



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: April 7, 2021

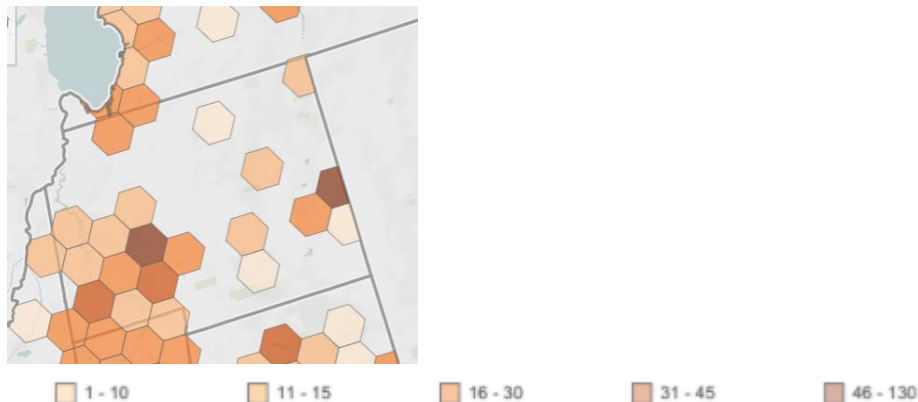
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-6

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 and data is from April 5, 2021:



East Gwillimbury Metrics	Mar 19, 2021	April 5, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	678	775
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	643	720
Total Active Cases	33	52
Total Confirmed Deaths	2	3
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	32	56
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	3 (1 institutional and 2 schools)	0
Total Closed Outbreaks	27	32
Total Variant Cases Identified	45	88

School Closures	Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School / Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Elementary School	No closures reported
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Provincewide Emergency Break – In Effect as of April 3, 2021

The Province, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, imposed a [provincewide emergency brake](#) as a result of a surge in case numbers and COVID-19 hospitalizations across the province. The provincewide emergency brake came into effect on Saturday, April 3, 2021. The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout the next four weeks to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended.

The current [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) will be paused while the provincewide emergency brake is in place. The emergency brake puts in place time-limited public health and workplace safety measures to help to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 variants in communities and is intended to help protect hospital capacity. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a five-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone.
- Restricting in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
- Prohibiting personal care services;
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take-out, drive-through, and delivery only;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;

- Requiring day camps to close; and,
- Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors.

Community Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery Impacts

- Indoor recreation facilities will be closed for programs, permits and public access including the Sports Complex, Holland Landing Community Centre and Ross Family Complex.
- Ice programs and permits have been cancelled and participants will be notified via email and refunds issued.
- Ice at the Sports Complex will be removed in April for pre-planned maintenance. The ice will be re-installed in July for summer hockey camps and skating and to prepare for a potential fall/winter ice season, if restrictions permit.
- Spring virtual programming will start April 12. Where possible the Town will transition any in-person programming to virtual.
- In-person spring programs will not start on April 12. The Town will shift the anticipated start date to the week of May 3 if restrictions permit.
- The Health and Active Living Summer Camp Guide will still be launched on April 22 to allow residents to prepare for potential summer camps.
- The summer camp registration date will be reviewed and adjusted as required to respond to public health recommendations. Updates will be communicated as available.
- The indoor pickleball program will be cancelled and rescheduled when game play is permitted (orange zone).
- The Town is reviewing regulations for the Town-run tennis programs and permits with the East Gwillimbury Tennis Club. Further updates will be provided.
- Management and permitting staff will work with our external soccer and baseball partners to review sports field use for the spring if regulations permit. Further updates will be provided.
- All outdoor park amenities are available for use by individuals or members from the same household. Physical distancing is required, and face masks are recommended.

East Gwillimbury Public Library Impacts

The library will modify its services to include contactless curbside pick-up, one-hour in-library computer use, printing and photocopying services. The library's capacity limit will remain at five and anyone entering the facility will perform screening and contact tracing. With no in-library browsing, customers are encouraged to place items on hold through their online account, the EGPL app, or by calling the branch for assistance. If

residents are not sure what you want to read, they can participate in the “Borrow a Book Bundle” and let the library choose something for them. Each book bundle contains five carefully chosen titles selected by one of the library’s knowledgeable staff. To order a book bundle, visit egpl.ca.

York Region Vaccination Roll Out Update

York Region continues to make excellent progress in vaccinating residents. As of March 29, 2021, 146,112 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to York Region residents. This includes:

- 38,211 doses to people age 80+, representing 78% of residents in this age bracket
- 20,810 doses to people age 75-79, representing 61.2% of residents in this age bracket
- 12,322 doses to people age 70-74, representing 23.2% of residents in this age bracket

Effective March 31, 2021, York Region residents age 65 years of age and older (born in 1956 or earlier), can book an appointment for their COVID-19 vaccination by visiting york.ca/COVID19Vaccine.

Vaccine Supply

Vaccine supply continues to be a primary focus for York Region Public Health (YRPH). YRPH will continue to review all of the anticipated shipments and will release vaccines as available and may temporarily close clinics as required.

Due to recent shipment delays, York Region temporarily closed three vaccination clinics from April 2 to 5, 2021. These clinics include the Georgina Ice Palace in the Town of Georgina, the Aaninn Community Centre in the City of Markham and the drive-thru clinic at Canada’s Wonderland. It is anticipated that with additional deliveries these clinics will re-open the week of April 5-9. All other clinics continue to operate at capacity, seven days a week.

Vaccine Centre Updates

Pharmacies in York Region’s hot spot zones are expected to receive AstraZeneca vaccine supplies shortly. These vaccines will be available to residents age 60+ only, as Canada’s National Advisory Committee on Immunization issued a new recommendation advising residents 55 years of age and younger do not receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at this time.

As of March 29, 2021, York Region opened a new drive-thru vaccination clinic at Canada's Wonderland. The new location has capacity to immunize approximately 1,600 people per day when fully operational and is a good option for those who have mobility constraints, as they can receive the vaccine right in the vehicle.

York Region also opened two community vaccination clinics specifically for Indigenous residents and their adult household members at [Georgina Ice Palace](#) and [Richmond Green Sports Centre](#) on March 29/30, 2021. These community-led, Indigenous-dedicated clinics were developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners and are designed to provide timely, accurate, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive support. Smudging will be made available at both clinics and Elders will be onsite to speak with residents.

Community Support

The Town continues to provide additional resources to residents through the Town's website, library, and municipal partners. All details of available supports are available at www.eastwillimbury.ca/vaccinesupport and includes a step-by-step guide of how to book vaccination appointments as well as resources to assist in booking and getting to/from vaccination appointments. To date, the library has had over 50 inquiries regarding how to book and directly booked 13 residents.

Stay Safe After a Vaccination

As more and more residents will receive a vaccine, York Region Public Health reminds residents that despite being vaccinated, everyone must continue to follow all public health guidelines even after receiving a vaccination. Although the vaccine is very effective at preventing infection or serious illness, there is still a chance you can contract COVID-19, and it is currently unknown if you can transmit the virus after being immunized.

As more is learned about the protection provided by the vaccines and as more people are vaccinated, public health advice may change; however, until then we must continue to follow all public health precautions in order to keep each other safe, including:

- Staying home as much as possible and limiting close contact with those outside our household
- Practicing physical distancing of at least 2-metres with those outside our household
- Wearing a face mask or covering when inside public places and when physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Washing or sanitizing your hands thoroughly and often
- Practicing respiratory etiquette