

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – June 17 2021

As of June 17th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,405,693 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 541,180 cases and Toronto has 169,003 cases.

Ontario reports over 350 new COVID-19 cases

The province is reporting 370 new cases today, down from 384 yesterday. Of today's cases, there are 67 in Toronto, 57 in Waterloo, 47 in Peel Region, 34 in Ottawa, 27 in York Region, 17 in both Middlesex-London and Porcupine Health Unit, 13 in Durham Region, and 10 in Niagara Region.

The seven-day average of new cases is 443, down from 618 one week ago. Also, the positivity rate is 1.3%, down from 1.5% yesterday. The last time the province recorded a positivity rate of 1.3% was on October 2, before the peak of the second and third waves.

Of the 397 people in hospital due to the disease, 362 are in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to the virus, and 232 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Of the variants of concern, there are 366 new cases of the B.1.1.7 variant (also known as the U.K. variant or Alpha variant), 31 more cases of P.1 variant (first identified in Brazil), and 3 new cases of the B.1.351 variant (first identified in South Africa). Health officials are reporting a total of 586 cases of the Delta variant (first identified in India) in the province, with 89 new cases confirmed in the last 24 hours.

More than 11.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given out, and over 2.3 million people have received both doses. In the past 24 hours, the province has given out 210,611 doses.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-350-new-covid-19-cases-as-positivity-rate-hits-lowest-since-early-october-1.5474301>

Tips from Toronto Public Health for Returning to Places of Worship

During the pandemic, multiple COVID-19 outbreaks have been linked to weddings and funeral receptions. Step One of Ontario's Reopening Plan permits religious services, rites and ceremonies to

operate indoors at 15% of the room's capacity. These types of services can operate outdoors as long as the number of people is limited so that everyone can stay two metres/six feet apart.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) has released a document for staff, volunteers, and attendees of places of worship that offers guidance on how they can reduce the spread of COVID-19 while participating in these services. Click [here](#) to view the full document.

TPH recommends keeping services short and for very small groups of people. People who live with each other do not need to stay two metres/six feet apart, but households must stay apart from other households.

Before you go to a place of worship, you are encouraged to complete [this self-assessment](#) to verify that you are well. You may have to provide your contact information to staff. This is because keeping an attendance record of all staff, volunteers, and visitors can help with contact tracing. This way, if someone tests positive for COVID-19, the place of worship can contact the other people who attended the same services that that person attended. Be assured that personal information can only be used for contact tracing. It should be kept in a locked drawer or office and shredded after 30 days. Additionally, you can also download the [COVID Alert App](#).

When you are attending a religious service, rite, or ceremony, do not share personal protective equipment, do not touch your face with unwashed hands, and do not use gloves for a long period of time or as a substitute for hand hygiene. If you need to cough or sneeze, cover it with your sleeve or a tissue.

Also, avoid using items that multiple people would normally touch, such as a chalice, a holy water stoup, washing facilities, prayer books, cushions, shawls, prayer rugs, etc. For rites that require close contact (such as baptism and circumcision), wear a medical mask and eyewear or face shields.

The number of musical performers and vocalists will likely be limited, and group or congregational singing is to be avoided. This is because indoor group singing, dancing, and using wind instruments has been linked to numerous COVID-19 outbreaks in multiple countries.

Childcare or children's programming is allowed, but it must comply with [COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Settings](#). Childcare for infants is discouraged.

Weddings, funerals, and other religious services can happen indoors as long as the number of guests does not exceed 15% of the room's capacity. Indoor social gatherings associated with any of these ceremonies is not permitted, except for members of a single household. This can include one person from outside of the household if they live alone. Outdoor social gatherings associated with any of these ceremonies are permitted but restricted to a maximum of 10 people.

Sources:

1.<https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>

2.<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/978e-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship.pdf>

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=ebsoporgprofile>

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=ebsoporgprofile>

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.