

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 20, 2020

As of November 20th, 2020, Canada has a total of 318, 440 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 100, 790 cases with Toronto having 36, 428 cases.

Sources:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102>

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-latest-city-of-toronto-news/covid-19-status-of-cases-in-toronto/>

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Ontario logs more than 1,400 new COVID-19 infections; total case count surpasses 100,000

Today, the province reported 1, 418 new cases, making this the 15th straight day where the province's number of new COVID-19 cases has been above 1, 000. The province's total case count has passed 100, 000, including deaths and recoveries.

Based on the past seven days, the average number of new cases per day in Ontario is now 1, 372, up from 1, 355 one week ago.

The province also reported that 8 more people have died due to COVID-19. Residents of Long-Term Care facilities represent 4 of those 8 deaths. The province's total number of deaths due to the virus has risen to 3, 451 people.

Most of these new cases were reported in the province's COVID-19 hotspots: Peel Region (400), Toronto (393), and York Region (168). Meanwhile, Ottawa has 77 new cases, up from 37 yesterday.

Other public health units that reported more than 10 cases of COVID-19 include: Durham Region (46), Windsor-Essex(45), Middlesex-London (37), Hamilton (36), Halton Region (36), and Simcoe Muskoka (33).

Of today's 1, 418 new cases, 524 of them are people between the ages of 20 and 39, and at least 387 new cases are people between the ages of 40 and 59. People between the ages of 60 and 79 represent 189 of today's new cases, and 230 new cases were confirmed among people who are 19 years of age and younger.

Health officials estimate that the province's positivity rate is at least 3.6%. In the last 24 hours, officials across Ontario processed 48, 173 tests, and there are 46, 609 tests still being investigated. In total, Ontario has processed more than 5.8 million tests.

Provincial health officials deemed 1, 415 more cases to be resolved as of Friday, bringing the total number of recovered patients in Ontario to 84, 716.

Source:

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-logs-more-than-1-400-new-covid-19-infections-total-case-count-surpasses-100-000-1.5197556>

Tighter COVID-19 restrictions loom for Toronto, Peel, York

Later today, Ontario Premier Doug Ford will announce whether Toronto, Peel Region and York Region will face stricter COVID-19 measures — or even a lockdown.

“We’re looking at lockdown, if this continues, in Peel and Toronto and York,” Ford said Wednesday. “I keep seeing the numbers climb. We have to stop this.”

During his daily COVID-19 announcement yesterday, Ford said: “We have some difficult but necessary decisions to make. Tomorrow, our government will release further public health restrictions. As it’s looking, these measures... will have to be tough in the hardest-hit areas.”

These three areas are currently in the red zone of the province’s colour-coded system, which is one step away from a lockdown. These regions have seen a steady increase in COVID-19 infections since early September.

Each week, Peel sees 195 new cases per 100,000 people in its population. This number is nearly five times higher than the province’s threshold to be put in the red zone, which is 40 new cases per 100, 000 people per week. Toronto has 112 new cases per 100, 000 people per week, and York has 91.

Officials in Brampton and Toronto have voiced their support for stricter measures, but none have mentioned a full-scale lockdown. Yesterday, York’s medical officer of health and the regional municipality’s chair urged Ford not to impose a lockdown on the region, which includes Markham, Vaughan and other cities north of Toronto.

The province has not specified the infection rate threshold that would trigger a lockdown, nor has it stated exactly which services and businesses would get locked down. When asked Thursday to describe the scale of the restrictions being considered, both Ford and Williams declined to reveal any specifics.

However, it does not seem that any schools would be closed in these areas. Yesterday, Ford said:

“I’ve heard from numerous, numerous doctors, not to mention our health table [of medical advisers], that the safest place for our children right now is actually in the schools.”

He also suggested that tackling transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces and social gatherings would be preferable to ordering a lockdown.

“We can’t afford to have workplaces that are unsafe or host large gatherings or parties because this virus spreads like wildfire,” said Ford. “It hurts your customers, it hurts your workers, and it hurts your community.”

Ford’s cabinet meets each Friday to consider recommendations from Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health about if there should be any changes to the colour-coded restriction levels for public health units around Ontario, based on whether their infection rates have risen or fallen.

- The Region of Waterloo, currently under orange zone restrictions, could end up in the red zone as its weekly infection rate per 100,000 residents has reached 63, according to the latest figures from Public Health Ontario.
- Durham Region, also in the orange zone, is showing a weekly infection rate approaching 53, which exceeds the threshold for the red zone.
- Among the seven public health units currently under yellow zone restrictions, the highest infection rate is in Huron-Perth (43), making it the most likely candidate for stricter measures.

Ontario has been reporting hospitalization and death rates from COVID-19 higher than at any time since June. According to provincial figures, 307 people with COVID-19 have died so far in the past 20 days.

Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-covid-cases-lockdown-doug-ford-toronto-peel-york-1.5808008>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March of Dimes

Free Online Webinars for Caregivers

- Mental Health: Impacts At Home and Work
 - Date: Thursday, Nov. 19th, Time: 2:00 PM
- Understanding Disability Tax Credits with the Canada Revenue Agency

- Date: Wednesday, Nov. 25th, Time: 2:00 PM
- The Importance of Sleep
- Date: Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, Time: 2:00 PM

Registration for all events can be done here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/march-of-dimes-canada-27715764721>

Harmony Place

Online Music Therapy Sessions

Date: Wednesdays and Fridays, starting Friday August 7th, and Wednesday August 19th 2020

Time: 2:30 – 3:30pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054622001?pwd=Z2xyZjFZQUpNRFB6YzAwU085N3pGUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5462 2001

Passcode: 051424

For more information, contact Wanda by email at: wanda@harmonyplace.on.ca

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