



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: December 7, 2021

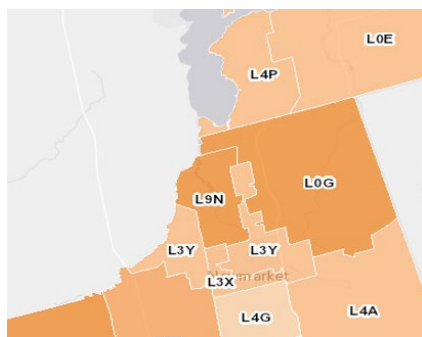
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-19

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 filtered to show data on an interactive dashboard. This dashboard is available under *maps* at www.york.ca/covid19data. The image below shows current case rates of COVID-19 in EG.



Cases per 100,000 population

0.0-0.2 0.3-0.5 0.6-0.8 0.9-1.1 1.2+

East Gwillimbury Metrics	Nov 10, 2021	Dec 1, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	1226	1266
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	1214	1248
Total Active Cases	6	12
Total Variant Cases Identified	490	515
Total Confirmed Deaths	6	6
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	7	11
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	0	0
Total Current Outbreaks (School and childcare)	0	1
Total Closed Outbreaks	42	42

Federal Updates

On November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization classified B.1.1.529 as a variant of concern called *Omicron*. It has been found in several countries and regions, including the confirmation of several travel-related cases in Canada. Based on data from ongoing surveillance efforts and the latest public health advice, the Government of Canada is [expanding the list of countries with entry prohibitions](#).

The Government of Canada will continue to assess the impact of all variants, the evolving situation, monitor case data, and adjust border measures as required.

Provincial Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Bookings to Open for Children Aged 5 to 11

The paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by Health Canada for children aged five to eleven. Those eligible can [book their appointment](#) to receive the vaccine.

Ontario Accelerating Booster Eligibility to Adults Aged 50+

The Province, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is accelerating COVID-19 vaccine booster dose eligibility to Ontarians aged 50 and over and additional high-risk individuals, providing an extra layer of protection against COVID-19 and its variants.

Starting on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals aged 50 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [select pharmacies](#) and primary care settings. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose.

In addition, due to a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, effective immediately individuals receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been 56 days since their second dose. Also effective immediately, the province is recommending re-vaccination with a new COVID-19 vaccine primary series post-transplantation for individuals who receive hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT), hematopoietic cell transplants (HCT) (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy, due to the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant.

Beginning in January, Ontario will further expand eligibility for booster doses based on age and risk, with an interval of six to eight months from the second dose.

York Region Vaccine Stats and Update

York Region residents vaccinated as of November 30, 2021

YR Residents	Number of people of all ages	Proportion of Of 12+	Proportion of Of 5+
1 dose only	78.4%	88.6%	82.4%
2 doses	75.7%	86.5%	79.6%

On Friday, December 3, The Regional Municipality of York issued a [media release](#) regarding notification of their first positive case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. The case is travel-related, involving a youth from the City of Vaughan.

Municipal Impact

The province has paused the lifting of capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings and will continue to monitor public health trends. With this information, Community Parks, Recreation and Culture (CPRC) is taking the provinces cautious approach in protecting our progress and existing capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for higher risk settings where proof of vaccination is required will remain in place. These higher risk settings include private facility rentals within in town meeting and event spaces where food or drink with dancing such as wedding receptions are being held. CPRC will continue to work with Public Health and the COVID-19 Control Group for a safe return to these high-risk rentals when the province is ready to move forward with easing the restrictions.

Build Back Better Update

In March 2020, East Gwillimbury along with municipalities and businesses across Canada and the world, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, in part, by introducing virtual services. Business units that deliver services at Town facilities or within the community, continued to do so with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

Staff continue to focus on managing the evolving COVID-19 situation as well as recovery planning. Positioning the Town for the future will involve taking advantage of some of the creative and innovative practices and lessons learned during the pandemic response while focusing on how the Town can optimize cost-effective internal and external service delivery. This will include virtual options for residents as well as within Town operations, with consideration for ensuring cost-effective program and service delivery.

Flexible Work Policy

Staff are developing a Flexible Work Policy which reflects the Modernization efforts that are contributing to the Town's ability to deliver services better and faster and the ability to work in different and innovative ways. The Policy will also be informed by the extensive engagement process that was undertaken with senior managers, staff, and Members of Council to understand how the Town can leverage its Modernization Program, best practices, new technology and policy to deliver services – better and faster, often at a lower cost.