

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 25, 2021

As of May 25th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,364,049 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 524,950 cases and Toronto has 163,990 cases.

Ontario reports less than 1,100 new COVID-19 cases and 33 more deaths today

The province is reporting 1,039 new COVID-19 cases today, which is the lowest daily count since early March. There were also 1,446 new cases reported on Monday, which shows that the province has logged just under 2,500 new cases in the past two days. There were 41 additional deaths related to COVID-19 in the past two days, which brings the province's total number of deaths from the pandemic to 8,655.

Hospitalizations continue to decline over the past two days, and there are currently 1,025 people being treated for the virus as of today. Of those hospitalized, 662 patients are in intensive care units across the province, and 498 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

According to the Ministry of Health, the province's positivity rate has remained at 6.4 percent on both Monday and Tuesday, which is still high. This is because only 20,200 tests were processed on Monday, and 16,900 tests were processed in the past 24 hours.

The majority of new infections over the past two days have been in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and 712 of the cases reported on Monday and Tuesday were found in Toronto. The province said that there have been 120,130 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, as well as 817 cases of the B.1.351 variant and 2,462 of the P.1. variant.

The province also reported that officials administered 186,032 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 48 hours. Now, more than 8.2 million people have received at least one dose of a vaccine, and a little over 544,200 people have received both doses and are considered fully vaccinated.

Source: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-logs-fewer-than-2-500-new-covid-19-cases-over-2-days-following-long-weekend-1.5441571>

Ontarians who received first AstraZeneca dose in mid-March can book second dose appointment

One of the province's top doctors announced last week that those who got their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine between March 10th and March 19th, which was during a pilot project at some pharmacies and doctors' offices, will be prioritized for their second dose. There are currently 45,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in Ontario that are set to expire in about a week.

The recommended interval between doses is at least 12 weeks, but the second dose is being offered to this group after roughly 10 weeks of receiving their first dose. Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, has said that the shorter interval is safe and provides strong protection against COVID-19.

The province currently has more than 300,000 doses of the vaccine in stock, and another 10,000 are set to expire next month. Therefore, Ontario will have to begin administering second doses quickly, as no first doses are currently being given out of the vaccine. This is due to AstraZeneca's link to rare and potentially fatal blood clots, which have prompted several provinces to stop using the vaccine as they await more research.

Source: <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontarians-who-received-first-astrazeneca-covid-19-shot-in-mid-march-can-book-second-dose-1.5441347>

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

Stress Management for Caregivers

Date: Monday, May 31st at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stress-management-for-caregivers-registration-151071788787>

Strategies for Communication – Communication Partner Training

Date: Monday, June 7th at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/strategies-for-communication-communication-partner-training-registration-154463559665?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Understanding Disability Tax Credits with the Canadian Revenue Agency

Date: Monday, June 14th at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/understanding-disability-tax-credits-with-the-canada-revenue-agency-registration-154465497461?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

CRA Scams – Protect Yourself against Fraud

Date: Monday, June 21st at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cra-scams-protect-yourself-against-fraud-registration-154465022039?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Caregiver Connection Group

Caregiver Conversation Series

Date: Thursdays at 2:00pm (ongoing weekly basis)

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

Better Living Health and Community Services

Wellness Breaks and Lunch n' Learns

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