



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: December 15, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update #15

Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

COVID-19 Control Group Updates

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 is data as of December 10, 2020:

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

East Gwillimbury Metrics	Nov 26, 2020	Dec 10, 2020
Total Confirmed Cases	199	238
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	172	218
Total Active Cases	26	19
Total Confirmed Deaths	1	1
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	26	19
Total Current Outbreaks	0	1

Provincial Updates

On Friday, December 11, 2020, the Province announced that York Region and Windsor-Essex County would move into [Grey – Lockdown](#) as of 12:01 a.m. Monday, December 14, 2020. This is the maximum measures and includes an implementation of widescale measures and restrictions, including closures, to halt or interrupt transmission. The lockdown will remain in place for 28 days.

The lockdown level includes the following:

- No indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household
- Limit for outdoor organized public events and social gatherings, physical distancing can be maintained: 10 people outdoors
- Virtual and drive-in gatherings and events permitted
- Weddings, funerals and other religious services, rites or ceremonies where physical distancing can be maintained: 10 people indoors /10 people outdoors
- Virtual and drive-in services, rites or ceremonies permitted
- Indoor and outdoor service prohibited
- Take out, drive through, and delivery permitted, including sale of alcohol
- Closure of all indoor facilities, including indoor courts, pools, and rinks
- Community centres and multipurpose facilities (e.g., YMCA) allowed to be open for permitted activities such as childcare services
- Indoor individual and team sports (including training) not permitted with exemptions for high performance, including parasport athletes, and professional leagues (e.g., NHL, CFL, MLS, NBA)
- Outdoor sports, classes, and use of amenities, limited to 10 people

The Town will continue to monitor updates and provide further updates as available.

Civic Centre Staffing

During the lockdown, the Town will continue with Priority One staff and Council members only being permitted to work from the Civic Centre. These are individuals who are unable to complete their services remotely due to internet connectivity or service provision. This will be in effect for at least another 28 days (starting December 14, 2020), in alignment with the Provincial timeline. Following the 28 days, the COVID-19 Control Group will review this position and will provide an update based on the current regional/provincial public health advice and restrictions.

Special Premier and Mayor Session

On December 8, Premier Ford with Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Elliott, Solicitor General Jones, Minister Clark and General Hillier held a Special Session with all Ontario Mayors.

Mayor Hackson participated on this call to receive information related to the planned strategy for the roll-out of the multi-part COVID-19 vaccination.

It was reported that:

- Canada will receive up to 249,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine this month, provided it's approved by Health Canada
- Distribution will begin the week of December 14th, through 14 different sites identified across the country – at least one in every province, with two in each of the four largest provinces
- The Pfizer vaccine must be stored at -70C
- Immunization for this vaccine requires two doses administered 21 days apart
- The initial batch would be enough for nearly 125,000 Canadians
- The province announced Ontario will roll out the vaccine in three phases, beginning with long-term care, retirement home residents, and the staff who provide care to those groups
- It will take some time before the bulk of the population receives the vaccine, perhaps beginning in April 2021
- No details specific to York Region were shared

Provincial Vaccination Rollout

Health Canada approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use on December 9, 2020. The vaccine from American drug maker Pfizer has become the first to officially be authorized for distribution.

Commencing Tuesday, December 15, Province will begin inoculating health care workers who are providing care in long-term care homes and other high-risk settings. These first doses will be administered at the University Health Network and The Ottawa Hospital.

Vaccination Centres

The Town is working very closely with the Region of York Health Services to identify potential sites within East Gwillimbury that may be used for large scale vaccination operations. More information will be provided should the Region and Town confirm sites within East Gwillimbury.

COVID-19 Response Framework – Indicators & Thresholds

The Province has implemented a [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) titled “[Keeping Ontario Safe and Open – Lockdown Measures](#)”. The framework describes five levels of regional public health measures, ranging from “Prevent – Standard Measures” to “Lockdown”. These public health measures are implemented across regions of Ontario based on public health unit boundaries.

Decisions on the level of public health measures are made based on public health and hospital data for each region. The Province has created a list of key indicators that will be used to inform these decisions. These indicators include:

- Weekly incidence rate
- Weekly percent positivity
- Weekly effective reproduction number
- Local trends related to outbreaks and community transmission
- Hospital and ICU capacity
- Public health system capacity

For some indicators, there are thresholds that relate to a given level of public health measures. For example, adverse trends after entering Red/Control, such as: increasing weekly case incidence and/or test positivity; increasing case incidence and/or test positivity among people aged 70+; increasing outbreaks among vulnerable populations such as long-term care residents and residents of other congregate settings would correspond with the grey “LOCKDOWN- Maximum Measures” level.

Thresholds within a region may not all be met at the same time. Decisions about moving to new measures will require overall risk assessment by government that takes into account all local indicators for the past two weeks.

Long-term Care Facility Outbreak Update

As of December 8, 2020, it was reported that the Town has a new outbreak at a Long-Term Care Facility. There is one case reported to a staff member. The total closed COVID-19 Institutional Outbreaks is now thirteen, with 11 at institutional settings such as Long-Term Care Facilities, and two at workplaces. Note: An outbreak is declared with one case present.

