

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – December 10, 2021

As of December 10th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,826,453 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 629,064 cases and Toronto has 184,681 cases.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday December 6: 887
Tuesday December 7: 928
Wednesday December 8: 1,009
Thursday December 9: 1,115
Friday December 10: 1,453

Ontario's COVID-19 cases continue to rise with 1,453 new infections

Today, there are 1,453 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 1,055, up from 866 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 4.4%.

Of these 1,453 new infections, 735 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 718 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (195), Ottawa (109), Kingston, Frontenac, and Addington (95), York Region (91), Peel Region (89), Windsor-Essex (89), Durham Region (76), Simcoe-Muskoka (73), Halton (68), Hamilton (54), and Middlesex-London (52). All other health units reported fewer than 50 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 309 COVID-19 patients in hospital. In the last 24 hours, 189 people were admitted to a hospital – of these 189: 114 were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and 75 were fully vaccinated. There are 151 patients in an Intensive Care Unit.

In Ontario, 78,390 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11.3 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 80.1% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 84.8% 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-s-covid-19-cases-continue-to-rise-with-1-453-new-infections-11-additional-deaths-1.5702078>

Omicron variant may have picked up a piece of common-cold virus

The Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus likely gained at least one of its mutations by picking up a piece of genetic material from another virus. Researchers say that the piece is possibly one from the common cold virus.

This genetic sequence does not appear in any earlier versions of the coronavirus but is present in other viruses, including those that cause the common cold.

By inserting this genetic material into itself, Omicron might be making itself look “more human,” meaning it can possibly evade attack by the human immune system more easily.

This could mean the virus transmits more easily, while only causing mild or asymptomatic disease. Scientists do not yet know whether Omicron is more infectious than other variants, whether it causes more severe illness or whether it will overtake Delta as the most prevalent variant. It may take several weeks to get answers to these questions.

Cells in the lungs and in the gastrointestinal system can harbour COVID-19 and the common-cold at the same time. This is called “co-infection” and sets the scene for viral recombination, a process in which two different viruses in the same host cell interact while making copies of themselves, generating new copies that have some genetic material from both “parents.” This may be how the variant mutated.

More research is needed to confirm the origins of Omicron's mutations and their effects on transmissibility and illness.

The new findings underscore the importance of people getting their COVID-19 vaccines.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/omicron-variant-may-have-picked-up-a-piece-of-common-cold-virus-1.5693909>

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:

North Yorkers

The Communication Enrichment Class (ongoing)

The class is running virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm. You can find the online blog at <https://nydpcec.wordpress.com/> where class activities will be posted before each class. If you or someone you know has a communication disability and may be interested in participating in the class, please contact Jessica, our Manager of Client Services via email at jessica.nydp@gmail.com.

March of Dimes

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.

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.