

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 9, 2021

As of March 9, 2021, Canada has a total of 890, 698 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 311, 112 cases with Toronto having over 100, 109 cases.

Ontario reports nearly 1,200 new cases of COVID-19 as ICU doctor warns third wave is 'upon us'

Ontario is reporting nearly 1,200 new cases of COVID-19 today as one critical care doctor warns that an influx in cases and intensive care patients suggests the third wave of the pandemic is likely already here. Provincial health officials logged 1,185 new cases of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus today and another six deaths.

Today's count is down from the 1,631 new infections reported on Monday, although the province said yesterday's case count was inflated due to a data reporting issue. The Ministry of Health did not disclose how many cases should have been included in previous totals. The rolling seven-day average of new cases now stands at 1,187, up from 1,098 last week.

With 33,300 tests completed on Monday, today's test positivity rate is now 3.7 per cent, up from 2.9 one week ago. Active cases in the province have hit 11,223, up from 10,546 seven days ago. Of the new cases reported today, 343 are in Toronto, 235 are in Peel and 105 are in York Region.

Virus-related hospitalizations are also continuing to climb along with intensive care admissions. The number of people with COVID-19 who are receiving treatment in hospital is now 689, up from 677 last week. The province is reporting that there are now 290 patients with COVID-19 in the ICU, up from 284 last Tuesday.

Dr. Irfan Dhalla, a University of Toronto medical professor and vice-president at Unity Health Toronto, tweeted Tuesday that the number of ICU patients with COVID-19 is actually 344, an increase of 27 patients over the past 24 hours.

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Dr. Michael Warner, the medical director of critical care at Michael Garron Hospital, told CP24 on Tuesday that he believes a third wave of the pandemic has already arrived in Ontario. "Wave three, I believe, is upon us. ICU numbers are increased today. Case numbers are rising and a vaccination also buys people more freedom," Warner said.

"So we need to make sure we prioritize the people who are most likely to get sick and die from COVID within Phase 2 (of the vaccination program) and make sure the people who could get COVID but almost certainly are going to survive are toward the end of the line so that we save the most lives."

Source: [Ontario reports nearly 1,200 new coronavirus cases as ICU doctor warns third wave is here | CP24.com](#)

Ministry says people with pre-existing conditions won't be able to book appointments online

In a statement provided to CP24, a spokesperson for Health Minister Christine Elliott said that planning is still underway on how the province will deal with people with pre-existing conditions.

But the spokesperson said that "these individuals will not typically be booking their appointment through the provincial online booking portal, or receive the vaccine at mass vaccination clinics."

Instead, the spokesperson said that most of the vaccinations administered to people with pre-existing conditions will be "administered through other channels, such as specialty clinics or through their existing health care providers who already have the individual's health records on hand."

Of course, some are still concerned about whether the most vulnerable people will indeed receive their shots first in the second wave, especially when you look at the sheer number of Ontarians with pre-existing conditions.

Dr. Michael Warner, the medical director of critical care at Michael Garron Hospital, told CP24 on Tuesday that the issue is that the government has set up a system, where there is “is no specificity in terms of what a respiratory disease is, what heart disease means.”

That, he warned, could lead to widespread abuse, especially if family doctors are kept out of the process.

“It means that the people who need the vaccines the most will not be triaged to get them earlier than others and also family doctors have been cut out of the entire process,” he said. “They are the ones best equipped to triage their own patients assuming we have carved outs for those without family doctors to make sure they get access too.”

Ontario has said that it hopes to vaccinate an additional 7.5 million residents as part of the second phase of its vaccine rollout.

Other priority groups include older adults, essential workers and those who cannot work from home, along with residents and staff in congregate settings.

Source: [Some people could jump the line for COVID-19 vaccines in second phase of rollout: Bogoch | CP24.com](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

In York Region, residents aged 80 and older will be able to book an appointment for their first dose of the vaccine. This can be done on the York Region website, by clicking [here](#).

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinars

Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks

Date: starting Thursday, March 4th, at 2:00pm

To register for any or all sessions: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-of-dimes-canada-caregiver->

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[conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebsoporgprofile](https://www.ontario.ca/conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebsoporgprofile)

Better Living Health and Community Services

Series of Wellness Breaks

Chair Yoga with Trisha Lanns

Date: Tuesday, March 9th, at 10:45am

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrCOytpz4iGt0gjM3Faea036plwv2x9NSJ>

Reconnecting the mind and body with Ashely Dipchan

Date: Thursday, March 11th at 3:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfu2qpz8uH9FbqlvNGHv5N8ukz8fRsi15>

Sound and Movement with Sarah Feiner

Date: Tuesday, March 16th from 10:45 to 11:05am

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdO6tqDsvH9ybOodgq3LyqV8joRPFtYPo>

Mindfulness and Meditation with Jasmine Mendez

Date: Thursday, March 18th from 3:00 to 3:20pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApuuuqTosH9C3kAmSyMayqb-h--eSowRG>

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