



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: September 21, 2021

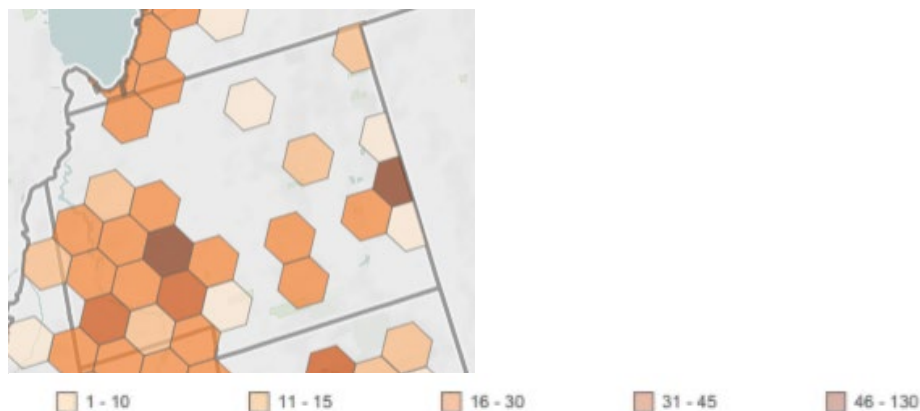
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-14

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	August 31, 2021	September 17, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	1167	1185
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	1152	1173
Total Active Cases	9	6
Total Confirmed Deaths	6	6
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	11	5
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	0	0
Total Closed Outbreaks	42	42
Total Variant Cases Identified	443	455

Plans are underway to terminate the State of Emergency for East Gwillimbury by October 3, 2021 at 11:59PM

Staff are working collaboratively with the Town of Georgina to propose a coordinated approach with respect to the termination of the Town's declared State of Emergency. Staff are aiming to proceed with the termination on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.

High vaccination rates and the imminent implementation of the vaccination passport will allow the Town to plan and manage the fourth wave without remaining in the State of Emergency. However, despite terminating the Town's State of Emergency, York Region remains in a Regional public health emergency.

The State of Emergency gave the Town abilities it normally didn't have such as rapid procurement and reassigning staff. Additionally, some municipalities declared a State of Emergency in the event it was required to access financial assistance or other government funding. However, grant funding that was provided by the federal and provincial governments to support municipalities during the pandemic was not dependent on whether a municipality had declared a State of Emergency.

With the termination of the State of Emergency, the COVID-19 Control Group will remain in an enhanced monitoring posture. The weekly COVID-19 Control Group Meetings will continue and be incorporated as part of the weekly Senior Management Team meetings. This transition will not affect day-to-day operations, nor will it impede the Town's ability to respond to future provincial direction on the pandemic. Town will continue to follow Provincial and Public Health guidelines and best practices to reduce COVID-19 transmission and limit the scale of the fourth wave to protect residents, visitors, and staff.

Expanded Access to Civic Centre Effective October 4

Expanded access to the Civic Centre will be aligned with the Town's decision to lift the State of Emergency.

On September 13, appointment-based services resumed for marriage licences, commissions, marriage ceremonies and other in-person meetings. Beginning October 4 as the State of Emergency is lifted, non-scheduled public access to the Customer Service area at the Civic Centre will resume, staff will return to the building in a scheduled approach, and the east doors will be unlocked.

At the September 30 Virtual Staff Town Hall, staff will be provided with a walkthrough of the changes that have been incorporated as a result of the pandemic. This walkthrough will focus on what individuals should expect when physically attending Town facilities.

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 face covering when indoors, and wearing PPE consisting of a medical mask and protective eyewear when working within 2 meters of others.

In-Person Payments

The Town receives payments from residents and businesses through a variety of methods, including internet banking, cheques received through the mail and payments made in-person at Town facilities. The Town is also in the process of enabling customers to pay online through the Town's website.

During the pandemic, as the Civic Centre was closed to the public, in-person payments could not be accepted. Accepting in-person payments will recommence in conjunction with the resumption of non-scheduled access to the Customer Service area. A few municipalities have decided not to accept cash payments at their administration facilities, to reduce the administrative effort (e.g., daily cash balancing, hiring armoured car services) and address COVID-19 related concerns associated with cash handling. Staff are currently reviewing the impacts of not accepting cash at Town facilities and will report further on any changes to the Town's current practice.

