

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – December 3, 2021

As of December 3rd, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,799,881 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 621,260 cases and Toronto has 183,566 cases.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday November 29: 788
Tuesday November 30: 687
Wednesday December 1: 780
Thursday December 2: 959
Friday December 3: 1031

Ontario reports more than 1,000 new COVID-19 cases for the first time in six months

Today, there are 1031 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 866, up from 711 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 2.9%.

Of these 1031 new infections, 589 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 442 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (133), Windsor-Essex (68), Peel Region (60), Sudbury (59), Ottawa (58), York Region (56), Hamilton (47), and Durham Region (44). All other health units reported fewer than 40 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

There are at least 146 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 119 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 27 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 787,013 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11.2 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 79.9% 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-more-than-1-000-new-covid-19-cases-for-first-time-in-six-months-1.5692338>

Omicron COVID-19 variant is three times more likely to cause reinfections, new data shows

New data from a study in South Africa suggests that the Omicron variant is three times more likely to cause reinfection in people, compared to other variants of COVID-19.

South Africa's population was thought to have developed strong immunity to COVID-19 as a result of prior infection, but the surge from Omicron has shown that this may not be the case.

On Thursday, health authorities reported more than 11,500 new cases in South Africa. The number has almost tripled in the past two days and increased fivefold since Monday. The daily positivity rate doubled to 22 percent in the same four-day period, meaning that more than one-fifth of tests are finding cases of the virus. The positivity rate was less than 2 percent in mid-November.

“Population-level evidence suggests that the Omicron variant is associated with substantial ability to evade immunity from prior infection,” the study concluded.

This will have huge implications for countries such as India and other African countries that have low vaccination rates, where immunity has been achieved through infection.

Scientists have stated that even if the new variant is not more transmissible than other variants, it may still spread quickly because people are more vulnerable to it.

“It's the susceptibility of the population that is greater now... Previous infection used to protect against Delta, and now with Omicron that doesn't seem to be the case,” said Anne von Gottberg of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in South Africa.

Vaccines will be the best weapon against the new variant. Vaccines are likely to protect people against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

It is too early to know the severity of Omicron cases, but so far there is no sign that it causes more severe illness.

As of today, six cases of the Omicron variant have been identified in Ontario. The latest case was reported in Durham Region.

Source:

1. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-omicron-variant-is-three-times-more-likely-to-cause-reinfections-new/>

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://nydpceec.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.