seven-day average of new infections also continues to decrease, and it now stands at 2, 703 new cases per day. This is down from the average of 3, 273 one week ago.

Hospitalizations have also dropped for the fourth consecutive day, and there are currently 1, 512 COVID-19-related patients in hospitals across Ontario. There are currently 383 patients receiving treatment in intensive care units.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-2-664-new-cases-of-covid-19-87-deaths-1.5277961>

‘It’s garbage’: Infectious disease expert debunks ‘Facts Not Fear’ COVID-19 flyer

Recently, some Ontario residents have found a flyer that claims to expose the truth of the COVID-19 pandemic in their mailbox. This flyer is titled ‘Facts Not Fear,’ and infectious disease specialist, Dr. Isaac Bogoch, has spoken out about the flyer, calling it ‘garbage.’ However, he also said that this issue with conspiracy theories is that there are often small pieces of accuracy among the lies.

Dr. Bogoch debunked five key points that the flyer claims, including that ‘over 99 percent survive.’ He says that it is true that the mortality rate for those infected is around 0.3 to 0.5 percent, but the flyer downplays that it is a serious health crisis. He says that although this seems low, when factored over the entire population of Canada, it amounts to over 150, 000 dead, which is unacceptably high.

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The second claim is that most infected have little or no symptoms, and while many people only have mild symptoms of the virus, Dr. Bogoch said; “Our health care systems from coast to coast are stretched beyond capacity in many, many, many settings and it’s all related to COVID-19.” The virus continues to strain the healthcare system, which has resulted in the cancellation of surgeries and other healthcare operations.

Another claim is that lockdowns do more harm than good, and Dr. Bogoch says that although there is potentially a “tremendous toll” associated with lockdowns and health, they are proven to be effective in reducing the spread of the virus. A multi-country analysis of the efficacy of lockdowns published in the journal of Applied Health Economics and Health Policy found that a lockdown is effective in reducing the number of people infected by each infected person. The efficacy of the lockdown also continues to hold 20 days after the introduction of the policy.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/it-s-garbage-infectious-disease-expert-debunks-facts-not-fear-covid-19-flyer-1.5277814>

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>

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. 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