



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: September 8, 2021

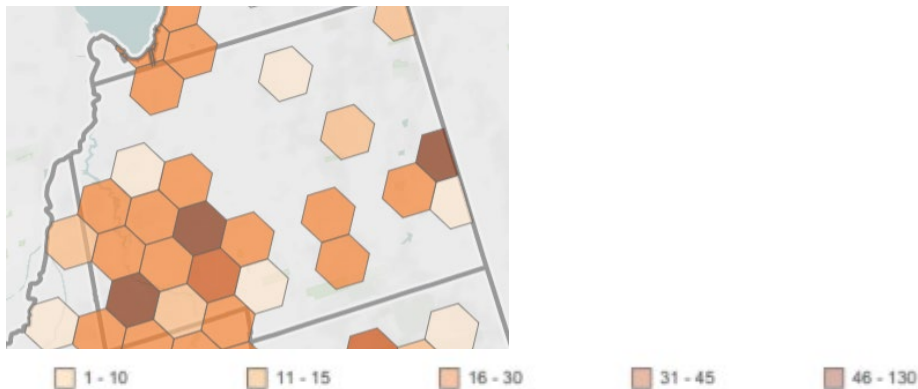
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-13

Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

The COVID-19 Control Group continues to meet and is in regular communication with Council, neighbouring municipalities, and York Region. The group also continues to work closely with provincial and York Region Public Health Officials regarding this public health crisis.

East Gwillimbury COVID-19 Data and Statistics

Residents can access COVID-19 data through York Region's website at www.york.ca/covid19. This information can be drilled down to show positive cases through an interactive dashboard for each municipality. This dashboard is available under *maps* at www.york.ca/covid19data. The below image showcases cases in EG throughout COVID-19.



East Gwillimbury Metrics	July 22, 2021	August 31, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	1139	1167
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	1132	1152
Total Active Cases	1	9
Total Confirmed Deaths	6	6
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	1	11
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	0	0
Total Closed Outbreaks	42	42
Total Variant Cases Identified	424	443

Federal and Provincial Updates

Mandatory Vaccination Requirements

On August 13, 2021, the Government of Canada announced that it will require all federal public servants to be fully vaccinated as early as by the end of September 2021. In addition, the Government of Canada also announced its intention to require federally-regulated employees in the air, rail and marine sectors to be fully vaccinated by no later than the end of October 2021. The Government of Canada also expects that Crown corporations and other federally-regulated employers will require mandatory vaccination of employees.

On August 17, 2021, in response to the evolving data around the transmissibility of the Delta variant and based on the recent experiences of other jurisdictions, the Province took action to increase protection for the most vulnerable, including frail seniors, immunocompromised individuals and young children who are not yet eligible for vaccination. This includes making COVID-19 vaccination policies mandatory in high-risk settings, pausing the province's exit from the Roadmap to Reopen and providing third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to vulnerable populations. The government is also expanding eligibility for the Pfizer vaccine to children born in 2009 or earlier.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a directive mandating hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers, and for ambulance services to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for paramedics. The vaccination policy must be effective no later than September 7, 2021, and at a minimum will require these individuals to provide proof of one of three things:

- Full vaccination against COVID-19;
- A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
- Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session.

Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 will be required to undertake regular antigen testing. These settings will be required to track and report on the implementation of their policies to the provincial government. This is similar to the vaccination policy requirements currently in place for long-term care homes.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts will continue to monitor the data to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap and lift the majority of public health and workplace safety measures currently in place.

Province to launch enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app to stop the spread of COVID-19

As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:

- Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centers;
- Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness, and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport.
- Sporting events;
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
- Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
- Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).

These mandatory requirements would not apply to outdoor settings where the risk of transmission is lower, including patios, with the exception of outdoor nightclub spaces given the risk associated with the setting. In addition, these requirements will not apply to settings where people receive medical care, food from grocery stores, medical supplies and the like. Aligned with public health measures currently in place, indoor masking policies will continue to remain in place.

Ontario will develop and provide additional tools to improve user experience, efficiency and business supports in the coming weeks, including establishing alternative tools for people with no email, health card or ID.

Provincial Vaccine Stats

Ontarians vaccinated

Total Ontario population Since December 15, 2020	Number of people of all ages	Percentage of all ages
At least 1 dose	10,815,120	73%
2 doses	9,942,834	67%
All eligible (12+) Since December 15, 2020	Number of people of all 12+	Percentage of all 12+
At least 1 dose	10,811,759	83%
2 doses	9,940,195	76%
Reflective as of August 31, 2021		

Municipal Impacts

Vaccination requirements for staff

Many public and private sector organizations have implemented a double COVID-19 vaccination policy for staff. Both the provincial and federal governments are exploring mandatory vaccination policies for staff. On August 27, York Region advised its staff that a mandatory vaccination policy will be in effect. We are adopting the same approach in EG.

