

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – June 7 2021

As of June 7th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,393,088 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 536,607 cases and Toronto has 167,836 cases.

Ontario reports lowest daily case count since Sept. 2020, over 10 million vaccines given out

The province is reporting 525 new cases today, which is the lowest number of new cases in one day since September 27. There were 744 new cases on Saturday and 663 new cases on Sunday.

11 public health units are reporting no new infections, and almost all other public health units are reporting fewer than 50 COVID-19 cases. The exceptions are Toronto with 114 new cases, Peel Region with 96 new cases, and Waterloo with 51 new cases. The seven-day average of new cases is 735, down from 1,029 one week ago. Also, the positivity rate is 3.6%.

There are currently 547 people in hospital due to the disease. Of these patients, 497 of them are in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and this is the first time in two months that the number of patients in an ICU for COVID-19 has been below 500!

There's even more positive news: more than 10 million people have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 1 million doses were administered in the last 7 days. Also, over 1 million people have received both doses! Specifically, 1,031,520 people in Ontario.

The province's downward trend has encouraged Ontario officials to look into an earlier reopening. On Monday, Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott told CTV News Toronto that the province could move into Step One as early as June 11, instead of June 14.

Elliott confirmed that the premier will meet with a cabinet committee on Monday to review data and make an initial decision, which the entire cabinet will have to approve sometime this week.

In Step One of the province's reopening plan, patios and non-essential retail are allowed to open to in-person service. Outdoor gatherings will also be allowed with a limit of 10 people.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-logs-lowest-daily-infection-count-since-sept-2020-as-province-reaches-new-vaccine-milestone-1.5459202>

Ontario considering prioritizing second doses of COVID-19 vaccine to hot-spot areas

After calls from local officials, the provincial government is considering giving more second doses of COVID-19 vaccines to hotspot regions like Peel.

Dr. Isaac Bogoch, member of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine task force, says that there are ongoing discussions between the province, the vaccine task force, and the COVID-19 science table regarding the logistics for prioritizing these second doses to hotspot areas.

“I can't give you a date or time, but we will see some priority allocation to hot-spot areas for second doses,” Bogoch says.

Last week, Peel Region's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Lawrence Loh said that the Delta variant would become the dominant strain in Peel Region before any other jurisdiction in Ontario. Dr. Loh also said that, within one month, the Delta variant (which was first discovered in India) could overtake the current dominant B.1.1.7 variant or Alpha variant (which was first discovered in the U.K.).

This announcement prompted the mayors of the cities within Peel Region to ask the Ford government to increase its allocation of vaccines to avoid the variant from spreading.

Dr. Naheed Dosani, a palliative care physician at McMaster University Hospital, said Peel and other hot spots have been hit hard by COVID-19 as many essential workers live in those areas. In addition, many residents also live in multi-generational households. Dosani warned that Peel will suffer again if the province does not change its vaccine strategy.

Dr. Andrew Boozary, the executive director of social medicine at the University Health Network, agrees. He said the province needs to learn from the rollout of the first dose, and that means targeting hot spot neighbourhoods and providing them easy access to the vaccine.

On Friday night, Dr. Loh shared that he had some 'promising' discussions with the province earlier that day. In an interview with CP24, he referenced studies that have shown that one dose isn't enough to protect someone from the Delta variant.

“My hope is that we'll all come together because I think really the reality is, this is not about just protecting Peel. This is about protecting the entire province,” said Dr. Loh.

According to Peel Public Health, more than 70% of adults in the region have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Sources:

1.<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-considering-prioritizing-second-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-to-hot-spot-areas-1.5459034> 2.<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/what-doctors-say-ontario-needs-to-do-next-to-avoid-a-fourth-covid-19-wave-1.5457715>

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 Webinars

Understanding Disability Tax Credits with the Canada Revenue Agency

Date: Monday, June 14th at 2:00 pm.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/understanding-disability-tax-credits-with-the-canada-revenue-agency-registration-154465497461?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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

Mindful Eating Dr. Louise LeBlanc

Date: Wednesday, June 9th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qceuvpzMqHtVcE2_BULkEJ0l4K--dQnnC

The Entering with Dr. Rami Shami

Date: Wednesday, June 16th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrdO6sqD4qH9D0ewmte0ZTEbs_xu1sRPpR

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.