

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – September 1, 2021

As of September 1st, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,500,506 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 566,206 cases and Toronto has 174,392 cases.

Ontario reports just over 650 new COVID-19 cases, positivity rate sees slight drop

Today, there are 656 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 701, up from 625 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 2.9%.

Of these 656 new infections, 397 are people who are unvaccinated, 52 are people who are partially vaccinated, and 55 had an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 154 are people who are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were mainly found in: Toronto (158), York Region (76), Peel Region (59), Hamilton (73), Windsor-Essex (50), Durham Region (31), and Middlesex-London (30). All other local public health units in Ontario reported fewer than 30 new cases.

According to the province, there are 339 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 163 people in an Intensive Care Unit, and 135 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator. Among ICU patients, 151 patients are not vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 12 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 34,703 vaccine doses were given today. Over 9.9 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 77% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 83.7% of people in Ontario who are eligible for a vaccine have had at least one dose

Sources:

1. <https://covid19tracker.ca/index.html>
2. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-reports-over-650-new-covid-19-cases-positivity-rate-sees-slight-drop-1.5569385>
3. <https://globalnews.ca/news/8157954/ontario-covid-cases-september-1-coronavirus/>

Ontario Premier Doug Ford announces vaccine certificate system for Ontario

Earlier today, Premier Doug Ford announced that Ontario will be implementing a proof-of-vaccine certificate system, commonly called “vaccine passports.” This comes after much debate over the issue of vaccine certificates, what they will look like, and the impact this has on unvaccinated individuals.

Premier Ford stated that a vaccine certificate program is necessary to avoid lockdowns, keep businesses open, keep kids in school, and keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed. He said that this is a necessary step “to keep moving forward safely.”

The vaccine certificate program will start on September 22, 2021 and will require proof of vaccine for individuals to enter non-essential businesses in Ontario. This includes: restaurants, movie theatres, gyms, casinos, concert halls, and other businesses. The certificate rules do not apply to children under the age of 12 and to people with medical exemptions who are unable to be vaccinated.

So, what will the vaccine certificate look like? The certificate will start as your vaccine receipt used with a government-issued ID. If you need another copy of your receipt, you can download it here: <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>

The province is also developing a smartphone app with a unique QR code which lets you prove your vaccine status without showing any personal health information. The app will be available October 22, 2021.

With the creation of a vaccine certificate system, advocates are warning the provincial government that not everyone has access to a smartphone device, stating that this could leave the elderly, impoverished, homeless, and people who don't have a phone without a way to prove their vaccination status.

Vaccine passports have already been implemented or announced for other provinces, including Quebec, British Columbia, and Manitoba. After places have introduced a vaccine certificate, they have experienced an increase in vaccination rates.

Dr. Isaac Bogoch reminds us that while vaccine certificates can help reduce risk and exposure to COVID-19, that they are not a “solution to the pandemic,” stating that “this helps create a safer indoor space... This is not the only thing that needs to be done. This is one major policy decision that can be taken to keep places open.”

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-premier-doug-ford-announcing-vaccine-passport-system-for-ontario-1.5569198>

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

Caregiving and Resources

Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

In this webinar, Heather Cresswell will share her the emotional and physical struggles of caregiving and the wonderful support she received for over 34 years. There will be tips and testimonials for all Caregivers. She will discuss her approach with her Mom on how she dealt with regular daily activities, appointments and services. She will give insight on what takes place when caring for a loved one long term.

Register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LgLPEQJhz0Oew_OpyuNE5Y_YdjYHfhHnLBGvolxLIpUMIAzQTBfMDC0T09PwDk0S00xRUhMWIBMSy4u

3-Part Series with Caroline Tapp-McDougall

Session 3: Slow Caregiving

Date: RESCHEDULED for Monday, September 20th at 2:00pm.

Register:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LgLPEQJhz0Oew_OpyuNE5Y_YdjYHfhHnLBGvolxLIpUMIAzQTBfMDC0T09PwDk0S00xRUhMWIBMSy4u

Caregiver Connection Group (paused until September)

Caregiver Webinars and Caregiver Conversations will not take place in August. They will re-start on September 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm. You will need to re-register, and please do this before September.

Register or re-register:

<https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/Pages/Online-Support.aspx#Conversation>

One to One Peer Support Program

The One to One Peer Support program is still running. No one understands quite like somebody who has lived the same experience. Our Peer Support program pairs caregivers with peers who are also experienced in caregiving and can offer practical advice and support by phone or a video chat. Contact Angie Clark by email at aclark@marchofdimes.ca or call 1-905-301-8114 for more information or to get connected.

3-Part Series with Caregiving – A Family Affair

This series happened in April, and answered the question: How can families remain strong and intact throughout the caregiving experience? If you missed it or would like to re-watch it, please click below. The access code for all sessions is Care2021.

Session 1: How Care Shapes Family - The first webinar in this series will explore how families change when care needs cause everyone to examine the workability of old family dynamics. Click [here](#) to watch.

Session 2: Remaking the Family The second webinar in this series will explore how to intentionally reshape family relationships and dynamics in order to build a strong and sustainable care team. Click [here](#) to watch

Session 3: A Toolkit for Caregivers - The third and final episode in this series will offer tools and strategies to assess the wellbeing of family members individually and gauge how well the family is meeting challenges as a team. Click [here](#) to watch.

For recordings of previous webinars please contact Angie Clark at aclark@marchofdimes.ca.

If you or someone you know uses Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and requires resources related to COVID-19, please contact Jessica (jessica.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 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 Senior Manager of Client Services/Lead AAC Facilitator Jessica at 416-222-4448 or jessica.nydp@gmail.com.