

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 18, 2021

As of March 18, 2021, Canada has a total of 921, 510 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 323, 509 cases and Toronto has a total of 103, 878 cases.

Ontario reports more than 1, 550 new COVID-19 cases; active caseload hits five-week high

The province is reporting 1, 550 new COVID-19 cases today, which is the highest count of cases in five weeks. There were an additional 15 deaths reported in the past 24 hours. One of the deceased was a resident of the Long-Term Care system.

Locally, Toronto reported 404 new cases, Peel Region reported 294, and York Region reported 176. The seven-day rolling average of new cases now stands at 1, 427, which is a notable increase from 1, 251 one week ago today.

There are now 12, 814 known active cases of novel coronavirus infection across the province. The province's active caseload is the highest it has been since February 11th, 2021. Approximately 11% of the province's active caseload is made up of public elementary and secondary students.

Within the past 24 hours, provincial health officials logged three more lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 variants of concern. The total number of variants of concern that have been confirmed through genome sequencing is now 1, 218. On top of that, there are more than 10, 000 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. The Science Table believes 53% of all new daily cases are now variants of concern.

In the province, there are 914 people in hospital due to COVID-19 infection. Of those, 304 are in intensive care and 186 are breathing with the help of a ventilator. COVID-19-related hospitalizations continue to increase. The Ministry of Health stated that intensive care unit occupancy due to COVID-19 surpassed 300 for the first time since February 10th, 2021.

In Ontario, there have been a total of 7, 202 deaths due to COVID-19 and 303, 500 recoveries. Within the past 24 hours, another 58, 000 doses of approved COVID-19 vaccines were administered, bringing the total number of shots completed to 1, 359, 453. More than 292, 000 people have now received both doses of the vaccine.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-more-than-1-550-new-covid-19-cases-active-caseload-hits-five-week-high-1.5352254>

Federal government isn't stockpiling COVID-19 vaccines; provinces responsible for unused doses: Anand

There is a misconception that the vaccine rollout is going slowly because the federal government is stockpiling about 800,000 COVID-19 vaccines in storage. Procurement Minister Anita Anand assured that vaccines are being sent to provinces and territories as soon as they come into the country.

According to CTVNews.ca's vaccine tracker, Canada has received 4,228,280 vaccine shipments as of Thursday morning, and 3,421,832 of them have been administered. That leaves some 806,000 doses unaccounted for.

The Procurement Minister stated: "The federal government isn't seeing those vaccines at all, they go directly to the point of use... we're really hoping the provinces and territories will continue to ramp up their inoculation processes because we need Canadians to get vaccines in their arms as soon as possible."

Anand also explained that the Public Health Agency of Canada and Canadian Forces' Major General Dany Fortin are leading the effort in communicating with the provinces and territories every day to coordinate a smooth vaccine rollout.

According to the Major General Fortin, if provinces follow the advice to delay second doses up to four months, and providing there are no production delays, Canada will have received enough vaccines to give a first dose to every adult who wants one before Canada Day, July 1st.

Later in the interview, Anand said: "Let's remember that we're still in the beginning of the largest mass vaccination campaign in Canadian history, and indeed in global history, and there will be bumps in the road. We all have a lot of work ahead of us, but from my perspective, the procurement perspective, the vaccines are arriving and they're coming like a rocket... the federal supply is continuing to increase."

"We are not only focused on the short-term, we're focused on the medium- and the long-term, putting in place contracts that will continue to serve Canadians for years to come," she added.

During a media briefing on Thursday, officials said Health Canada anticipates a total of 36.5 million doses from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca by June 30th.

Canada's deputy chief public health officer, Dr. Howard Njoo, says 42% of Canadians over the age of 80, and 12% of those between 70 and 79, have now received their first dose of vaccine.

Source: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/federal-government-isn-t-stockpiling-covid-19-vaccines-provinces-responsible-for-unused-doses-anand-1.5352347>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinars

Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks

Date: starting Thursday, March 4th, 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 22nd, 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 29th 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 18th from 3:00 to 3:20pm

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