

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – July 2 2021

As of July 2nd, 2021, Canada has a total of confirmed cases of 1,415,310 COVID-19. Ontario has 544,897 cases and Toronto has 169,800 cases.

Ontario reports 200 new COVID-19 cases today

Ontario has 200 new cases of COVID-19 today, and 284 cases yesterday. The seven-day average is 258, down from 292 last week, and the positivity rate is 0.9%. Of today's new cases, there are 41 in Waterloo, 23 in Toronto, and 21 in Peel.

Across Ontario, there are at least 276 COVID-19 patients in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), with 185 people who are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

There are 157 new cases of the Alpha variant (the B.1.1.7 variant, first identified in the U.K.), 48 new cases of the Delta variant (the B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India), 33 new cases of the Gamma variant (the P.1 variant, first identified in Brazil), and 28 new cases of the Beta variant (the B.1.351 variant, first identified in South Africa).

This past Wednesday, the province moved into Step 2. Click [here](#) to see what's open.

The province gave out 145,674 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the past 24 hours, and more than 5 million Ontarians have been fully vaccinated!

Sources:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-450-new-covid-19-cases-over-past-two-days-1.5493992>
2. <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-report-en-2021-07-02.pdf>

\$3.7 million invested in providing accessible rides to COVID-19 vaccination sites

The provincial government is investing \$3.7 million in a partnership with the Ontario Community Support Association to help people with disabilities get to and from vaccination sites so they can get vaccinated and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

What is it?

The Accessible Drive To Vaccines program will connect eligible people with staff and volunteers who will drive them to and from local vaccination sites across the province. This includes people who haven't gotten their first dose yet, and anyone who requires additional support to access their second dose.

This initiative will focus on helping people who do not have access to accessible transportation through family, neighbours or community organizations. "In many communities across Ontario, the dedicated staff and volunteers who work in the community support sector have been providing safe rides to vaccination sites for several months," said Deborah Simon, the Ontario Community Support Association's Chief Executive Officer.

She added, "As demand continues to grow, we're pleased to be involved in coordinating this project, which recognizes, supports, and extends the capacity of these hard-working organizations to help vulnerable people protect themselves against COVID-19."

Am I eligible?

This initiative includes seniors with mobility issues and people with a disability within the meaning of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (also known as the AODA). In the AODA, the definition of disability covers a range of visible and invisible conditions that may have been present from birth, caused by an accident, or developed over time.

The AODA recognizes you as a person with a disability if you have any of the following conditions:

- Blindness or a visual impairment
- Deafness or a hearing disability
- Muteness or speech impediment
- Physical or mobility disabilities, such as: paralysis, amputation, and difficulty with balance or coordination
- Brain injuries
- Epilepsy
- Intellectual disabilities
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health challenges
- Reliance on a service dog, such as a guide dog, or on a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, walker, or cane
- Diabetes mellitus
- Amputation
- Lack of physical coordination

- An injury or disability that you claimed or received benefits for under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

Sources:

1. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000389/ontario-providing-accessible-rides-to-covid-19-vaccination-sites>
2. <https://aoda.ca/what-is-the-aoda/>
3. <https://aoda.ca/the-act/>

Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine booking portal:

Those eligible for a vaccine can book here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.

Or by phone at: 1-833-943-3900.

For general information about vaccines, call: 1-888-999-6488.

In Toronto? Here's a safe transportation option to go to your vaccine appointment:

Wheel-Trans is committed to providing vaccine rides to the elderly and people with disabilities in Toronto. Wheel-Trans is offering individual rides to City-run mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, doctor's offices and clinics that are giving out vaccines. Customers may be joined by one Support Person on their Wheel-Trans ride.

You may be eligible for Wheel-Trans service if your disability prevents you from using the TTC's conventional transit for all or part of their trip.

If you are not yet a Wheel-Trans customer, and you think you may qualify for Wheel-Trans service, you are invited to apply by calling Wheel-Trans Customer Service at 416-393-4111, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Existing Wheel-Trans customers can book their rides to and from their vaccine appointments by calling Wheel-Trans Reservations at 416-393-4222, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or through the Wheel-Trans Self-Booking Website. Access the website by clicking here: <https://mywheel-trans.ttc.ca/SelfBooking2020/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fSelfBooking2020>.

Upcoming Events:

March of Dimes

Three-Part Series with Caroline Tapp-McDougall

Session 1: The Family Stretch

Date: Monday, July 5th at 2:00 pm.

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-family-stretch-registration-159626903365?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Session 2: Daily Triumphs

Date: Monday, July 12th at 2:00 pm.

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/daily-triumphs-registration-159717857411?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Session 3: Slow Caregiving

Date: Monday, July 19th at 2:00 pm.

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/slow-caregiving-registration-159718312773?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Caregiver Connection Group

Caregiver Conversation Series

Date: Thursdays at 2:00pm (ongoing)

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-of-dimes-canada-caregiver-conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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.