



# Town of East Gwillimbury

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: January 19, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-1

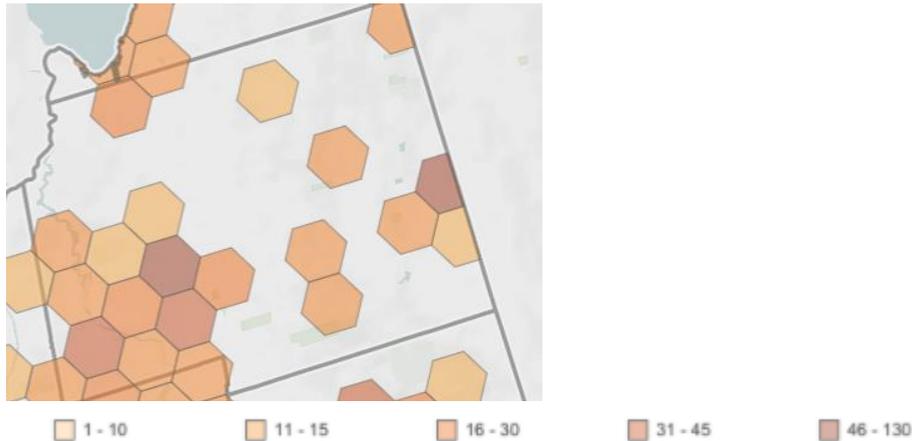
Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

### 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](http://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](http://www.york.ca/covid19data). The below image is data as of January 14, 2021:



East Gwillimbury Metrics	Dec 10, 2020	Jan 14, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	238	431
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	218	392
Total Active Cases	19	38
Total Confirmed Deaths	1	1
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	26	37
Total Current Outbreaks	0	3

## **Provincial Updates**

Effective January 12, 2021, the government declared a provincial emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) in order to respond to rising COVID-19 cases, increasing death counts and capacity pressures in Intensive Care Units (ICUs).

The government has issued a stay-at-home order which came into effect on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. advising all residents stay home except for essential purposes. As part of this order all businesses must ensure any employee who can work from home, does work from home.

Additional restrictions under the state of emergency and stay-at-home order include:

- Outdoor gatherings limited to a total of 5 people, consistent with rules in the first wave in Spring 2020
- Non-essential retail stores have hours restricted to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; does not apply to stores primarily selling food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores and restaurants for takeout or delivery
- Non-essential construction is further restricted, including below-grade construction
- Under declaration of provincial emergency, province will provide authority to all enforcement and provincial offences officers to issue tickets to individuals who do not comply with stay-at-home order, those not wearing a masks and those retail operators who do not enforce
- Enforcement and inspection blitz to commence for big-box stores
- Schools in hot zones, including York Region, will not return to in-person learning until February 10, 2021 (at a minimum)

## **Provincial permitted outdoor recreation**

Following a meeting between Premier Ford and Ontario Mayors late yesterday, it was confirmed that outdoor skating and tobogganing are permitted to operate under the current restrictions. Despite weather challenges, staff have continued to work hard to prepare the two designated outdoor ice surfaces (in Mount Albert and Holland Landing) for public use. It is our hope to have the outdoor ice ready next week with specific safety measures in place to ensure that users are respecting public health recommendations. The Town is in the process of developing a plan for a safe opening which will likely include pre-registration to allow for a maximum number of users at one time. Further updates will be provided prior to opening.

The Town continues to ensure that the outdoor trail system is available for residents to utilize and will be clearing some additional pathways throughout large parks.

### **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 December 14 and January 10 members of the task force visited 3661 businesses across York Region.

In East Gwillimbury, the Town continues to review any complaints and visit businesses for further investigation. Between December 14, 2020 and January 10, 2021 staff conducted 181 proactive inspections and received 13 complaints, with 3 charges laid one to Longo's and two tickets to LA Fitness.

