

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 23, 2021

As of March 23rd, 2021, Canada has a total of 940, 265 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 332, 119 cases and Toronto has a total of 106, 463 cases.

Ontario reporting more than 1, 500 new COVID-19 cases

The province is reporting 1, 546 new cases of COVID-19 today, down from 1,699 reported on Monday and 1,791 on Sunday. The rolling seven-day average of new cases has climbed from 1,334 to 1,667 since last week. The number of active, lab-confirmed cases of the virus in Ontario has surpassed 15,000, which is a significant increase from 12,506 this time last week.

There were 32,556 tests processed in Ontario labs yesterday, and the Ministry of Health is reporting a positivity rate of 5.7 percent. This is the highest overall positivity rate reported since late January.

More transmissible variants of concern are now believed to represent about 50 percent of all new cases in Ontario. However, only fewer than 1,500 variant cases have had their lineage officially confirmed through a process called whole genome sequencing. The B.1.1.7 variant, which originated in the United Kingdom, is believed to account for the vast majority of cases in the province.

Of the new cases reported today, 465 are in Toronto, 329 are in Peel Region, and 161 are in York Region.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reporting-more-than-1-500-new-covid-19-cases-as-hospitalizations-icu-admissions-jump-1.5358564>

Fewer COVID cases in people 80 and up, vaccine programs expand

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout has resulted in a significant drop in the number of infections in people over the age of 80, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Teresa Tam, said on Sunday. She said that the reduction in cases among older adults, along with fewer outbreaks in Long-Term Care settings, "reassure us that vaccines will bring more (and) greater benefits in the weeks to come."

Ontario lowered the age of eligibility for vaccines in the general population from 80 to 75 on Monday. These can take place at either a mass vaccination clinic or a pharmacy. Some pharmacies continue to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine to those who are 60 and older, and other priority groups remain eligible.

To check your eligibility, go to the website below (Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine booking portal) and use the drop-down menu.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/fewer-covid-cases-in-people-80-and-up-tam-says-as-vaccine-programs-expand-1.5356298>

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