Provincial Updates

Beginning Wednesday, September 22, proof of vaccination status will be required to eat indoors at restaurants and bars, to enter a gym, movie theatre, sporting venue or concert, and to use a large meeting and event space. Ontario residents will need to either print or download their second dose receipt from the province's website.

The new rules will not impact children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

A digital vaccine certificate is anticipated to be available by October 22, 2021. Few details have been released regarding the format of the certificate, but the province previously said it would involve a QR code that can either be printed or stored on a phone.

The province will also be developing an app for businesses that will allow them to scan the QR code.

Municipal Impact

Proof of Vaccination at Community Centres

Starting Wednesday September 22, 2021, all visitors to community centres including the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex, Ross Family Complex and Holland Landing Community Centre will need to either print or download their vaccination receipt from the government website until an "enhanced" certificate becomes available on October

22, 2021. Visitors to the East Gwillimbury Civic Centre will not be required to provide proof of vaccination.

Every patron 12 years of age or older with limited exceptions (i.e. youth sports) entering indoor areas of Town facilities that are used for sports and recreation fitness activities, and/or utilizing a meeting or event space will need to provide Proof of Vaccination upon entry to the space, as outlined in the Patron Proof of Vaccination Policy attached as Appendix '1'.

Designated staff are being asked to match the name and date of birth listed on the vaccination receipt with the information on the ID. The receipt must be for the individual's second dose, and employees should verify that the date of administration was at least 14 days prior.

Examples of identification documents that can be used to confirm vaccine status include a birth certificate, a citizenship card, a driver's licence, a government issued identification card, including a health card, an Indian Status Card or Indigenous Membership Card, a passport or a permanent resident card.

As the Province continues to monitor the impact of opening schools and the growing number of people returning to workplaces, many COVID-19 workplace safety measures will remain in place. This means certain settings may still require additional measure above and beyond Proof of Vaccination (i.e., masks while indoors, active screening, collection of contact information, etc.).

To monitor and review vaccination passports upon entry into the staffed recreation facilities, Facility Screener positions have been created to meet the requirements set out by the province. At this time, Human Resources with Community Parks Recreation & Culture are in the process of recruitment for these positions. This will also have a financial implication and funding for this position will come from the COVID-19 Funding grant received by the Town.

Mandatory Vaccination for Staff and Volunteers

The health and safety of Town employees is a priority. As per the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Town is required to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of workers. The COVID-19 vaccine, especially when paired with public health measures, is the safest, most effective form of protection from COVID-19.

Effective October 1, 2021, all staff (including full-time, part-time, seasonal, and contract) and volunteers will be required to disclose proof of vaccination against COVID-19. 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 and have received their final dose of a Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine series by November 1, 2021, unless they have a valid medical or human rights-based exemption.

Staff are currently working with the Province, York Regional partners, and Public Health to finalize the Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. More information, including expectations for all staff, visitors and contractors will be shared with staff as soon as it is available.

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	11,031,766	75%
2 doses	10,215,951	69%
All eligible (12+) Since December 15, 2020	Number of people of all ages	Percentage of all ages
At least 1 dose	11,028,313	85%
2 doses	10,210,000	79%
Reflective as of September 20, 2021		

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Patron Proof of Vaccination Policy



Community Parks, Recreation and Culture

Policy #:	40-1200-CP-12
Effective Date:	September 22, 2021
PATRON PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION	

POLICY STATEMENT:

As the Province confronts a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in an effort to protect Ontarians, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Province is now requiring persons to provide proof of vaccination when accessing certain higher risk settings.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline how the Town of East Gwillimbury will manage patron access to Town facilities and spaces where Proof of Vaccination is required under Ontario Regulation 364/20 (under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020), as well as the Ministry of Health's Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all facilities owned and operated by the Town of East Gwillimbury. For the purposes of this policy, this shall include East Gwillimbury Public Libraries.

DEFINITIONS:

An individual is considered fully vaccinated if they have received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines, or
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and
- The individual received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.

Fully Vaccinated



This includes any subsequent booster vaccine that may be recommended by the Ministry of Health or Health Canada.

