

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – March 15, 2021**

As of March 15, 2021, Canada has a total of 911, 019 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 319, 374 cases with Toronto having 102, 641 cases.

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**Ontario reports 1, 268 new cases of COVID-19, 9 more deaths**

The province is reporting over 1,200 new cases of the virus today, as well as 9 additional deaths. Nearly 34,000 tests were processed over the past 24 hours, which has resulted in an overall positivity rate of 3.8 percent. This is the highest that the positivity rate has been since Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The rolling seven-day average of new cases has climbed to 1,349, up from 1,155 one week ago. Of the new cases reported today, 366 are in Toronto, 220 are in Peel, and 147 are in York Region.

The number of people in hospital receiving treatment for COVID-19 jumped to 699 today, up from 626 last week, as reported by the province. There are currently 12, 528 active cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, up from 11,016 last Monday.

An additional 70 variant cases were confirmed through genomic sequencing today. In Ontario, there are currently 1,106 confirmed cases of the B.1.17 variant, 44 cases of the B.1.351 variant, and 34 of the P.1 variant.

The province says that close to 1.2 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to date, and 287,283 people are fully vaccinated.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-268-new-cases-of-covid-19-9-more-deaths-1.5347483>

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**Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine booking portal launches today for those ages 80 and over**

The province has officially launched its vaccine booking portal and call centre this morning, which has opened up approximately 800,000 appointments for people ages 80 and older. The website went live at 8 a.m. this morning, and only select priority groups are eligible to book. For those who do not have access to a computer, the province has also opened a call centre where people can book appointments.

Many of Ontario's local public health units and hospitals have already launched their own booking portals to begin vaccinating their elderly populations. Several regions, including Peel, Durham, and Halton region, have opted not to use the province's appointment portal in favour of their own sites. Toronto Public Health launched a temporary site last week, but they are currently in the process of transitioning to the provincial system.

Premier Doug Ford has said that the province has the capacity to administer 4.8 million vaccine doses per month, but is currently only receiving supply to do about a quarter of that. The province is predicting that the next age group will be able to register for a vaccine sometime in early April.

**Those eligible for a vaccine can book here:** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

**Or by phone at: 1-888-999-6488**

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-s-covid-19-vaccine-booking-portal-launches-today-for-those-ages-80-and-over-1.5347244>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **March of Dimes**

#### **Caregiver Webinars**

#### **Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks**

Date: starting Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm – every Thursday, join anytime

To register for any or all sessions: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-of-dimes-canada-caregiver-conversation-series-tickets-142228614615?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

#### **A Three-Part Series – Empowering Caregivers to Cope**

Session #2: Assess Your Caregiving Experience

Date: Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-assess-your-caregiving-experience-registration-141468611425?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Session #3: Assist with Self Nurturing

Date: Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-assist-with-self-nurturing-see-for-yourself-registration-141470428861?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## **Long-Term Care Planning: What it is and why we should all care**

Date: Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/long-term-care-planning-what-is-it-and-why-we-should-all-care-registration-141473036661?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## **Better Living Health and Community Services Series of Wellness Breaks**

Sound and Movement with Sarah Feiner

Date: Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 to 11:05am

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

Mindfulness and Meditation with Jasmine Mendez

Date: Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 3:20pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApduuuqTosH9C3kAmSyMayqb-h--eSowRG>

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:sarah.nydp@gmail.com)