



# Town of East Gwillimbury

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: October 5, 2021

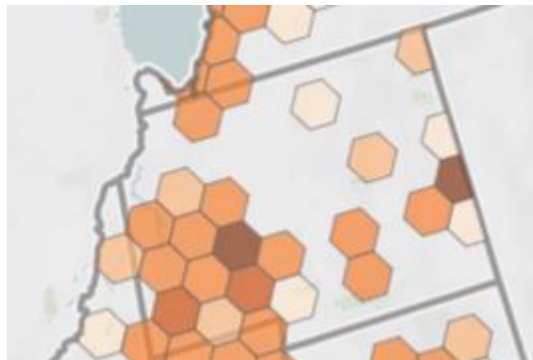
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-15

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](http://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](http://www.york.ca/covid19data). The image below showcases cases in EG throughout COVID-19.



1 - 10      11 - 15      16 - 30      31 - 45      46 - 130

East Gwillimbury Metrics	September 17, 2021	September 30, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	1185	1191
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	1173	1181
Total Active Cases	6	4
Total Confirmed Deaths	6	6
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	5	6
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	0	0
Total Closed Outbreaks	42	42
Total Variant Cases Identified	455	460

### **Town terminated the State of Emergency for East Gwillimbury on October 3, 2021 at 11:59 PM**

Staff worked collaboratively with the Town of Georgina to terminate the Town's declared State of Emergency. A message regarding the termination of the State of Emergency was posted to the Town's website on Friday, October 1.

With the termination of the State of Emergency, the COVID-19 Control Group will remain in an enhanced monitoring posture. 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. The 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**

On September 13, appointment-based services resumed for marriage licences, commissions, marriage ceremonies and other in-person meetings.

Beginning October 4 with the termination of the State of Emergency, public access to the Customer Service area at the Civic Centre resumed, the east doors of the Civic Centre are unlocked during business hours, and staff are beginning to return to the building in a scheduled manner. While appointment-based services continue to be encouraged, the Customer Service area is now open for non-scheduled in-person inquiries.

The Town continues to focus on maximizing productivity and services to residents and stakeholders by encouraging appointment-based service delivery to enhance services.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Control Group 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 who are either unmasked or improperly masked.

### **September 30 Virtual Staff Town Hall**

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

## **Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy**

Mandatory vaccination is a condition of employment. This approach was adopted to protect the health and safety of staff and the community. The COVID-19 vaccine, especially when paired with public health measures, is the safest, most effective form of protection from COVID-19.

The Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy was distributed to staff on Wednesday September 29, 2021. It is expected that individuals provide proof of full vaccination by November 1, 2021, with first doses being completed by October 1, 2021.

Effective October 1, 2021, all Town of East Gwillimbury employees (including but not limited to full-time employees, part-time employees, East Gwillimbury Public Library (EGPL), those who are employed on contract, casual and seasonal employees, co-op students and volunteers, and paid on-call firefighters were 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.

## **Enforcement timeline and update related to the most recent regional Public Health instruction**

York Region Public Health has the governing authority to develop policies and mandates that apply across York Region. To further limit the spread of COVID-19, York Region's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Karim Kurji, has issued a Letter of Instruction to Owners/Operators of facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021, following are the instructions to persons responsible for facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced:

- Require each person, age 12 years and older, at the point of entry, who attends the indoor area of the facility for the purpose of (a) actively participating in organized sports, (b) coaching, officiating at organized sports or volunteering or (c) spectating at organized sports to provide identification and proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a valid medical exemption
- Comply with all other requirements under the [Reopening Ontario Act](#) and its regulations that apply to the facility

This decision was made in response to current data and [Scarsin modelling](#) which projects York Region could see up to 430 cases of COVID-19 per day by December 2021. This modelling also suggests 44 hospitalizations of those under the age of 19 by December 31, 2021. Further data suggests that of the 10 outbreaks related specifically to basketball tournaments or events from Saturday, February 20, 2021 to Tuesday, September 20, 2021, one in five cases were linked to York Region and two thirds of the cases were under the age of 18.

In the most recent week, the rate of infection among unvaccinated individuals 12 years of age or older was 137.1 cases per 100K population. In contrast, among fully vaccinated individuals the rate was significantly lower at 14.5 cases per 100K population.

In the past two months, almost all COVID-19 related deaths and hospitalizations have occurred in individuals who were not vaccinated or partially vaccinated.

Activities related to organized sports have the potential to increase COVID-19 transmission. Close contact, heavy breathing, long exposure times, crowded indoor spaces and masks removed during physical activity all contribute to increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. Requiring more groups to be protected with COVID-19 vaccinations will help reduce this risk while maintaining opportunities for sport.

Based on this information, the decision to require proof of vaccination from all individuals age 12+ entering facilities where organized sports are played and/or practiced cannot wait.

The Town of East Gwillimbury respects and supports the Letter of Instruction by the Region of York that will require those aged 12-17, and coaches/volunteers/officials to be fully vaccinated in order to participate in organized sport as a necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19. Due to operational considerations, the Town will request compliance of the public as of October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Town will be implementing a gradual enforcement program effective October 1, 2021, starting with education and awareness.

### **Ontario Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations**

On September 14, 2021 the government released [the regulations](#) under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act* (ROA) and [guidance for businesses and organizations](#) to support them in implementing proof of vaccination requirements, which take effect on September 22, 2021. Requiring proof of vaccination will help increase vaccination rates, protect individuals in higher-risk indoor settings, and keep businesses open.

Businesses can contact the Stop the Spread information line at 1-888-444-3659 if they have any questions about the guidance.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

Businesses and organizations are responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements regarding proof of vaccination outlined in in the ROA, [O. Reg. 364/20](#) (Step 3).

Patrons are required to ensure that any information provided to the business or organization to demonstrate proof of vaccination or proof of identification is complete and accurate.

Failure of a business or organization or a patron to comply with the requirements in [O. Reg. 364/20](#) is an offence under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#).

## Economic Development

### Film Crew on site at the Civic Centre – October 8, 2021

Staff are advised that a film production crew will be on site at the Civic Centre during the afternoon of Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Filming activity for this family-friendly, made for television movie will be confined to the side entrance and Council Chambers. All facility access will be strictly controlled and will not interfere with staff or resident access to the Civic Centre. The production company and its employees will adhere to all relevant Health & Safety protocols and public health guidelines.

This project will not only showcase EG as a film location for future projects but creates economic opportunities for local businesses such as restaurants and other service providers that will contribute to ongoing business recovery.

### York Region offering a series of targeted pop-up vaccination clinics

The Regional Municipality of York is offering a series of targeted pop-up, school-based and community vaccination clinics between Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and Tuesday, October 5, 2021. GO-VAXX clinics will offer the Pfizer vaccine only. All other pop-up clinics will offer both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and all clinics will be open to walk-ins for first and second doses.

Date	Location
Sunday, October 3, 2021	Markham Fair, 10801 McCowan Road, City of Markham: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (*GO-VAXX Clinic)
Tuesday, October 5, 2021	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 382 Mount Albert, 31 Princess Street, Town of East Gwillimbury: 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

An additional vaccination clinic will take place on **Thursday October 14th from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sports Complex**. The focus is on administering the vaccine to individuals 12 –17 years old. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.