

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – June 18 2021

As of June 18th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,406,734 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 541,525 cases and Toronto has 169,068 cases.

Ontario reports under 350 new COVID-19 cases

The province is reporting 345 new cases today, down from 370 new cases yesterday. Of today's cases, there are 85 new cases in Waterloo, 50 in Toronto, 50 in Peel Region, 29 in Hamilton and 22 in York Region.

The seven-day average of new cases is 410, down from 568 one week ago. Also, the positivity rate is 1.4%.

Of the 378 people in hospital due to the disease, 352 are in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) due to the virus, and 293 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Of the variants of concern, there are 228 new cases of the B.1.1.7 variant (also known as the U.K. variant or Alpha variant), 13 more cases of P.1 variant (first identified in Brazil), and 2 new cases of the B.1.351 variant (first identified in South Africa).

Health officials are reporting a total of 657 cases of the Delta variant (first identified in India) in the province, with 71 new cases confirmed in the last 24 hours.

More than 12 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given out, and over 2.5 million people have received both doses. In the past 24 hours, the province has given out 210,638 doses.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-under-350-new-covid-19-cases-one-additional-death-1.5476028>

mRNA vaccine now preferred as second dose following AstraZeneca shot: NACI

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) is now recommending that people who received a first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine receive a second dose of an mRNA

vaccine, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.

The advisory panel made the specification, however, that those who have already received two doses of AstraZeneca “can rest assured that the vaccine provides good protection against infection and very good protection against severe disease and hospitalization.”

Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam acknowledged the frustration of Canadians who feel misled by NACI, but she reiterated that this health crisis is constantly changing.

“I totally recognize that this is difficult for many, but what I would say is that those who have received two doses of AstraZenca, COVISHIELD vaccine, you’ve been provided with good protection against infection,” she said.

If you got a first dose of an mRNA vaccine, NACI recommends that you try to get the same vaccine, but another mRNA vaccine would also be okay. For instance, if you got the first dose of the Moderna vaccine, it’s okay to get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as your second dose.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/mrna-vaccine-now-preferred-as-second-dose-following-astrazeneca-shot-naci-1.5475020>

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.