

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 26 2021

As of May 26th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,366,611 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 526,045 cases and Toronto has 165,440 cases.

Ontario reports fewer than 1,100 new COVID-19 cases for second day in a row

The province is reporting 1,095 new COVID-19 cases today. Yesterday, there were 1,039 new cases, which was the lowest daily count since early March. Toronto reported 257 cases, its lowest daily count since March 3. Meanwhile, Peel Region reported 215 new cases, York reported 101 new cases, Durham reported 123 new cases, Halton reported 27 and Hamilton reported 54.

Hospitalizations continue to decline, and there are currently 1,073 people being treated for the virus as of today, up from 1,025 yesterday but down from 1,401 one week earlier. Of these patients, 672 are in Intensive Care Units, and 469 are breathing with the help of a ventilator.

The province's positivity rate is 5.3%. The provincial seven-day rolling average of new cases now stands at 1,622, down 70 from yesterday. In the past 24 hours, 23 people have died due to COVID-19. Two of the 23 deaths reported were residents of the Long-Term Care system.

As of last week, approximately 85% of all new COVID-19 cases were positive for the three most prominent variants of concern: B.1.1.7, P.1 and B.1.351. In the province, there is a total of: 121,122 confirmed cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, 836 cases of the B.1.351 variant and 2,505 cases of the P.1. variant.

The province also reported that officials administered 135,308 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 24 hours. More than 8.3 million people have received at least one dose of a vaccine, and 569,317 people have received both doses and are considered fully vaccinated.

Sources:

1. <https://www.cp24.com/news/ontario-reports-1-095-new-covid-19-cases-23-deaths-1.5443077>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-fewer-than-1-100-new-covid-19-cases-for-second-straight-day-1.5443176>
3. <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-covid-19-report-en-2021-05-26.pdf>

Ontario's top doctor wants schools reopen before step one, a decision is coming soon

Last week, the provincial government was criticized for not mentioning schools when it explained how the rest of the economy would transition out of the stay-at-home order.

Yesterday, Dr. David Williams said he would like to see students return to their classrooms before the province starts reopening in mid-June, including the Toronto area. He said most public health units in the province support the reopening of schools, which have been closed for in-person learning since early to mid-April.

“My position has been always ... schools should be the last to close and the first to open,” Williams told a news conference. “Ideally, I’d like the schools open before we enter Step 1 of our exit strategy.”

The effects of the pandemic on children’s mental health is a big concern in Canada. Tracy Vaillancourt, an education professor at the University of Ottawa who specializes in mental health research on children, wrote a letter to the province calling for the reopening of schools.

Vaillancourt is working with 14 other researchers on a report about the effects of the pandemic on children. In their letter, Vaillancourt wrote: “We are on the cusp of a generational catastrophe. Our professional consensus is that these shutdowns have negatively affected all aspects of child development, that extend well beyond the classroom.”

There have been several reports, including from Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children, that suggest mental health in children has declined during the pandemic. Vaillancourt echoed those concerns, and she also said that schools offer much more than help for mental health afflictions. They allow some students to eat better and more consistently through various programs.

Dr. Williams says there will be a decision on schools soon, but he did not specify when exactly.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-s-top-doctor-wants-schools-reopen-before-step-one-and-says-decision-is-coming-soon-1.5442570>

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>

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Caregiver Connection Group

Caregiver Conversation Series

Date: Thursdays at 2:00pm (ongoing)

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

North Yorkers for Disabled Persons, Inc.

Updated May 26, 2021

Psychological First Aid Tools for Covid-19 with Dr. Marcia Kostenuik

Date: Wednesday, June 2nd from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. (90 minutes)

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsdOCgrT4uEtDe7amonbEVP7LETfOcY5gd>

Mindful Eating Dr. Louise LeBlanc

Date: Wednesday, June 9th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qceuvpzMqHtVce2_BULkEJ0l4K--dQnnC

The Entering with Dr. Rami Shami

Date: Wednesday, June 16th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrdO6sqD4qH9D0ewmte0ZTEbs_xu1sRPPR

Cooking Demonstration with Alison Burke

Date: Wednesday, June 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUf-qpqDMvHNA921RKT9OK0M2zQmZ1OjBl>

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.