Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Influenza, & Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Updated weekly on Tuesdays, and current as of 3:00 p.m. on the date it was posted.

**Note:** As of October 17, 2023 this document will include updates for other respiratory diseases of public health concern, primarily influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Additionally, the Guidelines and Technical documents section [last updated July 26, 2023] will no longer be updated, but is archived as an appendix at the end of this document.

Moving forward, any news and guidance updates will be cycled through the New Content section below, as always with the dates of the latest additions **bolded.**

This document is a collation of resources for your reference. For official guidance on COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV in Ontario, please visit the [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/).

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New Content

Public Health Agencies

Public Health Agency of Canada | canada.ca
Beginning the week of December 6, 2021, Library Services switched from reporting daily to weekly COVID-19 trends. For daily case counts, you can check 2019 novel coronavirus: outbreak update, or COVID-19 vaccination in Canada for vaccination rates.

- COVID-19 activity levels [updated 10-17-2023]
- Key COVID updates [updated 10-17-2023]
  - Weekly change in cases: 10,218
  - Total cases: 4,760,246
  - Weekly change in deaths: 126
  - Total deaths: 54,276
  - Weekly tests reported: 42,117
  - Weekly percent positivity: 19.8%
- COVID-19 daily epidemiology update [updated regularly]

BC Centre for Disease Control | bccdc.ca
- COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals [updated 10-10-2023]

Institut national de santé publique | inspq.qc.ca
- Vigie de la COVID-19 dans les services de garde éducatifs à l’enfance - Octobre 2023 [10-13-2023]
- Portrait des situations d’éclosion de COVID-19 dans les milieux de travail du Québec de juin 2020 à décembre 2021 [10-10-2023]

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | cdc.gov
- 5 things you should know about COVID-19 vaccines [10-13-2023]
- Cambodia: two fatal human influenza A/H5N1 (bird flu) virus infections [10-12-2023]
- Technical report: highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N1) viruses [updated 10-05-2023]
- COVID Data Tracker [updated 10-16-2023]
- CDC respiratory virus updates [updated regularly]
- CDC Archive: Archived web material for CDC.gov is preserved on the CDC Archive Site. Note that the content on this site is for historical purposes only and is no longer being updated. The information here may be outdated and links may no longer function.

ECDC: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | ecdc.europa.eu
- Evidence-based advice processes for long-term care facilities in the COVID-19 pandemic - Report from the after-action review (AAR) in Norway [10-17-2023]
- Communicable disease threats report, 8-14 October 2023, week 41 [10-13-2023]
- Influenza virus characterization - Summary Europe, August 2023 [10-12-2023]
- Country overview report: week 40 2023 [10-12-2023]
o By the end of week 40 (ending 8 October 2023), rates of respiratory illness in the community remained elevated, driven in part by SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Increases in case counts continued to be reported, most notably among older age groups. This has translated into relatively small increases in hospital or ICU admissions and deaths in some EU/EEA countries.

o Consultation rates of patients presenting to sentinel general practitioners with respiratory illness (influenza-like illness (ILI)/acute respiratory infection (ARI)) increased overall in over half of reporting countries. The increases observed among young children in recent weeks appear to be slowing. In general, rates remain at similar levels to those observed in the same period last year. In the past two weeks, eight countries reported at least 10 weekly sentinel tests, with an average weekly SARS-CoV-2 positivity between 4.4% and 33.6%.

o Data from 18 countries reporting age-specific data on positive COVID-19 tests taken outside sentinel systems indicate increases in transmission affecting all age groups, with the most affected being those aged 65 years and above. Increases for up to 12 weeks were observed by 7 of 18 countries reporting data. As the oldest age groups have the highest risk of severe disease, these figures highlight the importance of continuing to monitor disease and implement protective measures in older age groups.

o The impact on severe disease remained quite limited. Of 12 countries with data on hospital or ICU admissions/occupancy up to week 40, two reported an increasing trend in at least one of these indicators compared with the previous week. Although levels remain relatively low, increases in death rates for up to five weeks were reported in those aged 65 years and above by 5 of 13 countries with age-specific death data.

o Among the 17 countries reporting at least 10 results from SARS-CoV-2 sequencing or genotyping for weeks 38–39 (18 September to 1 October 2023), the estimated distribution of variants of concern (VOCs) or variants of interest (VOIs) was 66.2% (7.1–98.0% from 17 countries) for XBB.1.5+F456L, 29.9% (2.0–92.9% from 17 countries) for XBB.1.5, 2.6% (0.3–7.4% from 15 countries) for BA.2.75 and 1.9% (0.5–7.3% from 5 countries) for XBB.