The Town will continue to work with local businesses to provide education and resources to ensure compliance moving forward.

Throughout the Provincial Stay-at-Home order, the COVID-19 task force will continue to visit malls, big box and retail stores, restaurants, food premises, 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](http://york.ca/COVID19).

### **Vaccination Update**

COVID-19 vaccines will serve as an important tool in helping stop the spread of the virus and allow individuals and families to safely return to a normal life. Currently, Canada has approved use of two vaccines: the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 and Moderna COVID-19 mRNA. Additional vaccines are being reviewed by Health Canada. The Province has developed a [Vaccine Distribution Implementation Plan](#) divided into three phases. We are currently in Phase One which includes:

- Residents, staff, essential caregivers and other employers in congregate living settings that provide care for seniors and other vulnerable residents;
- Health care workers, including hospital employees and other staff who work or study in hospitals;
- Adults in First Nations populations;
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

To see further details about the Province's phases visit [York Region's website](#). The daily and the total number of COVID-19 vaccines administered is currently reported by the Ministry of Health and can be found on the [Province's website](#).

Region of York Health Services is currently working with all regional municipalities to identify potential sites that may be used for mass vaccinations in the coming months.

Staff will continue to monitor and further updates regarding vaccines and the roll out strategy will be shared as available.

York Region has put in place a proposed plan as part of their Mass Immunization Implementation Strategy. Currently, in Phase 1 now to March, there are two static sites offering immunization at Mackenzie Health Hospital and Southlake Regional Health

Centre; as well as strike teams providing the vaccine at long-term care facilities and retirement homes. As the vaccinations move to a broader scale, Phase 2 April to August, and Phase 3 August onward, York Region has developed an initial list of proposed assumptions and considerations for static sites, drive-through clinics, community run drive through clinics, school sites and mobile sites which will be further reviewed and shared once finalized.

York Region has also provided a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, as shown in Appendix A. This image showcases the three phases of role out, the priority populations, expected doses and vaccination sites.

### **Institutional Outbreaks in East Gwillimbury**

As of January 15, 2021, it was reported that the Town has a total of three outbreaks at institutional facilities. The total closed COVID-19 Institutional Outbreaks is now 14 with 12 at institutional settings such as Long-Term Care Facilities, and two at workplaces. Note: An outbreak is declared with one case present.

### **Winter Programming**

Winter virtual programs will begin as planned the week of January 18th. In-person registered programs have been cancelled due to the recent declaration of the Provincial stay at home order. Due to the cancellation, the Recreation team is investigating options to expand virtual programs.

### **East Gwillimbury Public Library**

In response to the recent lockdown, the Library closed its buildings to the public but continues to offer curbside services while following guidelines provided by York Region Public Health and the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework. The Library's digital branch remains open 24/7. Please visit [egpl.ca](http://egpl.ca) for library updates and information on remote services and programs.

### **Business Recovery Initiatives – Update**

As Lockdown continues, staff are focused on ensuring that businesses can access all available supports. Three new initiatives aimed at supporting business recovery have been launched by Regional and Provincial partners since the previous update:

- South Lake Community Futures 1:1 Business Consulting providing technical and professional advice to assist in adapting to the changing business landscape.
- Digital Main Street program to provide free use of the TAKU online retail platform to help traditional retailers get their physical stores online.
- [Ontario Small Business Support Grant](#) is now open. The grant will provide eligible businesses with funding up to a maximum of \$20,000 to help with revenue losses expected as a result of the provincewide shutdown.

Staff are working to promote these and other relevant resources through available media channels and through direct outreach. 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.

A third EG Loves Local product box initiative is planned in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce for Mother's Day in May.

### **Essential Staffing**

In accordance with the new provincial regulations, the Town has provided documentation to Council members and essential front-line workers to assist them with any necessary travel during the Provincial stay at home orders.

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 January 14, 2021), 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.

# Appendix A – COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

