



# Town of East Gwillimbury

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: November 2, 2021

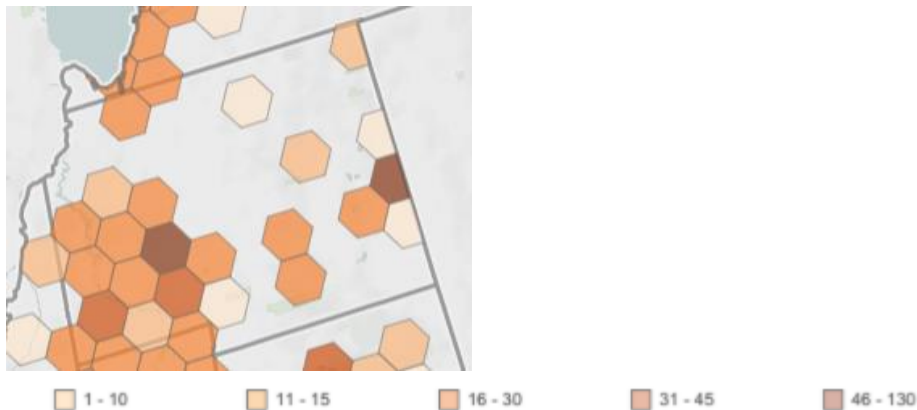
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-17

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 below image showcases cases in EG throughout COVID-19.



East Gwillimbury Metrics	October 14, 2021	Oct 26, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	1205	1213
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	1198	1203
Total Active Cases	1	4
Total Confirmed Deaths	6	6
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	5	5
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	0	0
Total Closed Outbreaks	42	42
Total Variant Cases Identified	475	478

## Provincial Updates

### A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term

On October 22, 2021 the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health released [A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#), which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting the remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local and/or regional level governments.

Effective October 25, 2021, the following capacity limits have been lifted in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- restaurants and bars
- sports, recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms), physical fitness training and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments
- meeting and event spaces (indoor)

Certain settings will be permitted to lift capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination, including, but not limited to:

- museums, galleries, etc.
- religious services, rites, or ceremonies
- tour and guide services
- personal care services, including barber shops, salons, body art

As the province safely reopens the government will monitor trends in COVID-19 provincial and local public health and health system indicators, including:

- new ICU admissions hospitalizations
- effective reproduction number
- test positivity
- weekly cases and incidence rates
- vaccination rates

This will be particularly important to monitor trends and indicators over the winter holidays especially as students return to schools in January.

**Vaccine Certificate and Verify Ontario App**

An enhanced digital vaccine certificate with an official QR code is now available for Ontarians to download from the [provincial website](#). The Verify Ontario app is also available, which allows businesses to quickly verify if visitors meet vaccine requirements. This app is also compatible with some other provincial vaccine certificates. Paper certificates are still valid and can be used to show proof of full vaccination.

All Individuals that are fully vaccinated can visit [ontario.ca/getproof](https://ontario.ca/getproof) to obtain more information regarding the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code.

For those Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated and/or 14 days have not passed since they were fully vaccinated, the QR code will not show a green check mark. They will need to [get fully vaccinated](#) and then wait 14 days for the QR code to work.

**Provincial Vaccine Stats**

Ontarians vaccinated as of October 26, 2021

<b>Total Ontario population</b> Since December 15, 2020	<b>Number of people</b> of all ages	<b>Percentage</b> Of 12+	<b>Percentage</b> of all ages
<b>At least 1 dose</b>	506,982	4%	3%
<b>2 doses</b>	10,964,047	84%	74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,471,029</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>77%</b>

**Municipal Impact**

**Policy Update**

The Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy was distributed to staff on Wednesday September 29, 2021. To-date, the Town is reporting a compliance rate of 95% (this includes full time, part time and seasonal staff). Additionally, the Town is currently working in collaboration with regional municipal partners to develop a Remote Working policy and program. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

**Proof of Vaccination at Community Centres**

The province recently announced increased capacity for spectators at sporting events. With this news, Community Parks, Recreation and Culture (CPRC) has allowed full capacity in the spectator viewing areas at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex. Certain settings still require additional measures above and beyond Proof of Vaccination (i.e. masks while indoors, active screening, collection of contact information, etc.). As of November 1, 2021, all program participants (including youth sports), visitors and

spectators aged 12 and older that are entering the recreation facilities must show proof of full vaccination.