• Seasonal influenza vaccination recommendations and coverage rates in EU/EEA Member States [10-09-2023]

FDA: U.S. Food & Drug Administration | fda.gov
• FDA authorizes updated Novavax COVID-19 vaccine formulated to better protect against currently circulating variants [10-03-2023]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: daily roundup [updated regularly]

UK Government | gov.uk
• UK Department of Health and Social Care
  o COVID-19 autumn 2023 vaccination programme: JCVI advice, 26 May 2023 [updated 10-05-2023]
• UK Health Security Agency
  o COVID-19 vaccine quarterly surveillance reports (September 2021 to October 2023) [updated 10-12-2023]
  o SARS-CoV-2: genome sequence prevalence and growth rate [updated 10-11-2023]
  o National protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (5 to 17 years of age) [updated 10-10-2023]
• UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
COVID-19 test validation approved products [updated 10-04-2023]

World Health Organization | who.int
- COVID-19 vaccine post-introduction evaluation (cPIE) guide [updated 10-10-2023]

Other relevant government bodies / health care organizations
- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
  - COVID-19 health and safety resources [updated regularly]
- Government of Ontario
  - Connecting Ontarians to the tools they need to stay healthy this respiratory illness season: flu, RSV and new COVID-19 XBB vaccines will be available to ensure Ontarians are protected this fall [09-14-2023]
- European Medicines Agency
  - Spikevax: EMA recommends approval of adapted COVID-19 vaccine targeting Omicron XBB.1.5 [09-14-2023]
- Health Canada
  - Health Canada authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine targeting the Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant [09-28-2023]
- Statistics Canada
  - Deaths, 2021 [08-28-2023]

Center for Infectious Disease Research Policy | cidrap.umn.edu
- SARS-CoV-2 persistence, low serotonin may cause long-COVID symptoms [10-17-2023]
- COVID infection can damage the brains of dogs, study suggests [10-16-2023]
- Review estimates 69% 3-dose vaccine efficacy against long COVID [10-13-2023]
- HHS unveils $500 million more in ProjectNext Gen COVID funding, including for 3 vaccines [10-13-2023]
- Codagenix announces promising findings for intranasal COVID vaccine [10-11-2023]
- WHO: Global flu levels remain low [10-11-2023]
- Quick takes: More Florida dengue, polio funding, new Wellcome CEO [10-11-2023]
- Not 'little adults': Experts say long COVID undercounted, misdiagnosed in kids [10-10-2023]
- Kids in state with flu vaccine mandate more likely to be vaccinated, study finds [10-10-2023]
- Study: Prenatal telehealth visits did not take off during pandemic [10-10-2023]
- Quick takes: mRNA vaccine production equity, Powassan death in Maryland, COVID infection-prevention guidance [10-10-2023]
- US data show many COVID patients received antibiotics on admission [10-09-2023]
- No increased risk of VTE for COVID-19 patients with IMIDs [10-09-2023]

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health | ncceh.ca
- August 2023 environmental health research scan [08-01-2023]
- July 2023 environmental health research scan [07-01-2023]
COVID-END | www.mcmasterforum.org/networks/covid-end
- Global spotlight 27.1: key additions for March 2023 [03-30-2023]

ProMED | promedmail.org
- Latest on COVID-19 [individual posts]
- COVID-19 update (31): BA.2.86 & EG.5, selected regions, vaccines, WHO, global [10-08-2023]
- Respiratory disease outbreak - Japan: (TK) COVID-19, influenza [09-16-2023]

Data & Real-time Tracking

COVID-19 resources (case counts) | arcgis.com
- Canada COVID-19 Note: has ceased updates as of 07-03-2023

COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group | COVID-19 CODWG
- COVID-19 in Canada (case count dashboard)

Johns Hopkins CCSE | systems.jhu.edu
- 2019-nCoV Global Cases (by Johns Hopkins CSSE)

NextStrain | nextstrain.org
- Phylogeny of SARS-like betacoronaviruses including novel coronavirus (nCoV)
- Genomic epidemiology of novel coronavirus (nCoV)
- Genomic analysis of nCoV spread. Situation report 2020-01-30

