

**Coronavirus: COVID-19**  
**Current Update – March 17, 2021**

As of March 17, 2021, Canada has a total of 917, 376 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 321, 956 cases with Toronto having 103, 351 cases.

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**Ontario reports highest count of COVID-19 cases in more than a week**

The province is reporting 1, 508 new COVID-19 cases today, which is the highest count of cases in over a week. There were an additional 14 deaths reported in the past 24 hours.

Locally, Toronto reported 542 new cases, Peel Region reported 253, and York Region reported 107. The seven-day rolling average of new cases now stands at 1,361, which is a notable rise from 1,238 one week ago.

Provincial health officials also logged four more lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants of concern today, three of them being the B.1.1.7 and one being the B.1.351 variant. There are more than 9,600 cases that have screened positive for a variant of concern in Ontario labs, but they are still awaiting whole genome sequencing to confirm their lineage.

According to the latest data from public health units and hospital networks, there are at least 963 patients hospitalized due to COVID-19 infection in the province. Of those hospitalized, provincial health officials said that there are 300 patients in intensive care units and 190 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, said that Ontario is now in a "race against time" with COVID-19 vaccine rates and variants of concern both increasing. The Ontario Hospital Association and body of epidemiologists that advises Ontario on its pandemic response have said that the province has officially entered into the third wave of the pandemic.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-highest-count-of-covid-19-cases-in-more-than-a-week-1.5350621>

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**Toronto opens 3 mass COVID-19 vaccination clinics today**

The city opened three mass immunization clinics this morning, at the Metro Convention Centre, the Scarborough Town Centre, and the Toronto Congress Centre. All three sites will operate from 11am to 8pm, seven days per week.

The clinics are currently serving people over the age of 80 who have registered for their appointments. Mayor John Tory said on Monday that three more clinics will open in the city by the start of April. These include at the Malvern Community Recreation Centre and the Mitchell Field Community Centre, which are scheduled to open on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and the Hangar Sports Events Centre which will open on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/a-glimpse-inside-one-of-three-mass-vaccination-clinics-that-opened-in-toronto-this-morning-1.5350348>

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### **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: 1-888-999-6488

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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 #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**

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) 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)