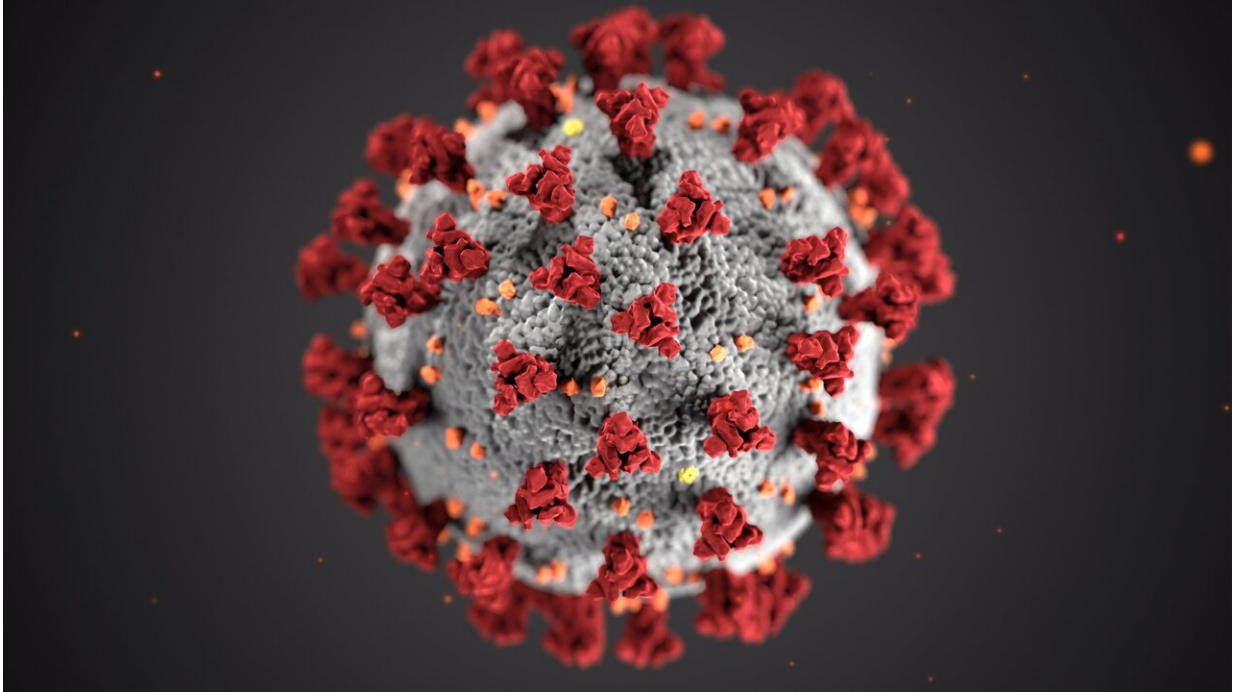


Canada tops 200,000 COVID-19 cases

October 20 2020



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Canada, in the midst of a second wave of COVID-19 illnesses, topped 200,000 cases and inched closer to 10,000 deaths Monday, according to official data compiled by Canadian broadcasters CBC and CTV.

About 80 percent of these cases and more than 90 percent of the deaths were recorded in the country's two most populous provinces, Ontario and Quebec, which has been the epicenter of the country's epidemic since it

broke out in Canada last March.

As of Monday afternoon, Canada had 200,039 cases and 9,772 dead—with its two westernmost provinces still to report their updated tallies—according to the [public health data](#).

That amounts to 532 cases per 100,000 people in the country of 38 million, or five times fewer than in the United States.

In Quebec and Ontario, a resurgence of the novel [coronavirus](#) led once again to the closure of bars and restaurants, museums and concert halls, as well as gyms and sports venues.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Monday recommended that children not go trick-or-treating door to door for Halloween in the hardest-hit areas, including Toronto and Ottawa.

"We just can't have hundreds of kids showing up at your door if you live in a hotspot," he told a news conference.

Across Canada, authorities have been trying to stem a crush on hospital resources including intensive care beds as "the number of people experiencing [severe illness](#) is also increasing," Chief Public Health Officer Theresa Tam said in a statement.

Meanwhile the US and Canada on Monday extended a ban on non-essential travel between the neighboring countries to November 21 to limit the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The world's longest international border has been closed to nearly all type of crossings except goods trading since March 21, with the travel ban extended every month since then.

Canada has averaged 2,284 new cases of the novel coronavirus and 20 deaths per day, figures that have increased significantly since September with the return to school and work for millions of Canadians after a summer break.

Community transmission of the virus has made it more difficult to detect and trace new cases, while about 2.4 percent of the approximately 77,000 tests carried out each week are positive.

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