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PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 47

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit www.unifor.org/covid19 to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 Statements.

<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

Want to stay connected to what Unifor members are doing across the country? Then you're in the right place! Keep up to date on the latest Unifor news and events across Canada by signing up for our weekly newsletter. <https://www.unifor.org/node/9508>

Check out Unifor Nationals new website <https://www.unifor.org/>

For specific requests and support, contact covid@unifor.org

Local 114 website <http://www.unifor114.com/>

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<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/infection-doesn-t-protect-you-getting-covid-twice-more-common-as-immunity-wanes-experts-say-1.5856765>



'Infection doesn't protect you': Getting COVID twice more common as immunity wanes, experts say

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[Reddit](#)

Christine Enns said she was shocked when a rapid test showed she had tested positive for COVID-19.

Enns, who received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine and a booster shot, already had the virus in early February and thought reinfection was rare.

"I started feeling sick three to four days ago thinking, 'This feels like COVID.' I took five tests and ... today it came back positive," the bakery owner said Friday from her home in Warren, Mba., about 45 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

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"It did come as a surprise to me because of all the things I put in place to not get it. Now that I had it twice, I don't feel quite as invincible."

- [Newsletter sign-up: Get The COVID-19 Brief sent to your inbox](#)

Reinfection of COVID-19 was considered unusual, but then the Omicron variant arrived.

"Because Omicron is so different, previous infection doesn't protect you," Saskatchewan's chief medical health officer, Dr. Saqib Shahab, said last week.

He said public health data suggests up to 10 per cent of infected Canadians who have recently had BA.2 — a sub-variant of Omicron — previously had BA.1 or a previous infection, like the Delta variant.

This aligns with recent studies done in England that suggest 10 per cent of reported cases are reinfections.

"That shows just because you got Omicron once doesn't mean you're bulletproof now," Shahab said.

Not all provinces publicly report reinfection rates. However, in Ontario, public health says nearly 12,000 people have gotten COVID-19 twice since November 2020 with the current risk of reinfection deemed "high."

Quebec's National Institute of Public Health says the number of presumed reinfections has increased greatly in its province since Omicron arrived.

In a January report, Quebec reported 32 reinfections for every 1,000 primary infections, with nearly 9,000 people suspected of getting reinfected since May of 2020.

Nazeem Muhajarine, an epidemiologist at the University of Saskatchewan, said unlike other variants Omicron is much better at working around immunity that's either induced by vaccines or previous infections.

"Not only is it able to escape immunity, but it is happening at a time where people's immunity is waning," Muhajarine said, adding it has been three to five months since most Canadians have completed their two-dose vaccine series.

"It's a bit of a double jeopardy there, and that's why we're seeing so many more reinfections with Omicron."

Health officials continue to suggest that people complete their two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series and get boosted with a third dose and, if eligible, a fourth shot.

"Vaccines really work well against severe outcomes" like hospitalization and death, said Shahab.

"Even though you got COVID at some point in the past, you can wait anywhere from two weeks to three months to get a booster."

Nationwide, about 47 per cent of eligible people have received a third dose, says the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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Despite getting COVID-19 twice, Enns said she will get a second booster if she becomes eligible.

"I feel if I didn't have the vaccinations, I'd definitely be in the hospital," said Enns, who is considered at-risk because she has Type 2 diabetes and asthma.

Enns recalled knowing an unvaccinated person who died alone in hospital due to COVID-19, calling the experience "awful."

"You think, 'That could be me.' But I'm not. I'm at home and sick, but I'll live."

This report by The Canadian Press was first published April 11, 2022.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus>



THE COVID-19 BRIEF

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Your resource for cutting through fear and misinformation. Check your email for trusted reporting and analysis to help differentiate between fact and fiction.

