

# Canada's 3rd wave of COVID-19 is 'killing faster and younger' and fueled by new variants



A cyclist wearing a face mask rides along a downtown street amid the coronavirus outbreak on May 19, 2020 in Toronto, Ontario. Yu Ruidong/China News Service via Getty Images

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- Canada's third coronavirus wave is affecting young people more severely than before.
  - Top health officials say the surge of infections are fueled by new COVID-19 variants.
  - The new wave is prompting lockdowns and new restrictions in several provinces.
  - See more stories on Insider's business page.

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Canada is battling a surge of coronavirus infections fueled by new variants which is sickening much younger adults than hospitals are accustomed to seeing.

On Saturday evening, the nation surpassed 1 million recorded coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic. The third wave of coronavirus has mainly struck the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, prompting all three to implement new restrictions to stop the spread.

Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, recently announced a 64% increase in new cases involving coronavirus variants — 90% of which involved the B.1.1.7 variant first found in the United Kingdom in September.

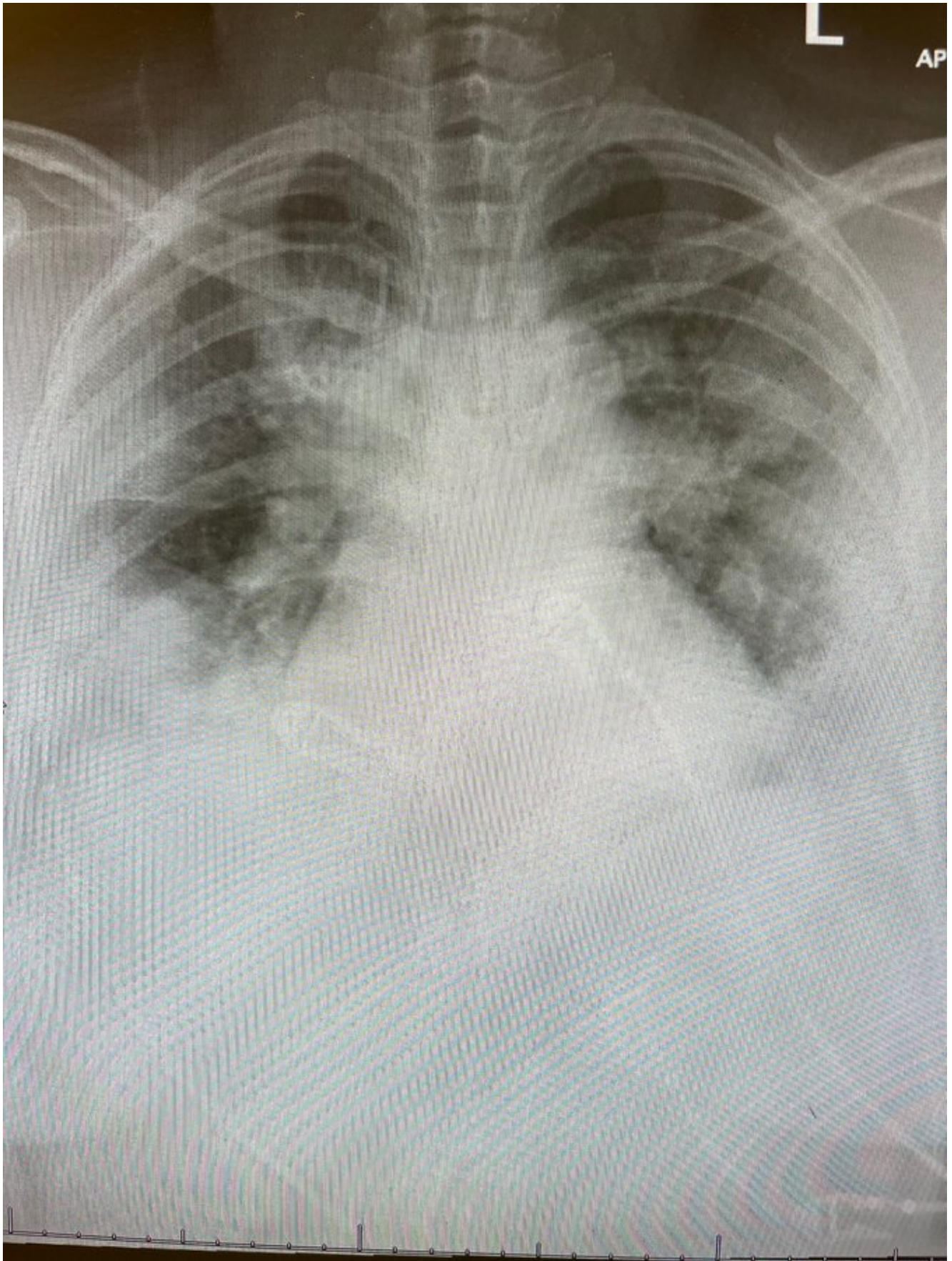
Ontario, in particular, has reported an influx of much younger patients in ICUs. Nearly half of the province's COVID-19 ICU patients are under the age of 60, officials announced this week.

"It's getting pretty alarming here. It's spreading quickly, and it's much faster than the last two waves," Dr. Kashif Pirzada, an emergency physician in Toronto, told CNN. "The people filling the ICU right now are all in their 30s, 40s, and 50s."

Pirzada recently tweeted images of cloudy-looking lungs from ICU patients in their 30s.

Kashif Pirzada, MD@KashPrime

This is thread of cases to get the point across that variant Covid is brutalizing young people. Please post your own cases in the replies. A 35-year-old teacher with no medical problems got severe Covid from a student. 65% sat on room air, went straight to our ICU. UK variant.



“As the new variants spread, you will see that COVID-19 is killing faster and younger,” Adalsteinn Brown, a senior science advisor to the Ontario government, said in a press conference this week. “It’s spreading far more quickly than it was before and we cannot vaccinate quickly enough to break this third wave.”

Ontario has enacted a month-long “emergency brake” in response to the surge in infections. The new restrictions will shut down gyms, indoor dining, and personal care services, CBC News reported.

Quebec, meanwhile, has implemented a lockdown in three different cities, shutting down schools and non-essential businesses, and enacting a stricter curfew. British Columbia has also put a three-week ban on indoor dining, worship services, and indoor fitness activities.

Canada has had a remarkably slow vaccine rollout, mainly due to delays in importing doses. The country lacks the capacity to manufacture its own vaccines. As of April 1, just 1.75% of the population was fully vaccinated, and just 11.86% had received at least one dose, according to government data.

### The coronavirus pandemic

- The Biden administration ramps up its effort to address hunger in America, relieving a burden on millions of Americans.
- Trump adviser Peter Navarro pressured officials to reward untested companies connected to the White House with lucrative COVID-19 contracts, House inquiry says.
- Broadway reopened for 36 minutes for the first time since March of last year
- One chart shows which vaccine side effects you can expect based on your age, manufacturer, and dose.
- The CDC walked back comments from its director suggesting that vaccinated people couldn't ‘carry the virus’.

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*Get the latest coronavirus business & economic impact analysis from Business Insider Intelligence on how COVID-19 is affecting industries.*

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Source:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/canada-3rd-covid-19-wave-young-people-new-variants-2021-4>

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