

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – December 17, 2021

As of December 17th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,865,859 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 642,465 cases and Toronto has 187,231 cases.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday December 13: 1,536
Tuesday December 14: 1,429
Wednesday December 15: 1,808
Thursday December 16: 2,421
Friday December 17: 3,124

Ontario reports significant jump in COVID-19 infections with more than 3,000 new cases

Today, there are 3,124 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 1,914, up from 1,005 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 8.2%.

As of Friday, there are 157 people being treated in the ICU for COVID-19. Of these patients 124 are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 33 are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (759), Ottawa (294), York Region (215), Peel Region (209), Kingston (208), Halton (194), Durham (155), Simcoe-Muskoka (138), Middlesex-London (116), Hamilton (107), and Waterloo (100). All other health units reported fewer than 100 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 464 cases in people under the age of 12, 309 cases in people between the ages of 12-19, 1,317 cases in people age 20-29, 788 cases in people ages 40-59, and 243 cases in people over the age of 60.

In Ontario, 156,525 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11.3 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 80.4% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 85.5% 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-significant-jump-in-covid-19-infections-with-more-than-3-000-new-cases-1.5711426>

Doug Ford announces new COVID-19 restrictions for Ontario

Ontario has announced new restrictions, including cutting gathering sizes and slashing capacity limits to 50 percent for most indoor settings, as COVID-19 cases increase in the province.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, gathering sizes will drop from 25 people to 10 people indoors. Outdoor gathering limits will be limited to 25.

Ontario is reintroducing capacity limits of 50 percent at most indoor settings across the province. This includes places like restaurants and bars, personal care services, retailers, and shopping malls.

Additionally, bars, restaurants and strip clubs will close at 11 p.m., with the exception of take-out and delivery service.

Dancing will not be allowed, except for workers or performers.

The number of people permitted to sit at a table will be restricted to 10 people, and patrons will be required to remain seated in restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments.

The government has also ordered the suspension of food and drink services at sporting events, concert venues, theatres, cinemas, casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments, horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues.

The sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m.

These limits do not apply to any portion of a business that is being used for a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite, or ceremony, the government says.

The experts suggest an "immediate circuit breaker," where people in Ontario cut their contacts by at least 50 percent and COVID-19 booster shot campaigns ramp up to 250,000 shots per day. Earlier this week, Ontario announced it would be expanding eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots to anyone 18 and older starting Monday.

According to the Ontario's Science Advisory Table, increasing vaccination is "not enough to slow this wave."

The required interval between a person's second dose and booster shot was shortened from six months down to three months.

The province also said it would be limiting capacity in some indoor spaces with more than 1,000 people to 50 percent.

The government also announced a rapid test blitz for the holiday season. This link shows the dates and locations that people can get rapid tests.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/pop-up-holiday-schedule-rapid-antigen-tests>

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-slashing-gathering-sizes-reducing-indoor-capacity-limits-as-covid-19-cases-soar-1.5711730>

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.