Follow [the latest updates](#) and read [full coverage](#)

The outbreak [by the numbers](#) (as of 8:00 a.m. EST Friday, April 8, 2022):

- **Canada:** 3,552,283 cases | 190,514 active | 37,935 deaths
- **Globally:** 496,430,832 cases | 6,171,346 deaths

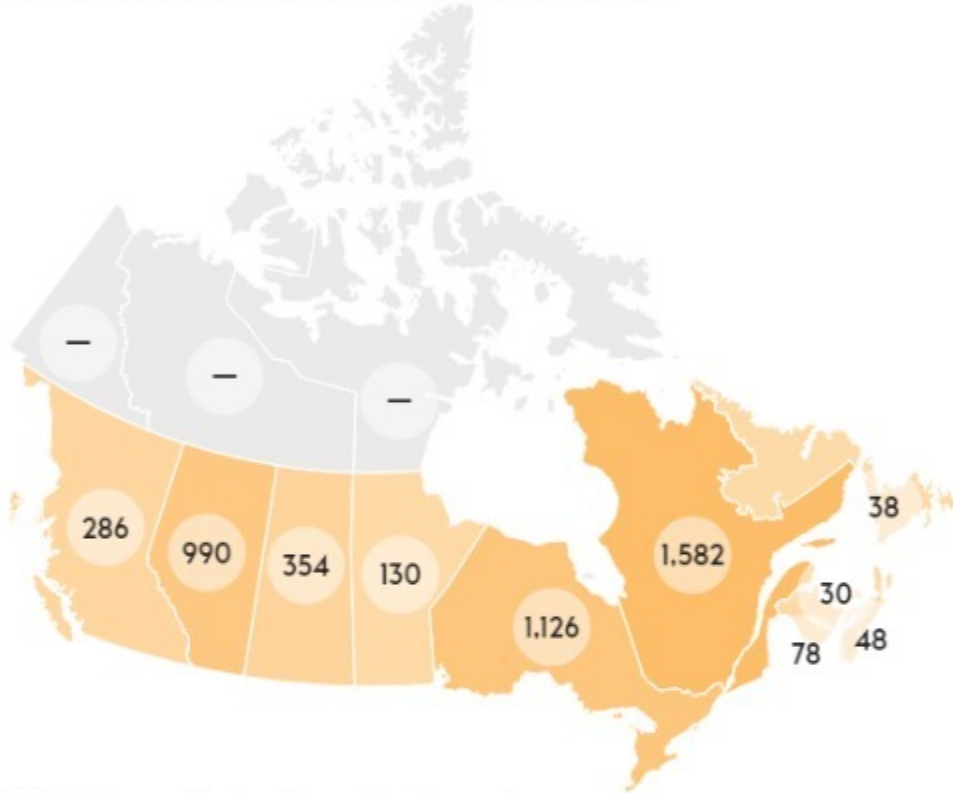
Hospitalization [numbers](#) (as of 8:00 a.m. EST Friday, April 8, 2022):

- **Canada:** 4,662 hospitalizations, up from 3,975 a week ago

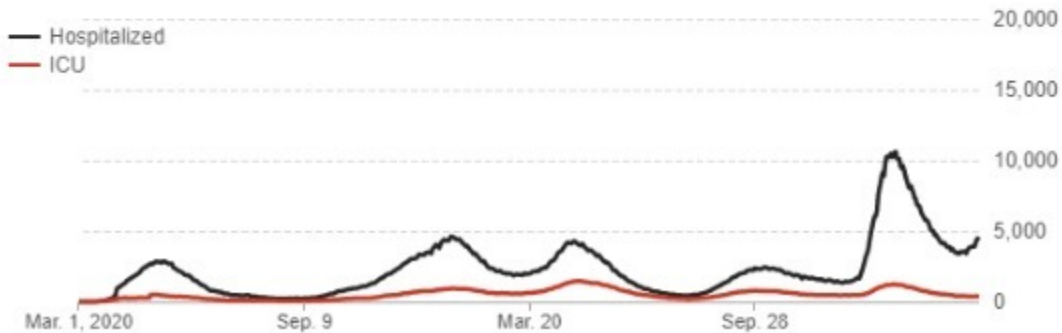
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Current COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada

Canada



COVID-19 hospitalizations in Canada



Click map to view historical data and notes for each province.