All staff (including full-time, part-time, seasonal, and contract) will be required to provide proof of a first Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine dose no later than October 1, 2021. Confirmation of both first and second doses is required no later than November 1, 2021. Staff who have not been vaccinated or do not disclose their vaccination status will be required to attend mandatory education on the benefits of vaccination. The expectation, however, is that all staff will need to conform with the policy unless they have a valid medical or human rights-based exemption.

Development of the policy and related processes is in progress and more information, including expectations for all staff, visitors and contractors, will be shared with staff as soon as it is available.

Fall Health and Active Living Guide Launch and Program Registration

Registration for fall programs begins Tuesday, September 7. The Health and Active Living Guide outlines virtual and in-person program options for the fall season. The guide is available on the Town website at www.eastwillimbury.ca/guide

Return to Indoor Sports

The East Gwillimbury Sports Complex opens officially to our ice users on Tuesday September 7. Prior to entering the facility all participants, coaches, trainers, and spectators are required to complete and pass the active COVID screening. Indoor facilities can open as per the provincial regulations at 50% capacity. To assist with the control of occupancy, participants are permitted to have 1 spectator to join them into the facility at this time. Starting September, NewRoads TV provided by SportsHeadz will be launched to assist with virtual viewing of games and practices. This is a membership-based subscription, and the first 100 users will receive a promo code for \$10 off as a sponsorship through NewRoads Automotive.

Civic Centre

After Labour Day, the Town is expanding appointment-based in-person services at the Civic Centre for marriage licences, civil ceremonies, commissioner of oaths, planning and development, and other requests as required.

Further reopening measures will be aligned with the Town's decision to lift the State of Emergency. Some of those measures include scheduled appointments, and non-scheduled public access to the Customer Service area only for the purpose of parcel delivery/pick-up and payments (including cash).

Visitors to the Civic Centre will have one point of access at the main entrance, directly outside of Customer Service. All other entrances will remain closed to the public so that we can monitor building occupancy.

This phased approach also means that staff who work remotely, can begin to return to the office as in-person meetings are scheduled. Each business unit will be asked to ensure that areas that provide in-person services are scheduled and staffed appropriately.

The Town continues to monitor the federal and provincial updates and Public Health guidelines with respect to expansion of in-person gatherings to ensure that all the required safety protocols are in place as access to facilities is increased. These include maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres from others, regular hand hygiene/sanitizing, completing the COVID-19 screening form, disinfecting common surfaces, wearing a face mask or covering when indoors, and wearing PPE consisting of a medical mask and protective eyewear when working within 2 meters of others.

This approach is aligned with the Response Framework that was shared in September 2020.

Continuation of Electronic Council Meetings

The virtual approach will continue until provincial health and safety requirements permit the Chamber to be opened in a manner that does not require significant adjustments to facilities or significant use of PPE.

Community Events and Facility Rentals

As part of the Provincial Step 3 Reopening Plan, Town facilities can be reserved through our permitting process and meetings and group gatherings can take place with restrictions. Permit holders are reminded of the COVID-19 provincial and regional requirements and must operate in accordance with the Town's safety protocols with the gathering limits, public health measures, including active screening.

Music nights are back! (Tuesdays in September)

The Town will be hosting weekly movie nights on the Sharon Temple Grounds on Tuesday, September 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Staff are working with Public Health and the COVID-19 Control Group to ensure all health measures are met for a safe event.

Nature Day (September 18)

The Town is working with local partners, the East Gwillimbury Public Library, the Mount Albert Lions and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to provide an in-person Nature Day Event at the Ross Family Complex on Saturday, September 18. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. Full event details are available on the Town's website at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/natureday. Town staff are working with Public Health to ensure all health measures are met.

LDD Demonstration

A Gypsy moth (LDD) egg mass removal demonstration will take place on Saturday, September 18 at French Park from 10 a.m. to noon. Plans are in place to have smaller group demonstrations so that physical distancing measures are observed.

Long Table Dinner

After careful consideration of the health and safety of our community and partners, EG's 1st Annual Long Table Dinner is postponed until further notice. The Town would like to thank Sharon House Tap and Kitchen, Lions and Sun Bar and Lounge, Stacey Renee Music and the community for their interest and support of this event. We look forward to hosting the 1st Annual Long Table Dinner in the future.

East Gwillimbury Public Library

EG Libraries are open for in-branch browsing, services such as photocopying and faxing, computer use, and outdoor story time and programs. Curbside pick-up and virtual programming are also still available.

The Library Board has decided to postpone the annual Giant Used Book Sale for a second year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library Board understands that this is a much-anticipated event in the community and will instead host a scaled-back pop-up book sale at the Farmers' Market on September 23 during Market Hours (2:00 – 7:00pm). The Library Board sincerely thanks the Mayor and Council for their on-going support of the East Gwillimbury Public Library and looks forward to hosting the Giant Used Book Sale indoors when it is safe to do so.

York Region Walk-In Clinics

York Region is hosting a series of pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics across York Region. These weekly walk-in locations provide easy access to first and second doses to anyone age 12+ who lives, works or goes to school in York Region. Pop-up clinic locations will be added to the Region's website throughout the week, please visit www.york.ca/covid19vaccine for the most up to date information.