WHO | who.int
- WHO coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard

Appendices

Guidelines and Technical documents [ARCHIVED]
The guidelines were last updated 07-26-2023; news and updated guidance can be found in the New Content section above.
Appendix I: General Guidelines [ARCHIVED]

Ontario / Canada Main Page

- Ontario guidance
- Canadian guidance (federal)

Reopening/Rebuilding Guidelines

Ontario

- ON Protection from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses [updated 06-15-2023]

Canada (federal) and provinces and territories (other than Ontario)

- CA Guidance for a strategic approach to lifting restrictive public health measures [06-10-2022]
- CA COVID-19: readiness criteria and indicators for easing restrictive public health measures [05-14-2021]
- BC B.C.'s response to COVID-19 [updated 02-11-2023]
- AB COVID-19 public health actions [no date]
- SK Living with COVID [no date]
- MB COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus [no date]
- QC Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Québec [updated 07-20-2023]
- NB Living with COVID-19 [no date]
- NL NL life with COVID-19 [no date]
- PEI COVID-19 [no date]
- NS Government’s response to COVID-19 [updated regularly]
- NW COVID-19 [no date]
- YT Forging ahead: the Yukon's continuing response to COVID-19 [no date]
- NT Nunavut’s Path: living with COVID-19 [no date]

WHO

- End-to-end integration of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza sentinel surveillance: compendium of country approaches [08-02-2023]
- Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance [03-30-2023]

ECDC

- Conducting after-action reviews of the public health response to COVID-19: update [03-21-2023]

Vaccinations – General

Ontario Ministry of Health

- COVID-19 vaccine-relevant information and planning resources [updated 07-13-2023]

Canada (Federal)

- Planning guidance for immunization clinics for COVID-19 vaccines [updated 03-06-2023]
• For immunization providers: Interim national vaccine storage, handling and transportation guidelines for ultra-low temperature and frozen temperature COVID-19 vaccines [updated 07-31-2023]
• Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023 [updated 07-11-2023]
• Interim guidance on the use of bivalent Omicron-containing COVID-19 vaccines for primary series [updated 07-05-2023]
• Summary of updates in the Canadian Immunization Guide as of June 27, 2023: Updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccines in Canada [updated 06-27-2023]

Provinces and territories (other than Ontario)
• BC COVID-19 vaccine eligibility [updated 08-01-2023]

CDC
• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines including boosters [updated 07-17-2023]
• COVID-19 vaccines for specific groups of people [updated 06-29-2023]

UK
• COVID-19 vaccination programme [updated 08-08-2023]
• COVID-19 vaccination: vaccine product information [07-18-2023]
• COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a [04-27-2023]

ECDC
• Interim public health considerations for COVID-19 vaccination roll-out during 2023 [04-05-2023]
• Interim analysis of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against severe acute respiratory infection due to laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 among individuals aged 30 years and older, ECDC multi-country study – third update [modified 03-16-2023]
• Overview of the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination strategies and vaccine deployment plans in the EU/EEA [updated 03-03-2023]

Australia
• COVID-19 booster vaccine advice [updated 04-05-2023]
• Clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines [updated 03-21-2023]
• ATAGI clinical guidance for COVID-19 vaccine providers [updated 02-17-2023]

Vaccinations - Adverse Effects

Canada (Federal)
• Reporting ocular adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination: Communiqué to healthcare professionals (May 30, 2022) [05-30-2022]

Provinces and territories (other than Ontario)

CDC
• Reported adverse events [updated 07-13-2023]

WHO
• Guidance for clinical case management of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following vaccination to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [03-31-2023]

UK
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines adverse reactions [updated 03-08-2023]
• Myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination [updated 01-09-2023]

Australia
• ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration errors [updated 06-05-2023]
• COVID-19 vaccination – guidance on myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccines [11-09-2022]

Background Information/Case Definitions

Ontario Ministry of Health
• Ontario case definition - coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [updated 05-00-2023]

PHAC
• National case definition: coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [updated 06-06-2023]

CDC
• Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) 2023 case definition [reviewed 02-28-2023]

WHO
• WHO COVID-19 Case definition [updated 07-22-2022]
• A clinical case definition of post COVID-19 condition by a Delphi consensus, 6 October 2021 [10-06-2021]

ECDC
• Reinfection with SARS-CoV-2: implementation of a surveillance case definition within the EU/EEA [04-08-2021]

UK
• COVID-19: epidemiology, virology and clinical features [05-17-2022]

Australia
• COVID-19 disease, symptoms and variants [updated 12-09-2022]

