

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – June 16 2021

As of June 16th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,404,490 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 540,810 cases and Toronto has 168,939 cases.

Ontario reports over 350 new COVID-19 cases

The province is reporting 384 new cases today, down from 296 new cases yesterday. Of today's cases, there are 60 in Peel Region, 54 in Toronto, 15 in Durham Region, and 14 in York Region.

The seven-day average of new cases is 474, down from 703 one week ago. Also, the positivity rate is 1.5%, down from 2.3% yesterday. The last time the province recorded a positivity rate of 1.5 per cent was on October 3, before the peak of the second and third waves.

Of the 438 people in hospital due to the disease, 377 are in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to the virus, and 242 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Of the variants of concern, there are 488 new cases of the B.1.1.7 variant (also known as the U.K. variant or Alpha variant), 19 more cases of P.1 variant (first identified in Brazil), and 4 new cases of the B.1.351 variant (first identified in South Africa).

Health officials are reporting a total of 497 cases of the Delta variant (first identified in India) in the province, with 54 new cases confirmed in the last 24 hours.

More than 11.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given out, and over 2.1 million people have received both doses. In the past 24 hours, the province has given out 202,984 doses.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-350-new-covid-19-cases-as-positivity-rate-drops-1.5472544>

Dr. Tam says Canada's vaccine targets need to be readjusted for the Delta variant

According to federal modelling, which was done in April and May, provinces could safely begin easing restrictions on movement, physical distancing, and wearing masks without overwhelming

hospitals provided that 75% of eligible Canadians had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 20% had both doses.

Canada is set to reach part of the first target -- 75% of eligible people having their first dose -- sometime in the next 24 hours, and 20% with both doses likely by Sunday. However, chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam says that the Delta variant might mean the country has to up its vaccine game again.

Dr. Tam explained that the variants which were used to develop those models didn't include the Delta variant. This variant is the most infectious one tracked in Canada to date, believed to cause more severe illness, and is expected to become the dominant variant circling.

Dr. Barbara Yaffe, associate chief medical officer of health for Ontario, said that this Delta variant is "about one-and-a-half times more transmissible than the B.1.1.7 or Alpha strain", also known as the U.K. variant.

Dr. Tam stressed that it is more important than ever to aim for full vaccination as quickly as possible since we know that one dose is less effective against Delta, and two doses are necessary.

"Should we aim for higher?" she asked. "Yes, I think we should... That gives us a better buffer for managing the COVID-19 situation." Dr. Tam said that it is critical to reopen cautiously, including leaving lots of room to monitor an increase in case counts and detect surges of variants like Delta.

No province has crossed both 75% of the eligible population with one dose and 20% with both doses, but most provinces have already started to reopen and loosen restrictions.

Sources:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/canada-s-vaccine-targets-based-on-models-before-troublesome-delta-variant-well-known-1.5471702>

2. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/vaccines-effective-at-preventing-hospitalization-from-delta-variant-studies-suggest-1.5470525>

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

Caregiver Webinar

Scams – Protect Yourself Against Fraud

Date: Monday, June 21st at 2:00 pm.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cra-scams-protect-yourself-against-fraud-registration-154465022039?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>

Better Living Health and Community Services

Wellness Breaks and Lunch n' Learns

Cooking Demonstration with Alison Burke

Date: Wednesday, June 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtf-qpqDMvHNA921RKT9OK0M2zQmZ1OjBl>

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.