Vaccinations [by the numbers](#) (as of 8:00 a.m. EST Friday, April 8, 2022):

- **World:** 11,359,260,845 doses given | 64.7% first dose | 58.2% fully vaccinated
- **Eligible population (5+) in Canada:** 89% first dose | 85.8% fully vaccinated
- **Total population in Canada:** 84.6% at least one dose | 81.6% fully vaccinated



[What's happening in Canada](#)

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The sixth wave. Hospitalization numbers are on the rise again, but with limited testing and protective measures all but lifted, getting an accurate picture of what “living with COVID” looks like is challenging. [Dr. Colin Furness](#), an infection control epidemiologist says, “this is anything but a ‘normal’ time. When we dismantled those protections, we invited mass infection. That’s what we’re seeing right now.” At this point, most of us probably know multiple people who are infected. It may be a personal choice in most places now, but along with vaccinations, wearing a mask is one of the top ways to [reduce your risks](#) and protect vulnerable loved ones during the sixth wave, experts say.

Snapshot across Canada. Ontario is in the throes of a mass outbreak, with the province likely experiencing upwards of [100,000 new cases each day](#), with roughly five per cent of its residents currently infected, according to the head of the province’s COVID-19 science advisory table, Dr. Peter Juni. With [hospitalizations](#) in the province rising some [40 per cent](#) week-over-week, Juni [pushed back](#) against assertions by Premier Doug Ford that the province can handle 3,000 ICU beds if needed. “We don’t have the staff,” he says, adding that Ontario is likely experiencing the highest number of daily infections ever during the pandemic.

B.C. is sticking to its plan to [lift vaccine card](#) requirements on Friday, despite expectations cases will rise in the coming weeks. Earlier this week, reporting rapid antigen test results to the province was also [no longer required](#), with a spokesperson saying the move comes as the province shifts to “supporting self-management of COVID-19 infection, due to high vaccination rates.” The province has also adopted a new way to report data in order to give a more accurate picture, according to its top public health officer, but the changes will likely result in “[over-counting](#)” deaths at first in the early part of the transition.

Few regions in Canada still have mask mandates and those were originally set to lift this week or in the coming days. Now **Quebec**, which has seen its hospitalizations spike to over 1,500 admissions and a positivity rate of more than [19 per cent](#), has extended masking requirements until [at least the end of April](#). **P.E.I.** is also extending its mask requirements [until April 28](#) from this past Tuesday.

- [Alberta expands vaccine eligibility for fourth doses](#)
- [Transmission on the rise in Manitoba, BA.2 most prominent strain: Roussin](#)
- [COVID-19 kills six more in Newfoundland and Labrador, 38 people in hospital](#)
- [Click here for more on hospitalizations, ICUs, and case numbers in Canada](#)

The fourth shot. The current vaccines may not be the best match against Omicron and its subvariants, but boosters can still drive enough of an increase in antibody levels to help stave off serious infections, experts say. As the virus sweeps through families, friends, workplaces, schools, and beyond, more Canadians will soon qualify for a [fourth dose](#) that could help contain the potential damage of the sixth wave. [Read here](#) for a deeper look at what we know about second boosters, who is eligible, and what the research says. We also have a breakdown of what each province and territory has (or has not) said about second boosters [here](#).

More headlines from Canada:

- [Sixth wave prompts renewed labour crunch in restaurants, retail manufacturing](#)
- [Canadians wanted to take rapid tests, but couldn't get them: StatCan](#)
- [Firing of B.C. health worker who refused COVID-19 vaccine upheld at arbitration](#)
- [Canadians wanted to take rapid tests, but couldn't get them: StatCan](#)
- [Feds consider definition of 'fully vaccinated' in review of federal worker mandate](#)
- [Canadians becoming more divided over COVID-19 and politics, survey says](#)
- [Canadian airlines among carriers asking appeal court to quash passenger rights rules](#)
- [Tim Hortons joins other chains in reintroducing reusable cups after COVID-19 fears](#)

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[The latest headlines...](#)

In vaccines and research. People may be less inclined to follow public health precautions to protect against COVID-19 while in the [presence of friends](#) or even just thinking about their friends, according to new research. Researchers are concerned that people may be more lax about health precautions than they should be among friends, even in unsafe situations.