Organized Youth Sports

Organized sports for which the youth exemption applies include:

- sports leagues
- organized drop-in sports
- dance classes
- martial arts
- swimming classes

Proof of Medical Exemption

Written proof of a medical reason, provided by a physician or nurse practitioner in the extended class, that sets out:

- (i) a documented medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and
- (ii) the effective time-period for the medical reason.

Proof of Vaccination

Documentation issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health, other province or territory or international equivalent indicating individual immunization status against the COVID-19 virus. This can be in the form of a Vaccine Receipt and after October 22, 2021, a digital Vaccine Passport will also be accepted.

Vaccine Receipt

A paper or digital copy of a COVID-19 vaccination receipt identifying that the individual is fully vaccinated. Must include their name, date of vaccination and name of vaccine at the time of vaccination and may include:

- An Ontario vaccination receipt from a vaccine clinic when you received your dose (paper copy)
- A vaccination receipt signed by an Indigenous Health Provider
- An Ontario Ministry of Health vaccination receipt received by email following your appointment (digital or printed paper copy)
- A vaccination receipt from another jurisdiction that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

A Vaccine Receipt must be validated by confirming the individuals name and date of birth on a piece of identification.

Vaccine Passport

A digital version of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code to gain access to designated settings.



PROOF OF VACCINATION:

Every patron 12 years of age or older entering indoor areas of Town facilities that are used for sports and recreation fitness activities, and/or utilizing a meeting or event space must provide Proof of Vaccination upon entry to the space.

Town staff shall confirm that patrons entering Town facilities are Fully Vaccinated as outlined in the COVID-19 Active Screening Procedure.

The Town of East Gwillimbury shall not collect, nor retain Proof of Vaccination from patrons.

Anyone unwilling or unable to provide Proof of Vaccination, or if an individual is not Fully Vaccinated, shall not be permitted access to the facility and/or the permitted space within the facility.

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS:

Patrons are exempt from providing Proof of Vaccination:

- When accessing a Town facility solely for the purpose of receiving essential government services.

Additionally, patrons may enter any Town of East Gwillimbury facility without providing Proof of Vaccination if solely for the purposes of:

- a) to use a washroom;
- b) to access an outdoor area that can only be accessed through an indoor route;
- c) to make a retail purchase;
- d) while placing or picking up an order;
- e) while paying for an order;
- f) to purchase admission; or
- g) as may be necessary for the purposes of health and safety.

INDIVIDUAL EXEMPTIONS:

Individuals who meet the following conditions shall be exempt from providing Proof of Vaccination:

- Children under 12 years of age.
- Individuals under 18 years of age, and who are entering the indoor premises of a facility used for sports and recreational fitness activities solely for the purpose of actively participating in an Organized Youth Sport.



- For greater certainty, workers, and volunteers, including coaches and officials of Organized Youth Sports are not required to provide Proof of Vaccination when actively participating in an Organized Youth Sport.
- Individuals who provide a written Proof Medical Exemption.

WEDDING SERVICE, RITE OR CEREMONY OR A FUNERAL SERVICE:

Individuals attending a wedding service, rite or ceremony or a funeral service, in Town facilities are exempt from providing Proof of Vaccination.

This exemption does not apply to social gatherings associated with the service, rite or ceremony (i.e., wedding reception). Individuals attending these social gatherings will be required to provide Proof of Vaccination upon entry.

Until October 13, 2021, patrons may provide proof of a negative antigen test administered within the previous 48 hours to attend an indoor social gathering associated with a wedding service, funeral service, rite or ceremony in certain meeting or event spaces.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES:

As the Province continues to monitor the impact of opening schools and the growing number of people returning to workplaces, many COVID-19 workplace safety measures will remain in place. This means certain settings may still require additional measure above and beyond Proof of Vaccination (i.e., mask use indoors, active screening, collection of contact information, etc.).

ACTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Acts of non-compliance to this policy are in violation of Ontario Regulation 364/20 (under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020), as well as the Ministry of Health's Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act and may result in the individual(s) being denied access to the premises.

<u>Town of East Gwillimbury</u>			
Policy #:	40-1200-CP-12		
PATRON PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION			
Date Reviewed:	September 17, 2021	Revision #:	1.0
Date Revised:		Prepared By:	COVID-19 Control Group