



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: March 8, 2022

Subject: COVID-19 Update 2022-04

Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

Since the emergency operations centre was first activated on March 13, 2020, the COVID-19 Control Group continues to meet and is in regular communication with Council, neighbouring municipalities, and York Region. The group continues to work closely with provincial and York Region Public Health Officials to manage this coordinated response. This memorandum represents the 39th update to council since the onset of the public health crisis.

East Gwillimbury COVID-19 Data and Statistics

With the rapid transmission of COVID-19 and recent provincial changes in testing eligibility and case management, case counts and outbreaks reported through the COVID-19 in York Region interactive dashboard are less than true number of individuals with COVID-19 and outbreaks in York Region. Case counts and trends should be interpreted with caution. Public Health Units across Ontario are prioritizing case management of high-risk individuals and settings. Workplace outbreaks are no longer reported. Residents can access COVID-19 data through York Region's website at www.york.ca/covid19.

Provincial Updates

Public health and workplace safety measures in effect as of March 1

With key public health and health system indicators continuing to improve, Ontario is cautiously and gradually easing public health and workplace safety measures. The following changes to public health and workplace safety measures came into effect as of March 1, 2022:

- capacity limits lifted in all indoor public settings
- proof of vaccination requirements lifted, with businesses being allowed to implement them voluntarily

- other protective measures, such as mask/face covering requirements and active/passive screening of patrons, will be in place
- public health units can deploy local and regional responses based on local health indicators

Booster Eligibility Expanded to Youths

Booster Dose 18 years of age and older

- Available at **least three months (84 days)** after receipt of the second dose; individuals must be 18 years old at time of receiving booster dose
- This includes anyone that has received a complete series of viral vector vaccine (e.g., two doses of AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of Janssen vaccine), anyone that has received two or three doses of a vaccine not approved by Health Canada, or a combination of any of these vaccines and an approved mRNA vaccine.

Booster Dose 12 to 17 years of age

- As of Friday, February 18, 2022, youth 12 to 17 can receive their booster dose **approximately six months (168 days)** after a second dose. This interval may be associated with a lower risk of myocarditis or pericarditis. With informed consent, individuals 12-17 years of age may receive a booster dose at a minimum of 3 months (84 days) after a second dose. Individuals must be 12 years old at the time of receiving the booster dose.

Appointments can be booked through the [provincial booking system](#) and the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, as well as at select pharmacies administering the Pfizer vaccine.

Expanded Access to Town Facilities including Community Centres and Libraries with easing of restrictions

Effective March 1, 2022, the Town has expanded access to Community Centres, Libraries and Town facilities with the Province of Ontario easing restrictions. Full building occupancy limits are now in effect and the Town has removed the requirements for screening of visitors and for proof of vaccination.

The requirement to wear a mask and physically distance is still in effect. In addition, the Town will continue with enhanced cleaning and maintenance measures to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

The Civic Centre is also fully open and available to provide Town services. Staff are reviewing the requirements and options for a return to in-person council meetings in the Council Chambers.

Recognizing Team EG

As with every municipality worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the Town of East Gwillimbury. The organization adapted to changes in how we deliver programs, how Council meetings are delivered, and how we communicate. Even with these challenges, team EG worked together to keep our programs and services running and pivoted again and again with changes in public health regulations.

As we continue to recover, regular COVID memo updates to Council will be replaced with recovery updates as required.