While rapid tests can help Canadians make safer decisions about how to navigate the latest rise in infections amid loosening public health measures, experts warn that they can also provide a [false sense of security](#) and that results should be read with caution. Potential sources of inaccuracy include improper technique, and testing too early in the illness for viral levels to be detectable. Some people can also be sick for days before a test is positive, for example, and there are questions about whether the tests are less sensitive to Omicron.

- [Questions remain on how to prevent transmission](#)
- [COVID-19 linked to increased risk of blood clots months later, study finds](#)
- [Legacy of long COVID: Experts point to hurdles in treatment, diagnosis](#)
- [Receiving vaccine during early pregnancy not associated with risk of birth defects: study](#)
- [Experts question research suggesting long COVID symptoms may depend on variant](#)
- [Some COVID-19 cases in kids may be mistaken for skin diseases, pediatricians warn](#)

Around the world. For travellers heading south of the border, the U.S. still has several restrictions in effect, including mandatory pre-departure COVID-19 tests for those flying into the country. We take a look at [what you need to know](#) if you plan on crossing the U.S. border this spring.

These requirements are a minor inconvenience compared to what's happening in Shanghai, China, where some 25 million people remain confined to their homes amid efforts to contain an outbreak. Residents are struggling to get meat, rice and other food supplies as [online grocers sell out](#), for example. With no word on when residents will be allowed out, anxiety is rising. There are tens of thousands of cases, many asymptomatic. While the country's overall vaccination rate is around 90 per cent, among the most vulnerable group -- those over the age of 80 -- that figure drops to [around 50 per cent](#).

- [EU officials say it's too early to consider 4th COVID-19 dose](#)
- [Nancy Pelosi positive for COVID-19, was at White House with Biden](#)
- [Cyprus to ease COVID measures as summer tourist season nears](#)
- [German lawmakers reject mandatory COVID shots for over 60s](#)
- [Cases, deaths fall globally, WHO says, numbers carry considerable uncertainty](#)
- [Interactive graphics: Comparing COVID-19 in the U.S. and Canada](#)
- [Interactive graphics: Compare Canada and other countries](#)

One last thing...

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For more than two years, most Canadians managed to avoid catching COVID-19. All that changed with the last and current waves. My parents caught it recently, and at different points in recent days, I had to take each one to the ER amid signs the infection was either affecting existing health issues or causing other problems. They are boosted, but also over 85. They are OK now, thankfully, and very lucky. They're independent for their age, but both of them getting sick at the same time drove home how fragile that independence is, and how easily good health can turn.

We still hear some people say, "oh, this person has comorbidities though" or, "it's not because of COVID" as though having other health issues makes it acceptable for a person to become sick, or worse, die from this virus. Many people lead otherwise healthy, normal, even active and long lives managing those health issues, and they should not be put at greater risk because we are tired of the pandemic and tired of wearing masks. If you have someone sick in your household, here are [some tips](#) on how to [minimize the risk](#) of infection in your own home.

Thank you as always for reading,
Solarina Ho, CTVNews.ca writer

Have feedback about the newsletter? Send [your comments here](#).



<https://www.unifor.org/resources/health-safety-and-environment>

Repetitive Strain Injury Day

- Repetitive Strain Injury Day this year falls on February 28, a day to mark the importance of proper workspaces and ergonomic equipment. With many people working from home due to the pandemic, the issue has taken on a new dimension.
- Please read this year's statement on Repetitive Strain Injury Day, and check out the factsheets on preventing RSI:

- [Unifor RSI Day Statement 2022](#)
- [Protecting your back](#)
- [Protecting your hands, wrists and arms](#)
- [Protecting your shoulders](#)
- [Protecting your feet](#)

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- [Working on your feet](#)

