

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 12 2021

As of May 12th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 302, 645 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 499, 412 cases and Toronto has 157, 394 cases.

Ontario will no longer offer first doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

Ontario will no longer administer the first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. The province's remaining supply of AstraZeneca will be reserved for second doses.

“We maintain that those who received their first dose with the AstraZeneca vaccine did absolutely the right thing to prevent illness, and to protect their families, loved ones, and communities,” said Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams.

The decision to pause is based on an increase in reports of rare blood clots and the increased and reliable supply of other vaccine options. “This decision was made out of an abundance of caution,” Dr. Williams said. “It is not that the risk for individuals has gone up extensively at this time but because it is sometimes severe we want to be cautious and say ‘let's pause it’ while we look at the data and information.”

Dr. Abdu Sharkawy, an infectious diseases specialist, told CTV that: “We're going to get some news relatively soon from the mix and match study in the UK, and I'm very confident that the results of that will be very good in terms of both efficacy and safety. ”

In Canada, there have been 12 cases of blood clots related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, and 8 of those cases were in Ontario. In total, 3 Canadians have died from it.

Officials insist that the AstraZeneca vaccine provides significant protection from serious illness, hospitalization and death related to COVID-19. They are waiting for more data before making any announcements on second doses of AstraZeneca or whether the people who got the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can get a different COVID-19 vaccine as their second dose.

Source:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-will-no-longer-offer-first-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-1.5423379>

Ontario reports more than 2, 300 new COVID-19 cases, ICU admissions drop below 800

Today, Ontario reported 2, 320 new cases of COVID-19. The province's positivity rate is 6.4%, down from 8.5% yesterday and 9.1% on Monday. Based on the past 7 days, the average of new cases per day in Ontario is 2, 826, down from 3, 432 one week ago.

Throughout the province-wide lockdown, the number of COVID-19 patients in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) has been steadily decreasing. Today is the first day since March 21 when there were fewer than 800 COVID-19 patients in ICUs across Ontario. On March 21, there were 790 people in ICUs with COVID-19, and today there are 776.

Over 6.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far throughout Ontario. There were 140, 000 vaccines given in the last day. Currently, over 400, 000 Ontarians are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Health Minister Christine Elliot will give an update on Ontario's vaccine rollout later today.

Source:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-more-than-2-300-new-covid-19-cases-as-icu-admissions-drop-below-800-1.5424485>

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: 1-833-943-3900.

For general information about vaccines, call: 1-888-999-6488.

In Toronto? Here's a safe transportation option to go to your vaccine appointment:

Wheel-Trans is committed to providing vaccine rides to the elderly and people with disabilities in Toronto. Wheel-Trans is offering individual rides to City-run mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, doctor's offices and clinics that are giving out vaccines. Customers may be joined by one Support Person on their Wheel-Trans ride.

You may be eligible for Wheel-Trans service if your disability prevents you from using the TTC's conventional transit for all or part of their trip.

If you are not yet a Wheel-Trans customer, and you think you may qualify for Wheel-Trans service, you are invited to apply by calling Wheel-Trans Customer Service at 416-393-4111, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Existing Wheel-Trans customers can book their rides to and from their vaccine appointments by calling Wheel-Trans Reservations at 416-393-4222, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or through the Wheel-Trans Self-Booking Website. Access the website by clicking here: <https://mywheel-trans.ttc.ca/SelfBooking2020/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fSelfBooking2020>.

Upcoming Events:

March of Dimes

Caregiver Webinars

Navigating the Healthcare System

Date: Monday, May 17th at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/navigating-the-healthcare-system-registration-151067826937>

Better Living Health and Community Services

Wellness Breaks and Lunch n' Learns

Getting off the Path to Burnout with Dr. Marci Kostenuik

Date: Wednesday, May 19th from 12:00 to 1:30pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJuf-urqDktH9Oj01j8gFlMz8y6T33y1nz1>

Music for Emotional Expression with SarahRose Black

Date: Wednesday, May 26th from 12:00 to 1:00pm

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ufu6uqjwjEtRpr86FUvBHq-B2wRHqRWnh>

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