### **Indoor Events and Meeting Room Space in Town Facilities**

Capacity limits for indoor meeting and event spaces have increased. CPRC will be utilizing a phased in approach to allow increased access to permit for a wider range of event types to take place in areas that are considered high risk settings. For example, dancing, parties etc. All guests at indoor events or in meeting space(s) must provide proof of full vaccination and actively screen prior to entering the meeting room/hall space.

### **Remembrance Day**

East Gwillimbury's Annual Remembrance Day Service will be held on Thursday, November 11 at the Civic Centre, beginning at 10:40 a.m. The event will be live streamed on the [Town's YouTube Channel](#) and public attendance will be permitted in compliance with the current provincial restrictions related to outdoor gatherings.

### **Community Parks, Recreation and Culture Updates**

Staff will continue to monitor provincial regulation changes and any impacts to programs, events, and facility rental operations.

### **Santa Claus Tour**

Santa Claus will be touring around the streets of East Gwillimbury on Sunday, November 14 and Saturday, December 4. Santa's route and the approximate times will be made available the week prior to the tour at [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/events](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/events)

### **Tree Lighting and Skate**

On Saturday December 13, CPRC will be hosting the tree lighting and public skate event sponsored by Tiny Seedlings. The event will run from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. the tree lighting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Staff will be working with Public Health and the COVID-19 Control Group to ensure all provincial and regional regulations are followed.

### **Noon Year's Eve in EG**

This year, the Town will be moving forward with a new way to celebrate the start of 2022. Introducing "**Noon Year's Eve in EG**"; the event will take place on Friday, December 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex. A variety of activities will be available indoors, with limited capacity, and guests 12+ will be required to show proof of full vaccination. The event will also feature entertainment and activities outdoors, including a countdown at noon on the main stage. This event will not

include a firework display. Staff are working with the COVID-19 Control Group and Public Health to ensure all provincial and regional regulations are followed.

### **Winter Programming**

The Health and Active Living Guide will be made available online as of Friday December 3 at [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/guide](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/guide). Program registration opens on December 7 and programs begin January 17, 2022.

### **What's New for 2022**

CPRC will be launching a new and improved aquatics program in 2022. CPRC will be introducing the Lifesaving Swim Program, which will enable participants to work their way through the required levels and meet their swimming goals.

To meet provincial and regional health regulations as it relates to COVID-19, the Town's aquatic programs will be moving to the "Main Street Aquatic Centre" located at 241 Main Street North near 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession and Green Lane. This new location provides additional space to meet physical distancing requirements as it relates to COVID-19, and will provide more opportunity for programming, as we prepare and transition to EG's Aquatic Centre within the proposed Health and Active Living Plaza.

The goal with the new aquatics program is to give young swimmers the opportunity to participate in advance level programs to become future lifeguard and swim instructors at the proposed Health and Active Living Plaza. Currently, CPRC is working with Human Resources and Corporate Communications on a recruitment strategy prior to launching this new program to our residents.

### **Waste Collection Returning to Two-Item Limit**

On April 3, 2020, in response to the Province's COVID-19 work from home directive as well as the temporary closure of the Civic Centre limiting access to garbage collection tags, the curbside waste limit was increased from two to five items per collection. Although there was a noted increase in waste generation in the spring of 2020, this has normalized, and field observations suggest that a gradual return to the two-item limit be established. Staff recommend that this change occur immediately as a "soft launch" with a return to full limit enforcement following the upcoming Christmas holidays. The return to the two-item limit will be promoted within the 2022 Waste Collection Calendar, social media, website and Recycle Coach app. Northern 6 municipal partners are currently ending similar Covid-19 waste exemptions.