Other
• BMJ best practice COVID-19 [updated regularly]
CDC

Miscellaneous Guidelines
PHAC
- COVID-19 and people with disabilities in Canada [updated 01-30-2023]
- Individual public health measures [updated 01-27-2023]
- Summary of evidence supporting COVID-19 public health measures [updated 01-27-2023]

WHO
- Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance [updated 03-30-2023]

Data & Surveillance
Canada
- COVID-19 data trends [modified 03-06-2023]
- National surveillance guidelines for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [03-19-2021]

WHO

CDC
- COVID-19 serology surveillance [03-11-2021]

ECDC
- Organisation of vector surveillance and control in Europe [12-13-2021]
- Surveillance of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA [11-29-2021]

Variants – Omicron
Canada
- SARS-CoV-2 variants: national definitions, classifications and public health actions [08-18-2022]

CDC
- What is genomic surveillance? [updated 12-02-2022]

UK
- Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 variants [updated 03-10-2023]
- SARS-CoV-2 variants of public health interest [updated 03-10-2023]

ECDC
- Methods for the detection and characterisation of SARS-CoV-2 variants – second update [08-02-2022]

Testing
Canada
- Interim guidance on the use of rapid antigen detection tests for the identification of SARS-CoV-2 infection [07-07-2022]
Ontario Ministry of Health
- Management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario Version 15.2 [03-27-2023]
- COVID-19 provincial testing guidance. Version 15.3 [01-25-2023]

Canadian provinces and territories (other than Ontario)

WHO
- Use of SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 self-testing [03-09-2022]

CDC
- Guidance for healthcare workers about COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) testing [updated 12-20-2022]
- Using antibody tests for COVID-19 [updated 12-16-2022]

UK
- Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 variants: technical briefings [updated 02-10-2023]
- SARS-CoV-2 variants of public health interest [updated 02-10-2023]

ECDC
- Methods for the detection and identification of SARS-CoV-2 variants- first update [08-02-2022]

Symptoms/Treatment

Canada

Ontario Ministry of Health
- Management of cases and and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario version 15.2 [updated 03-27-2023]

BC
- Clinical practice guide for the use of therapeutics in mild-moderate COVID-19 [updated 01-10-2023]

WHO
- WHO living guideline: drugs to prevent COVID-19 [updated 03-24-2023]

CDC
- Underlying medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19: information for healthcare providers [updated 02-09-2023]
- Clinical care information for COVID-19 [updated 01-30-2023]
- Clinical considerations for care of children and adults with confirmed COVID-19 [updated 01-27-2023]
- Clinical considerations for care of children and adults with confirmed COVID-19 [updated 01-27-2023]
• Care for breastfeeding people: interim guidance on breastfeeding and breast milk feeds in the context of covid-19 [02-25-2022]

US NIH
• COVID-19 treatment guidelines [updated 03-06-2023]

UK
• Find help and support if you have long COVID [updated 03-29-2023]

COVID-19 Diagnosis in Children
Canada

WHO
• A clinical case definition for post COVID-19 condition in children and adolescents by expert consensus [02-16-2023]

CDC
• Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers [02-10-2023]

Other
• American Academy of Pediatrics What is the case definition of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) interim guidance [02-08-2023]

Post-COVID-19 Condition
Canada
• Post COVID-19 condition (long COVID) [modified 03-09-2023]

Ontario
• Ontario Health Post COVID-19 condition: guidance for primary care [12-00-2022]

WHO
• Post COVID-19 condition [12-16-2021]

CDC
• Post-COVID conditions; CDC Science [updated 03-31-2023]

UK
• Long-term effects of coronavirus (long COVID) [reviewed 03-21-2023]

Case Investigation & Contact Tracing
Canada
• Public health management of cases and contacts associated with COVID-19 [01-30-2023]

Ontario
• Management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario (version 15.2) [03-27-2022]

CDC
• Isolation and precautions for people with COVID-19 [03-21-2023]

UK
• COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 NICE guideline [NG191] [03-29-2023]
Infection Prevention and Control

PHAC / Health Canada
- At home: using ventilation and filtration to reduce the risk of aerosol transmission of COVID-19 [01-27-2023]
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): prevention and risks [01-27-2023]
- COVID-19 mask use: advice for community settings [01-30-2023]

Ontario
- COVID-19 guidance: personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers and health care entities version 1.0 [06-10-2022]

Canadian provinces and territories (other than Ontario)

