

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 22, 2021

As of March 22nd, 2021, Canada has a total of 935,484 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 330,573 cases and Toronto has a total of 105,989 cases.

Ontario reports 1,699 new COVID-19 cases today as positivity rate, hospitalizations climb

The province reported 1,699 new COVID-19 cases today, which is much higher than the 1,268 cases reported this time last week. However, today's case count is lower than yesterday's number of new cases, which was 1,791. On Saturday, 1,829 new cases were reported.

With nearly 1,200 more recoveries today, there are now 14,751 active infections in Ontario, up from 12,528 last week. Of today's new cases, 500 are in Toronto, 318 are in Peel, 155 are in York Region, and 114 are in Hamilton.

Over the weekend, Ontario's positivity rate rose from 3.3% on Friday to 5.4% on Monday morning. Today is the first time that the positivity rate has surpassed 5% since February 1st. The province's rolling seven-day average of new cases has risen to 1,600 new cases per day, up from last Monday's number, which was 1,350.

The province has also seen a jump in hospitalizations over the past 24 hours. The Ministry of Health says there are now 813 people in hospital due to COVID-19 infection. On Sunday, the day before, this number was 760. However, there are 7 fewer COVID-19 patients in intensive care, from 305 on Sunday to 298 today.

Three deaths from COVID-19 were recorded in the past 24 hours. None of these deaths involved residents of Long-Term Care homes in Ontario. The average number of deaths per day is now 12. This time last week, this number was 13.

Over the weekend, areas covered by the orange and red zones were allowed significantly higher capacity for indoor dining. For the first time since November, restaurants were allowed to reopen for patio dining in Toronto and Peel Region, which are located in the grey zone of the framework.

Today, 53 new cases of the UK variant were confirmed in the province, which brings the total number of lab-confirmed cases of this variant to 1,340. The province has acknowledged that this variant is now the dominant strain here in Ontario. More than 13,000 cases have screened positive for a variant of concern but are still awaiting whole genome sequencing to determine lineage.

Throughout the province, within the past 24 hours, 31, 098 COVID-19 tests were completed and 31, 335 COVID-19 vaccine doses were given. The total number of doses administered in the province is now 1, 554, 040.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-699-new-covid-19-cases-today-as-positivity-rate-hospitalizations-climb-1.5356977>

Vaccine rollout set to shift into high gear with major surge in expected deliveries

This week, Canada's COVID-19 vaccination rollout will accelerate as the federal public health agency prepares to deliver the largest number of doses since the launch of the immunization effort.

Nearly 1.2 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 846, 000 doses of the Moderna vaccine are set to arrive this week. Public Procurement Minister Anita Anand has said that Canada is expected to receive a total of 9.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of the first quarter of this year. Pfizer-BioNTech is expected to continue providing weekly shipments of at least a million doses for the foreseeable future.

In upcoming weeks, Canada will receive even more vaccines from the United States. On Friday, Anand said that Canada was finalizing an agreement that would see Canada receive 1.5 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca shot before the end of the month. However, delivery dates for this promised shipment has yet to be finalized.

Canada's supply of vaccines is expected to increase further now that two other vaccines, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson, will begin arriving in large shipments. These vaccines are expected to start arriving in Canada in April, though that timeline has also not been finalized yet.

This week's delivery of the Moderna vaccine will be staggered over two shipments over the next seven days. This way, the country will receive these vaccines earlier, since it will not have to wait until the end of the week. Deliveries from Moderna were previously scheduled to take place every three weeks, but earlier this month the company stepped up the pace by sending shipments every two weeks instead.

The Public Health Agency of Canada said Sunday that more than 670, 000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered last week alone. Government figures show more than 3.95 million doses have been administered across Canada as of Sunday, and 629, 956 people have been fully vaccinated.

The Public Health Agency of Canada confirms that there have been no unexpected vaccine safety issues identified in Canada to date. Although the AstraZeneca vaccine has been the subject of much

international scrutiny and backlash, a recent review from the European Medicines Agency found no elevated risk of blood clotting.

Canadian authorities have reaffirmed their support for the shot. “Based on the information to date, Health Canada confirms that the benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, in protecting Canadians from the severe outcomes of COVID-19, continue to outweigh any risks,” the Public Health Agency of Canada said.

Source:

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/2021/03/22/vaccine-rollout-set-to-shift-into-high-gear-with-major-surge-in-expected-deliveries.html>

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>

Long-Term Care Planning: What it is any 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>

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