COVID-19 Enforcement

At the direction of York Regional Council, the [York Region COVID-19 enforcement task force](#) continues to inspect businesses across the Region to ensure compliance with current public health restrictions and measures. Between Monday, November 30, 2020 and Sunday, December 6, 2020, members of the task force visited 731 businesses across York Region.

In East Gwillimbury, the Town continues to review any complaints and visit businesses for further investigation. Staff conducted further inspections in partnership with York Regional Health on December 4, 2020. Further charges were laid to two local businesses, LA Fitness for exceeding capacity and Longos for not counting patrons. The Town will continue to work with local businesses to provide education and resources to ensure compliance moving forward.

Throughout the holiday shopping season, officers from the COVID-19 task force will continue to visit malls, big box and retail stores, restaurants, food premises, fitness centres and various other locations to ensure public health measures are being met. A complete list of charges and closures is available on york.ca/COVID19

Provincial Guidance – Holiday Gatherings

In follow up to the Provincial recommendations regarding holiday gatherings, the Town has launched a web page specifically to provide guidance to residents on how to safely celebrate this holiday season. The details included on the page have been gathered from the Province's recommendations, as well as safe events and activities available here in East Gwillimbury. Staff will continue to update this page with additional details as they become available. For more information residents should visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/COVID.

Virtual New Years Eve (NYE) in EG

On December 31 at 6 p.m., residents are invited to join EG as we celebrate NYE virtually. The Town will be posting a pre-recorded video on our website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube feature live entertainment, music, activities and more. The Town will also be offering daily activities in a countdown up to New Years Eve. More details are available on the [Town's website](#).

Winter Programming

The Town has released an update to [the Health & Active Living Guide](#) to include winter programming. This winter the Town will be offering virtual and in-person programming including pre-registered adult skate, parent and preschool skate and virtual babysitting

and home alone programs. The Town will continue to monitor Provincial health recommendations and make adjustments as required.

Cold Weather Warming Centres & York Region Cold Weather Alert Update

The Town of East Gwillimbury in partnership with the East Gwillimbury Public Library are providing cold weather warming centres throughout the winter season at the Town's two library facilities:

Holland Landing Community Centre - 19513 Yonge Street, Holland Landing

Ross Family Complex - 19300 Centre Street, Mount Albert

Warming centre hours:

Tuesdays	3 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursdays	3 to 8 p.m.
Fridays	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Warming centres will adhere to provincial and Public Health guidelines. Masks are required and occupancy at both branches and during the lockdown, the libraries will remain open with a maximum capacity of 5 individuals. Residents who need access to a warming centre may visit for up to one hour at a time.

York Region has also prepared a Cold Weather Response Plan to ensure that there is safe, temporary housing and support for individuals or families with no alternative housing options this winter. This year's plan has been adjusted to reduce risks associated with COVID-19. When temperatures hit -15°C or colder, York Region will issue a Cold Weather Alert. During a Cold Weather Alert, agencies and the library will provide the following details to residents in need:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness to the Transitional Shelter Intake Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76140 or email TransitionalShelter.Line@york.ca
- Families with children experiencing homelessness to contact Leeder Place Family Shelter by calling Blue Door at 1-888-554-5525.

Transportation will be offered to help York Region residents experiencing homelessness to access a safe space. Residents will not be turned away without being offered assistance.

This information, as well as additional resources has been shared with all agencies, local partners and staff to ensure that it reaches the appropriate audience.

East Gwillimbury Public Library

During lockdown, the East Gwillimbury Public Library will remain open for curbside pickup and 1-hour computer use and will limit its occupancy to 5.

Curbside Pickup is a way for the Library to lend material to the public in a safe way during the Covid-19 pandemic. Customers can place holds using our [online catalogue](#), sending a [request form](#) on our website, by emailing info@egpl.ca, or by phoning your local branch. You will be notified when your items are ready and can pick up during the Library's open hours. You may also request to have a staff member bring your items outside if you are unable to enter the Library.

The Library book drops in front of both branches will remain open. All library materials are quarantined for one week. After they clear quarantine they will be removed from your account.

Business Recovery Initiatives – Update

As part of ongoing efforts to support business recovery through the #EGLovesLocal brand, a Holiday Gift Box program was launched in collaboration with the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce. The gift box contained a variety of locally sourced products as well as information and offers from local businesses. 100 boxes were sold with all revenue going directly back to local businesses. The online order form administered by the Chamber also offered an opportunity to donate to the Holiday Drive and generated \$450.00 in donations.

The #EGLovesLocal [Shop Local Video](#) has generated very positive feedback from residents and businesses alike and continues to be shared on social media channels.

The return to Lockdown will require renewed outreach efforts to ensure that local businesses are able to take advantage of all available support programs. Staff will continue to assess business needs and will make recommendations to support business recovery that could include a second intake of the East Gwillimbury Emergency Response Benefit in the event of a demonstrated need.