WHO

ECDC
- Considerations for infection prevention and control practices in relation to respiratory viral infections in healthcare settings [02-06-2023]

Appendix II: Guidelines for Health Sectors [ARCHIVED]

Healthcare Providers

Ontario Ministry of Health
- Management of cases and and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario version 15.2 [03-27-2023]
- COVID-19 guidance: acute care v.9 [01-11-2023]
- COVID-19 guidance: personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers and health care entities version 1.0 [06-10-2022]

UK
- COVID-19: managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection [03-31-2023]

ECDC
- Considerations for infection prevention and control practices in relation to respiratory viral infections in healthcare settings [02-06-2023]
- Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19: when to consider wearing a face covering or a face mask [06-16-2022]

Congregate Living (including Long-Term Care, Prisons, and Shelters)

Ontario Ministry of Health
- COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario [04-03-2023]
• **COVID-19 guidance: long-term care homes and retirement homes for public health units Version 10** [03-31-2023]

**PHAC**

• **Infection prevention and control for COVID-19: interim guidance for long term care homes** [01-25-2022]

**CDC**

• **Guidance on prevention and management of COVID-19 in correctional and detention facilities** [11-29-2022]
• **Guidance on management of COVID-19 in homeless service sites and in correctional and detention facilities** [11-29-2022]

**UK**

• **Acute respiratory illness, including flu and COVID-19 in prisons** [04-06-2023]
• **Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement** [04-06-2023]
• **COVID-19: outbreaks in prisons, refuges and other higher-risk accommodation settings** [04-04-2023]

**Other**

• **CSC Testing of inmates in federal correctional institutions for COVID-19** [04-12-2023]

Appendix III: Guidelines for the Community [ARCHIVED]

**Travel, Transport & Borders**

**Ontario Ministry of Health**

• **Travelling during COVID-19** [01-27-2023]

**Canada**

• **Travel advice and advisories by destination** [updated often]
• **COVID-19: travel, testing and borders** [04-03-2023]

**CDC**

• **COVID-19 travel recommendations by destination** [updated regularly]
• **Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines including Boosters** [04-06-2023]

**UK**

• **COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk** [03-14-2023]

**Schools / Childcare**

**Ontario Ministry of Health**

• **Management of cases and contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario version 15.2** [03-27-2023]
• **COVID-19: health and safety measures for child care** [08-17-2022]
• **COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools** [08-15-2022]

**PHAC**

• **Evaluating COVID-19 disease transmission and public health measures in schools: outbreak investigation guidance** [07-22-2022]
CDC
- Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning [10-05-2022]
- Schools, child care, and colleges [10-25-2022]

UK

Mental Health/Substance Use Health

Ontario Ministry of Health

PHAC
- Helping people who use substances [10-01-2022]

Provinces & Territories (excluding Ontario)
- QC The roles of public health in population mental health and wellness promotion [10-03-2022]
- QC Housing and social inequalities in health in times of COVID-19: strategies for promoting affordable quality housing [04-05-2022]
- QC Preventing violence and suicide within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: courses of action [04-05-2022]
- QC Preventing loneliness in young adults in the context of a pandemic [04-05-2022]
- BC Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and wellbeing of young adults in British Columbia [07-00-2021]
- QC Public health ethics and COVID-19: selected resources [11-00-2021]

WHO
- Mental health and COVID-19: early evidence of the pandemic’s impact: scientific brief, 2 March 2022 [03-02-2022]

Community/Workplaces

Ontario Ministry of Health
- Protection from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses [04-12-2023]
- COVID-19 and workplace health and safety [03-09-2023]
- COVID-19 and your employment standards protections [06-26-2022]
- Outbreak guidance: workplace and living settings for seasonal international agriculture workers (IAWS) [09-08-2022]

PHAC
- Summary of evidence supporting COVID-19 public health measures [01-27-2023]
- Community based public health measures [01-27-2023]
• How businesses and employees can stay safe while operating during COVID-19 [01-27-2023]
• Accessing public health support for First Nations communities [08-05-2022]
• COVID-19 and people with disabilities in Canada [01-30-2023]
• COVID-19 mask use: advice for community settings [01-30-2023]

WHO
• The generic all-hazards risk assessment and planning tool for mass gathering events [01-12-2023]

CDC
• Specific settings [12-07-2022]

UK
• Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement [04-04-2023]
• Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 [06-16-2022]

Other
• CCOHS daycares [07-14-2022]