

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – May 5 2021

As of May 5th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1, 249, 950 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 476, 692 cases and Toronto has 152, 215 cases.

Health Canada approves the use of Pfizer in youth ages 12 to 15

Earlier today, Health Canada authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be the first COVID-19 vaccine that can be given to children aged 12 and up. It had previously been approved for anyone 16 and older. Health Canada reviewed a variety of studies about the vaccine’s safety and efficacy for people between the ages of 12 and 15. Click [here](#) to see a high-level summary of their review.

One study that they reviewed looked at over 2, 000 participants aged 12 to 15, who were divided into two groups. One group was vaccinated and the other was not. 100% of participants in the group that was given both injections of the PfizerNBioTech vaccine did not get COVID-19. Meanwhile, 18 participants in the unvaccinated group tested positive for COVID-19.

Pfizer is the first COVID-19 vaccine that Canada has approved for use in children. Moderna is also working on a clinical trial for children ages 12 to 15 years old. Other vaccine manufacturers are conducting or planning to conduct clinical trials in children as young as 6 months.

Health Canada official Supriya Sharma stated that 20% of COVID-19 cases have been people below age 19. She remarked that, while the virus is often less severe in youth, there have still been cases of children transmitting the virus and children dying from the virus. If you have any questions, Health Canada will be available to answer them at their weekly technical briefing on rollout and logistics, which will be held tomorrow.

Sources:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/video?playlistId=1.5210733>
2. <https://covid-vaccine.canada.ca/>

Ontario outdoor recreational facilities to stay closed until COVID-19 cases drop: minister

Yesterday, Health Minister Christine Elliott said that outdoor recreational activities are still off-limits to allow transmission rates to drop. She assured that the government is assessing the closures “on a daily basis”. The ban on outdoor recreational facilities started when the stay-at-home order was announced in April.

“We have seen a lessening of case rates in the last several days, but that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s a trend,” Elliott told reporters. “We still need to stay at home as much as possible, we need to limit our mobility as much as possible to reduce transmission.”

The government did not say when they will roll back pandemic restrictions, or give any specific benchmarks that would signal it is safe to start reopening. However, Elliot did note a few things that need to be done before the ban on outdoor sports and other restrictions can be lifted. She mentioned that there needs to be fewer people in hospital for COVID-19 and fewer patients in Intensive Care Units (ICUs). Also, a backlog of delayed surgeries would need to be worked through. “There isn’t an exact rate at this point but our medical experts are telling us that we need to see a continued reduction before we can start thinking about opening things up again,” Elliott said.

Sources:

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7834048/ontario-outdoor-facilities-to-stay-closed-until-covid-cases-drop/>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-needs-continued-reduction-in-covid-19-to-loosen-restrictions-health-minister-1.5413962>

Ontario reports just under 3, 000 new COVID-19 cases

Today, Ontario reported 2, 941 cases of COVID-19, slightly higher than 2, 791 cases yesterday. There are 924 new cases in Toronto, 565 in Peel Region, 254 in York Region, 171 in Durham and 149 in Hamilton. All other local public health units reported fewer than 125 new cases.

Of the 2, 075 COVID-19 patients in Ontario’s hospitals, 882 are currently in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), and 620 are breathing with the help of a ventilator. Compared to the previous day, there are 92 fewer patients in hospital, 4 fewer patients in ICUs, and 11 more people breathing with the help of a ventilator.

According to the Ministry of Long Term Care (LTC), one resident of a LTC home has died in the past 24 hours. Currently, there are 52 outbreaks in LTC homes, which is up by 2 from the previous day. The ministry also indicated there are currently 60 active cases among LTC residents and 180 active cases among staff. In the last day, the number of cases among residents is unchanged, but there are five more infected staff members.

Today, the province reported 2, 862 new cases of the UK variant in Ontario. The total case count for the strain is now 80, 511. In addition, the province added 30 more cases of the Brazilian

variant, which brings its total case count to 1, 001. Also, there are 8 new cases of the South African variant, which brings its total case count to 317.

Regarding vaccines, 132, 603 doses have been administered in the past 24 hours. Currently, 381, 123 Ontarians are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. A total of 5, 599, 723 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the province.

Meanwhile, an additional 4, 361 Ontario residents were reported to have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 24-hour period. Although this does not change the fact that COVID-19 continues to tragically impact people's lives, the fact that there have been more resolved cases than new cases within the past 24 hours is certainly a hopeful sign!

Source:

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7835366/covid-19-ontario-cases-may-5-covid19/>

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

A 3-Part Series for Caregivers: Caregiving: A Family Affair

➤ Session 3: A Toolkit for Caregiver and Family Well-Being

Date: Monday, May 10th at 2:00pm

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/3-part-series-caregiving-a-family-affair-a-toolkit-for-caregivers-registration-147153587341>

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

Medicine Song Woman, Juno Award Winning Singer Brenda MacIntyre

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

To register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUldO-hqj4jEtQ7tlvYfccBLrFMTRBAelr>

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/tJUuf-urqDktH9Oj01j8gFIMz8y6T33y1nz1>

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