



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: February 15, 2022

Subject: COVID-19 Update 2022-03

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 38th 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

Ontario Cautiously Easing Public Health Measures

Public health and workplace safety measures in effect as of February 17

The following public health and workplace safety measures will come into effect at 12:01 a.m. on February 17.

- indoor social gatherings for up to 50 people and outdoor social gatherings up to 100 people
- indoor organized public events for up to 50 people, with no limit outdoors
- no capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including:

- restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
- non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
- cinemas
- meeting and event spaces, including conference or convention centres
- casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
- horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues
- commercial film and television productions where there is a studio audience
- indoor areas of other settings that choose to “opt-in” to proof of vaccination requirements
- retail limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance
- personal care services limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance, with no limits if proof of vaccination requirements are in place
 - personal care services that require the removal of face coverings (such as facials, saunas, steam rooms, etc.) are permitted, but anyone providing these services must wear personal protective equipment
- 50 per cent capacity in spectator areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities, concert venues and theatres
- 25 per cent indoor capacity in the following settings where proof of vaccination is required:
 - food or drink establishments with dance facilities, such as nightclubs, and wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing and food or drink is served
 - bathhouses and sex clubs
- indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including weddings and funerals, capped at the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance, with no limit if proof of vaccination is required
- no limit on attendees at outdoor religious services, rites or ceremonies, including weddings and funerals

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

If public health and health care indicators continue to improve, the following public health and workplace safety measures will come into effect on 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

Ontario Expanding Access to Free Rapid Tests for General Public

To further support the province's cautious easing of public health measures, the Ontario government is expanding access to free rapid testing kits to the general public for at-home use. As a result of the province's direct procurement, Ontario will be distributing 5 million rapid tests each week for eight weeks through pharmacy and grocery locations across the province, as well as 500,000 each week through community partners in vulnerable communities. In total, the province is making 44 million rapid tests available to the public for free over the coming weeks.

[Learn more about the list of participating retailers as well as information on how retail locations are distributing rapid test kits.](#)

Booster Eligibility Expanded to Youths

As of 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022, Ontario is expanding booster dose eligibility to youth aged 12 to 17. 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. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose. Individuals must be 12 years old at the time of appointment.

Municipal Impacts

Town's Response Framework

In September 2020, the COVID-19 Control Group developed a Response Framework to guide the resumption of public access to Town facilities. The framework has since been updated to align with the [province's 3-Step Roadmap to Reopen](#). The 3-Step Roadmap to Reopen allows for a cautious and safe re-opening that aligns the actions of the Town

of East Gwillimbury with the recommendations and guidelines from the Province of Ontario, York Region Public Health, and other authorities. The Town will only move from one phase to the next when prepared to do so safely and with all necessary precautions in place.

Community Parks, Recreation and Culture

Return to In-Person Events

Family Fun Day will take place on Monday, February 21, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the EG Sports Complex. This outdoor event will include an outdoor firepit and seating area, food (\$), a vendor market to learn more about our community partners, outdoor ice activities, caricature artist, music and more!

There will also be a free indoor public skate (Enhanced Vaccine Certificates with QR codes are required for those 12 years of age and older to enter the facility) Staff have been working with York Region Public Health and East Gwillimbury's Health and Safety Coordinator.

Updated Screening Process for Recreation Facilities.

The province has updated the screening process to enter recreational facilities and community centres. Effective February 4, visitors will no longer have to complete the online screening form prior to entering our recreation facilities. Screening questions are posted in the entrance of all facilities and visitors are asked to self-screen when they arrive and verify that they passed the screening with facility screeners or the permit holder for unstaffed facilities. Enhanced vaccine certificates with QR codes and proof of ID for those 12 years of age and older are still required to enter these facilities.

The library branches located inside of the Ross Family Complex and Holland Landing Community Centre are open with limited capacity of 15 customers per branch, with a return to in person programs on February 15. Public health measures will continue to be enforced including physical distancing and required face mask use for staff and visitors. Staff will continue to provide support to residents for Covid-19 vaccine appointment booking and printing of their enhanced vaccine certificates. Curb-side pickup is available, for more information, visit: www.egpl.ca