

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – September 2, 2021

As of September 2nd, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,504,559 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 567,071 cases and Toronto has 174,573 cases.

Ontario reports more than 850 new COVID-19 cases, marking highest daily count in months

Today, there are 865 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. This is the highest case count in Ontario since June 4th. The seven-day average is 728, up from 646 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 3%.

Of these 865 new infections, 692 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 173 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (175), Peel Region (104), York Region (91), Hamilton (89), Simcoe Muskoka (51), Windsor-Essex (48), Ottawa (39), and Niagara (33). All other local public health units in Ontario reported fewer than 30 new cases.

According to the province, there are 320 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 162 people in an Intensive Care Unit, and 105 of them are breathing with the help of a ventilator. In hospital, 292 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 28 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 35,152 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 9.9 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 77.19% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 83.85% 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-more-than-850-new-covid-19-cases-marking-highest-daily-count-in-months-1.5570879>

Ontario extends three paid COVID-19 sick days through end of 2021

Before the pandemic, it was common for employees to go to work when unwell. This happened for a few reasons. For example, because workers were required to be there, they didn't have enough sick days left for the year, and for financial reasons.

When this occurs, employees “spread germs and viruses throughout the office.” With COVID-19, companies have started to address questions of how to “maintain safe workplace practices and not put others at risk.”

To help those who must choose between going to work and staying home with no pay, the provincial government developed its paid sick leave program in April 2021, which was set to end on September 25th.

The Government of Ontario announced this week that it is extending the paid sick leave program by 3 months, until December 31, 2021. This decision was made in response to how quickly the Delta Variant is spreading.

The program legislates that all employees receive up to \$200 of pay for 3 days if they must miss work because of COVID-19. The government then reimburses employers through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

This helps protect workers from the virus as well as to protect customers or consumers who come into contact with that individual.

Ontario’s COVID-19 science table has criticized the program for only providing pay for 3 days, stating that 10-14 days would be more helpful given the amount of time it takes to receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis and how long health officials recommend for self-isolation.

Sources:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-extends-three-paid-covid-19-sick-days-through-the-end-of-2021-1.5568514>
2. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/working-while-sick-will-the-pandemic-eliminate-presenteeism-from-the-workplace-1.5555232>

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.