

October 22, 2021 Update

SUBJECT: COVID-19: Ontario updates, and more



The Ontario government continues to cautiously lift capacity limits, announcing today the province will exit Step 3 of the Roadmap to Reopen with additional business sectors allowed to operate at full capacity as of Monday, October 25, 2021. Vaccination rate status and improvements in key public health and health care indicators continue to guide the reopening of the province and lifting of public health measures.

[A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#) was introduced outlining how and when to lift more public health measures. The plan will involve applying any new restrictions in tailored and localized ways, with the aim of avoiding further lockdowns. Read the full media release [here](#).

Ontario COVID-19 projections updated

Today, October 22, the [Science Table](#) released an update on Ontario COVID-19 projections. View the update [here](#).

Public Health Ontario updates

Ontario dental hygienists may find the following documents and updates by Public Health Ontario of interest.

- **NEW** [COVID-19 Delta: Risk Assessment and Implications for Practice](#), published October 8, 2021
- [SARS-CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing in Ontario](#), updated October 19, 2021
- [Estimating the Prevalence and Growth of SARS-CoV-2 Variants in Ontario using Mutation Profiles](#), updated October 19, 2021

Vaccine consult service for children and youth

SickKids Hospital has launched a [COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service](#) for children and youth, 12 years of age and older, and their families to help answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines through by-appointment phone consultations with trusted SickKids paediatric registered nurses. The service is available in many languages and free of charge to all residents of Ontario.

New federal benefit

The Government of Canada confirmed the [Canada Recovery Benefit](#) will expire on October 23, 2021, and announced the new [Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#) which will provide \$300 a week to workers should they be unable to work due to a local lockdown anytime between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022.

Refer to the ongoing updates on the ODHA [COVID-19 update page](#) to stay informed.