April 28 National Day of Mourning

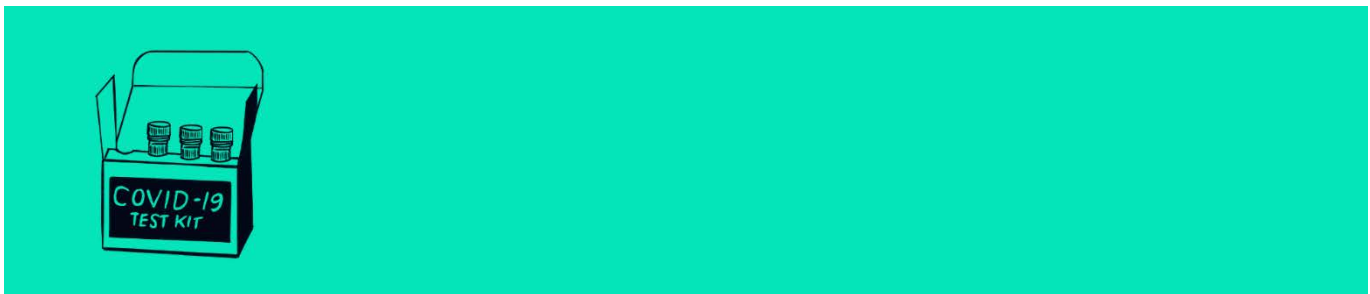
- This is our 38th year of observing April 28 as the National Day of Mourning to remember and honour those workers who have died or who have been injured on the job.
- On April 28 Unifor will be holding an online commemoration for the members lost to work-related incidents or COVID-19 in the past year.
- You can also download a Zoom background here for use with any other Day of Mourning events you are attending, below.

Day of Mourning 2022:

- Download the Day of Mourning Zoom background [here](#).
- View our Statement on the Day of Mourning [here](#).
- Download the Day of Mourning Shareable [here](#).
- Watch the 2021 In Memoriam video [here](#).
- Watch the full 2021 Day of Mourning video [here](#).

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/testing>

Rapid antigen testing kits



- Everyone 18+ can get free rapid antigen testing kits from a pharmacy in their community.
 - [English](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Français](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [فارسی](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [한국어](#) | [Español](#) | [عربی](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [日本語](#) | [हिंदी](#)
 - Last updated: **April 1, 2022**
 - [Rapid antigen testing kits are free for people 18+](#)
 - [Get your kit](#)
 - [How to use a test](#)
 - [I need help](#)
-

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Rapid antigen testing kits are free for people 18+

- To get a free rapid antigen testing kit, you must be:
 - A resident of B.C.
 - Registered for Medical Services Plan (MSP)
 - 18 years or older
- You will need your Personal Health Number (PHN) to pick up your testing kit.

1 kit contains 5 individual tests

- You are allowed 1 kit every 28 days. This makes sure that everyone who wants a kit can get one.
 - You can't pay for additional kits.
 - A test should only be used by people who develop symptoms of COVID-19 and want to confirm a positive or negative result. The tests are not suitable for international travel requirements.
-

Get your kit

- Visit your local pharmacy and ask for your testing kit. Pharmacy staff will:
 - Ask for your PHN. You can find your PHN on the back of your B.C. driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard
 - Give you 1 kit

A pharmacy should never ask you to pay for a kit.

Pick up a kit for someone else

- You can pick up a kit for someone else, like a parent or grandparent. Make sure you know their full name, date of birth and PHN, the pharmacist will ask you for that information.
-

How to use a test

- Each kit comes with instructions on how to use the tests. You can also ask the pharmacist if you have questions.
- Download instructions:
 - [Rapid antigen at-home test instructions \(PDF, 3.4MB\)](#)

I tested positive

- If you get a positive result, you should:

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- Immediately [self-isolate](#)
- See if you meet the criteria to get a [COVID-19 treatment like Paxlovid](#)

I tested negative

- If you get a negative result, it means that COVID-19 was not detected.
- Self-isolate until your symptoms improve and you feel well enough to return to regular activities.

I need help

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

[I don't have a PHN](#)

[I don't have the ability to go to a pharmacy](#)

Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.

Resources:

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>
<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: www.bccdc.ca

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols

Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:

If you have any questions, please contact your Local Union Representative.

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Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call

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back.

Employment Insurance questions or EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515

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Online Unifor Shop



Across the country, Unifor members wear the union's colours with pride. It's a symbol of what we've achieved together and a sign of strength, solidarity, and justice for all.

To further this effort, we're pleased to announce partnerships with [Cavan](#) and [Universal Promotions](#) to launch online stores for Unifor gear.

We're proud to partner with these unionized shops. You can order with confidence knowing that the materials are made ethically and to the highest standard.