

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Extending Stay-at-Home Order Until June 2

Province Outlines Plans to Make Pfizer Vaccine Available to Youth Aged 12 to 17

May 13, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — With the new, more contagious variants continuing to pose significant risks, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has extended the Stay-at-Home Order ([O. Reg. 265/21](#)) until at least June 2, 2021. All public health and workplace safety measures under the [provincewide emergency brake](#) will also remain in effect. During this time, the government will prepare to administer the Pfizer vaccine to youth between the ages of 12 and 17, beginning the week May 31, 2021, as the province also finalizes plans to gradually and safely re-open the province.

“While we are seeing positive trends as a result of the public health measures put in place, we cannot afford to let up yet,” said Premier Ford. “We must stay vigilant to ensure our ICU numbers stay down and our hospital capacity is protected. If we stay the course for the next two weeks, and continue vaccinating record number of Ontarians every day, we can begin looking forward to July and August and having the summer that everyone deserves.”

Thanks to the collective efforts of Ontarians in following public health and workplace safety measures, the province continues to make considerable progress in the fight to control the third wave of COVID-19. This past week (May 2 to 8), the provincial cases rate decreased by 14.8 per cent, with the positivity rate also decreasing to 7.7 per cent compared to 8.6 per cent the previous week. From May 5 to 12, the number of patients with COVID-related critical illness in intensive care has decreased from 877 to 776.

Despite improvements, key indicators remain high and more time is required before the province can safely lift the Stay-at-Home Order. From May 3 to 9, the provincial cases rate remained very high at 134.9 cases per 100,000 people, and per cent positivity was above the high alert threshold of 2.5 per cent. Hospitalization and ICU admissions also remain too high and well above the peak of wave two.

Based on this data, the government has extended the provincewide Stay-at-Home Order that is set to expire on May 19 until at least June 2, 2021. The impacts of these measures will continue to be evaluated over the coming weeks, with consideration being made to the reopening of outdoor recreational amenities on June 2, subject to current trends continuing.

“While the latest data shows that public health measures are having an impact, the situation in our hospitals remains precarious and variants continue to pose a significant risk,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Experience from other jurisdictions shows that driving transmission to very low levels is needed in order to end the third wave. We must stay the course as we continue to quickly vaccinate more Ontarians, including our children and youth.”

In addition, all publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools in the province will continue to operate under teacher-led remote learning. Data is to be assessed on an ongoing basis and medical experts, including the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and other health officials will be consulted to determine if it may be safe to resume in-person learning.

Beginning the week of May 31, youth in Ontario between 12 and 17 years of age and their family members who have not received a vaccine will be eligible to book an appointment to receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, including at special dedicated youth and family clinics throughout the weeks of June 14 and 21.

“Expanding vaccines to youth 12 and up will bring us one step closer to normalcy for our students,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “We are focused on delivering a safe, stable, and well-resourced learning experience with an additional \$1.6-billion in resources to protect students and school communities in the 2021-22 school year.”

The province will work with public health units to offer both doses of vaccine to youth aged 12 to 17 by the end of August, in collaboration with school boards and other partners. The rollout will be informed by the work of the Children’s COVID-19 Vaccine Table and will provide access to multiple channels to support vaccinating this group, including mass vaccination clinics, community or school pop-ups, and pharmacies.

“The spread of COVID-19 continues to pose a significant threat to our health care system and the well-being of Ontarians,” said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. “While we have made great strides, extending the Stay-at-Home order is essential to protect our communities, reduce the spread of the virus and save lives.”

“Despite the progress we have made in recent weeks in our fight against this virus, we all must remain vigilant, as we are not yet at the point where we can safely exit the Stay-at-Home Order, as our health system remains under significant strain,” said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “By continuing to strictly follow all measures, we can further reduce transmission of the virus, safeguard hospital and public health capacity, and save lives.”

Quick Facts

- Ontario has administered first doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to over [50 per cent of Ontarians aged 18 and over](#). Over one million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Ontario since the start of May, and the province remains on track to have administered first doses to 65 per cent of Ontarians aged 18 and over by the end of May.
- On May 5, 2021, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age, marking the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group.
- The [Stay-at-Home order](#) currently in effect requires everyone to remain at home except for specified purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.
- On April 3, 2021, the government implemented a [provincewide emergency brake](#), putting in place time-limited public health and workplace safety measures to help to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 variants in communities, protect hospital capacity and save lives.
- Emergency [orders currently in force](#) under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act have been extended until June 2, 2021, as the province continues to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. Orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020, with the exception of O.Reg 129/20 (Signatures in Wills and Powers of Attorney), have been extended until June 19, 2021.
- Under the ROA, orders can be extended for up to 30 days at a time, and the government must report on all order extensions to the [Select Committee on Emergency Management Oversight](#).
- The ROA requires the Premier to table a report on any amendments or extensions of any orders within 120 days after the first anniversary of the ROA coming into force.
- Last week, the Ontario government [announced](#) it is providing more than \$2 billion in new supports to advance and protect public education for the 2021-22 school year. The support includes more than \$1.6 billion in resources to respond to COVID-19, with an \$85.5 million commitment to support learning recovery and renewal in response to the ongoing pandemic in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Implements Provincewide Emergency Brake](#)
- [Ontario Continues to Expand Booking Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccines to More Ontarians](#)
- Visit Ontario’s [COVID-19 communications resources web page](#) for resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts.
- Visit Ontario’s [website](#) to find out if you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at this time.
- Eligible groups can use Ontario’s [vaccine booking system](#) to find out how to schedule an appointment, or can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900. For general inquiries, individuals can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488 or TTY service is also available by calling [1-866-797-0007](#).
- Visit Ontario’s [COVID-19 vaccine web page](#) to view the latest provincial data and information on COVID-19 vaccines.
- Visit Ontario’s COVID-19 information [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from the virus.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only).

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