

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – March 5, 2021

As of March 5, 2021, Canada has a total of 878,391 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario itself has 310,165 cases with Toronto having over 98,497 cases.

1,250 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Ontario today, 22 more deaths

Ontario is reporting more than 1,200 new cases of COVID-19 today, the highest daily case count logged over the past week. After three consecutive days of cases below 1,000, provincial health officials confirmed 1,250 new cases of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus today, up from 994 on Thursday and 958 on Wednesday. Today's case count is down slightly from the 1,258 infections reported one week ago.

Another 22 deaths were confirmed over the past 24 hours, the highest number of virus-related deaths reported in a single day in Ontario since Feb. 26, when 28 deaths were confirmed.

The province says 64,748 tests were processed over the past 24 hours, resulting in a test positivity rate of 2.3 per cent, on par with the rate reported one week ago.

An estimated 643 people infected with COVID-19 are receiving treatment in Ontario hospitals, including 280 in intensive care.

Of the new cases today, 337 are in Toronto, 167 are in Peel Region and 129 are in York Region.

Strict lockdown measures are still in place for Toronto, Peel Region, and the North Bay Parry Sound District health unit due to higher levels of transmission and trepidation over how variants of concern are circulating in the community.

The medical officers of health in both Toronto and Peel Region have asked the province to place their local public health units in the grey zone of the tiered reopening framework.

That would allow all non-essential retail stores to reopen to customers with reduced capacity starting next week.

It would also mean that stay-at-home orders would be lifted and outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people would be permitted once again.

In-person dining is still not permitted in regions in the grey zone of the colour-coded framework and gyms, hair salons, and other personal care services must remain closed.

Mayor John Tory told CP24 on Friday that he believes the province will accept the city's recommendation and place Toronto in the grey zone.

Source: [More than 1,200 new coronavirus cases reported in Ontario today, 22 deaths | CP24.com](#)

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to be approved

OTTAWA - Health Canada is to announce approval of the COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson and Johnson this morning, according to multiple sources aware of the decision but not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The federal regulator has found the evidence shows the vaccine is both safe and effective against the virus that causes COVID-19.

It is the fourth vaccine to be approved in Canada and the first and only one Canada has purchased that requires just a single dose.

Canada has pre-purchased 10 million doses, with options to buy another 28 million.

Joelle Paquette, the director general for vaccines at Public Services and Procurement Canada, says the 10 million doses are to arrive by September.

However, it's not expected that any will flow to Canada until at least April.

“At the moment, we are still in discussion with Johnson and Johnson to determine where their doses will be coming from and the delivery schedule,” Paquette said Thursday.

Delivery schedules are not confirmed publicly until Health Canada's regulatory review team gives a vaccine its seal of approval.

The United States became the first jurisdiction to approve Johnson and Johnson's vaccine - which is officially produced by a subsidiary, Janssen Pharmaceuticals - on Feb. 26.

Production problems slowed initial deliveries in the United States. The Americans were to get 10 million doses as soon as the vaccine was approved but there were only four million doses shipped out March 1.

The U.S. expects to get another 16 million doses by the end of March and 100 million total by the end of June.

The European Medicines Agency, which Canada works with on all its COVID-19 vaccine reviews so far, is to make a decision in mid-March.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published March 5, 2021.

In York Region, residents aged 80 and older will be able to book an appointment for their first dose of the vaccine. This can be done on the York Region website, by clicking [here](#).

Source: [Coronavirus vaccine: Health Canada to announce approval of Johnson and Johnson vaccine against COVID-19 | CP24.com](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinars

A Three-Part Series – Empowering Caregivers to Cope

Date: Monday, March 8th, at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/caregiver-webinar-series-addressing-the-losses-caregivers-experience-registration-141419003045?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Caregiver Connection Group – Caregiver conversation series – 10 weeks

Date: starting Thursday, March 4th, at 2:00pm

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

Better Living Health and Community Services

Series of Wellness Breaks

Chair Yoga with Trisha Lanns

Date: Tuesday, March 9th, at 10:45am

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrcOytpz4iGt0giM3Faea036plwv2x9NSJ>

Reconnecting the mind and body with Ashely Dipchan

Date: Thursday, March 11th at 3:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctfu2qpz8uH9FbqlvNGHv5N8ukz8fRsi15>

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