

Coronavirus: COVID-19
Current Update – November 26, 2021

As of November 26th, 2021, Canada has a total of 1,778,670 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ontario has 615,197 cases and Toronto has 182,797 cases.

Covid-19 cases this week:

Monday November 22: 627
Tuesday November 23: 613
Wednesday November 24: 591
Thursday November 25: 748
Friday November 26: 927

Ontario reports highest daily COVID-19 case count since beginning of September with 927 new infections

Today, there are 927 new cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. The seven-day average is 711, up from 625 at this time last week. The positivity rate is 3%.

Of these 927 new infections, 549 people are either unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status. The remaining 378 people are fully vaccinated.

Today's cases were found in: Toronto (129), Simcoe Muskoka (73), Windsor-Essex (62), Peel Region (54), Ottawa (53), York Region (52), Sudbury (46), Waterloo (44), Durham Region (41), and Kingston, Frontenac & Lennox (40). All other health units reported fewer than 30 COVID-19 cases in Ontario.

According to the province, there are 268 COVID-19 patients in hospital, with 221 people who are either not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status and 47 people who are fully vaccinated. There are 140 patients in an Intensive Care Unit. Among ICU patients, 130 patients are not fully vaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status, and 10 are fully vaccinated.

In Ontario, 19,820 vaccine doses were given in the last 24 hours. Over 11.2 million people in Ontario are fully vaccinated, which is 79.6% of the population that is eligible for a vaccine. Meanwhile, 82.3% 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-logs-highest-daily-covid-19-case-count-since-beginning-of-september-with-more-than-900-new-infections-1.5682565>

New Variant: Canada bans travellers from southern Africa as concerns mount over coronavirus variant.

Scientists in South Africa have identified a new variant of COVID-19 that is responsible for a recent spike in infections in Gauteng (the country's most populous province).

Health minister Joe Phaahla said the variant was linked to an "exponential rise" of cases in the last few days, although experts are still trying to determine if the new variant, named B.1.1.529 is responsible.

From just over 200 new confirmed cases per day in recent weeks, South Africa saw the number of new daily cases rise to 2,465 on Thursday. Struggling to explain the sudden rise in cases, scientists studied virus samples from the outbreak and discovered the new variant.

The new variant appears to have about 30 mutations. These can affect how easily it spreads. So far there is no indication that the variant causes more severe illness. However, there is still a lot of unknowns surrounding this new variant.

Today, Canada announced that it is banning the entry of all foreign nationals who have travelled through southern Africa in the last 14 days

The countries include South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini.

Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said there are currently no direct flights from the region to Canada. Canadians and other permanent residents returning to Canada from the region through another country must take a negative COVID-19 test in the third country. They will also be tested upon arrival in Canada.

According to Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, there is no indication of the variant's presence within Canada to date.

Source:

1. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/canada-bans-travellers-from-southern-africa-as-concerns-mount-over-coronavirus-variant-1.5682764>
2. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/what-is-this-new-coronavirus-variant-in-south-africa-1.5682375>

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.