

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – January 28, 2022

As of January 28th, 2022, Canada has a total of 3,005,797 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 1,021,436 cases and Toronto has 274,044 cases.

Please note: As of December 31, 2021, Ontario is only providing PCR tests to symptomatic, high-risk individuals. This has resulted in a lower amount of daily cases being reported.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday January 24: **4,790**
Tuesday January 25: **3,424**
Wednesday January 26: **5,368**
Thursday January 27: **5,852**
Friday January 28: **5,337**

Ontario reports 5,337 new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations drop to 3,535

Today, there are 5,337 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, this is an underestimate as PCR tests are not widely available. The positivity rate is 14.4%.

Ontario is reporting that 3,535 people are in hospital with COVID-19. Approximately 55% of these patients were admitted because of their COVID-19 diagnosis, the remaining 45% were admitted for other reasons but have now tested positive for COVID-19.

There are 607 COVID-19 patients in an intensive care unit. Of these patients, 231 of them are fully vaccinated, 376 are unvaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. In the ICU, 82% of patients were admitted because of COVID-19.

Please remember that, according to the Ontario Science Table, when population size is considered, people who are fully vaccinated are 80.5% less likely to end up in hospital and 90.6% less likely to end up in ICU compared to people who are unvaccinated.

Today's cases across the Greater Toronto Area were mainly found in: Toronto (845), Peel Region (690), York Region (307), and Durham Region (225).

In Ontario, 77,968 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 12.4 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 82.7% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 88.3% 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-68-more-covid-19-deaths-as-hospitalizations-drop-to-3-535-1.5758420>

Public Health Ontario says period of infectiousness does not appear shorter with Omicron

A new guide developed by Ontario’s public health agency suggests that the Omicron variant is infectious for a similar period as earlier variants. This has caused people to question the province’s move to reduce self-isolation to five days for vaccinated people.

Public Health Ontario wrote that data “suggests that Omicron does not appear to be less infectious compared to other variants and that the period of infectivity is not reduced compared to prior lineages and may be increased in certain instances”

Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Medical Officer of Canada said the same thing, that the period of infectiousness for Omicron is “no shorter than the other variants.”

A recent study from Japan found highest concentrations of viral RNA in COVID-19 patients three to six days after diagnosis or symptom onset.

Therefore, “when you return to society, that’s when you’re peak infectiousness is.”

If an infected person can test negative on two rapid antigen tests 24 hours apart, they are likely not infectious and can exit isolation.

Ontario’s official guidance states fully vaccinated people can exit self-isolation five days after symptom onset or a positive test, provided symptoms have “improved” in the previous 24 hours, with no exit testing required. It was reduced from 10 days to five days in December 2021 for everyone except for vaccinated workers in high-risk settings.

Many experts are still suggesting that people isolate for 10 days.

Source:

1. <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/public-health-ontario-says-period-of-infectiousness-does-not-appear-shorter-with-omicron-1.5758213>

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.