



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: March 2, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-4

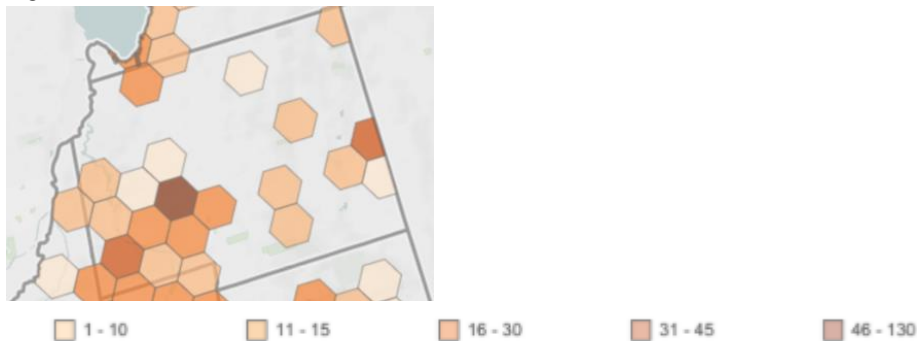
Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

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 February 25, 2021:



East Gwillimbury Metrics	Feb 10, 2021	Feb 25, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	549	613
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	499	569
Total Active Cases	48	42
Total Confirmed Deaths	2	2
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	44	26
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	1 (institutional)	3 (institutional)
Total Closed Outbreaks (institutional and workplace settings)	22	23
Total Variant Cases Identified	2	11

Provincial Announcement – York Region moves to Red-Control Zone

Effective, Monday, February 22, 2021, the stay-at-home order was lifted and York Region transitioned back into the Red-Control Zone of the provincial [COVID-19 Response Framework](#).

All municipal facilities will remain closed to the public at this time. Residents are still able to access Town services by contacting Customer Service through email at customerservice@eastwillimbury.ca or calling 905-478-4282.

Under the Red-Control Zone, broader-scale restrictions across multiple sectors must take place to control transmission (i.e. Modified Stage 2 measures). This is the most severe zone before a widescale business or organizational closure. General details include:

- Trips outside of the home should only be for essential
- Families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes; people who live alone can gather with one household
- Physical distancing to be maintained for all events and gatherings with individuals outside of one's household
- Individuals should work remotely, whenever possible
- Non-essential travel from areas of high transmission to areas of low transmission should be avoided

Business Requirements:

- Businesses that are open must not permit patrons to line-up or congregate inside or outside unless they are maintaining 2 metres of physical distance
- All businesses or facilities must limit capacity so that every member of the public is able to maintain 2 metres of physical distancing from every other person; some businesses may have additional capacity restrictions
- Businesses or places that are open shall ensure that equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms and showers that are accessible to the public are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition
- Stores must post capacity limits publicly and must have passive screening for patrons in place (e.g. posting signs outside the store front about not entering if you have COVID-19 symptoms); this does not apply to indoor malls, which are required to actively screen customers before entrance (see retail section for more information)
- All businesses must have a [safety plan](#)

For more information on the public health safety measures and the various zones, residents can visit [York Region's website](#).

Re- Opening of Community Centres and Indoor Ice

All Town staffed recreation facilities will open as of March 1, 2021, for those in registered programs or permits with limited hours and restrictions in order to adhere to the Ontario COVID-19 Framework. Community Parks Recreation and Culture staff will continue to work with our sports groups including the East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association and the East Gwillimbury Skating Club to provide a safe space for participants for training only with no game play. Ice permits will be subject to occupancy restrictions (10 per pad) and enhanced safety measures. The total capacity limit for sports and recreational facilities is 10 persons, unless the facility is a community centre or multi-purpose facility in which case the maximum capacity is 20 persons; for multi-purpose facilities the maximum capacity per room remains 10 persons.

No spectators are permitted into the facilities at this time, but each person under the age of 7 years who is participating in activities in the facility may be accompanied by one parent or guardian.

Locker rooms, change rooms, and showers in the facility will remain closed, as per the provincial health guidelines. Washrooms are available for use.

Some limited permits and programs will be provided at Ross Family and Holland Landing Community Centre.

Health & Active Living Guide and Programming

The Town of East Gwillimbury's Spring Health and Active Living Guide will be available online as of March 1, 2021. A separate Summer and Camp Guide will be released in April. Spring Registration will begin on March 8. Virtual programs will continue and in-person classes will now be offered during the Red-Control Zone. Classes will have limited availability in order to physically distance participants and adhere to the provincial health guidelines. Drop-in programs have been scheduled but require pre-registration to participate with limited space available. Pickleball will not be available at this time while in the Red-Control Zone as game play is not permitted at this time.

Outdoor Amenities

Due to the warmer temperatures our outdoor ice surfaces are now closed. The rinks were well used this winter. Residents are permitted to walk through parks, trails, and throughout EG for exercise or to walk their pets. CPRC staff will continue to provide winter maintenance at some park and trailhead parking lots and some park pathways.

Spring Break Programming scheduled in April and Upcoming Special Events

During the Red-Control Zone, the recreation team continues to plan programs and events. With March Break moving to April this year, the Town is currently planning to run a Home Alone and Babysitting certification course, virtual gaming tournament, and

story walk along our EG trails. Staff are also planning to move ahead with an in-person Farmers Market this Spring. Details on these programs will be available on our website in late March.

East Gwillimbury Public Library Update

The Library is extending service offerings as of Tuesday, February 23, 2021 with in-library browsing, 1-hour computer access per customer per day, check-in and check-out services as well as maintaining the contactless pick-up service. Branches will allow for 5 customers in the library at a time.

York Region Vaccination Plan

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, York Region discussed their Vaccination Plan at Regional Council. The federal goal is to vaccinate all Canadians who want it by September 2021, with a Regional goal to vaccinate at least 75% of York Region's residents. In order to reach these numbers, York Region will utilize a mix of large, medium and small immunization clinics, mobile clinics, and targeted clinics for priority groups. Drive-thru clinics are also anticipated to open in April. The Region indicated that 50% of residents would likely be immunized through local pharmacies and partner lead immunization clinics. The vaccine program will be delivered by multiple community partners, with oversight by York Region Public Health. Community partners assisting with the vaccination clinics may include redeployed municipal employees and the Red Cross, among others. The Town is currently reviewing capacity to redeploy staff to these facilities. This is a tentative plan and timeline, and may change depending on vaccine availability.

As vaccines become available, York Region is prepared and ready to ensure the safe and coordinated vaccination of our community from COVID-19. Supply of vaccines will not arrive all at once, so distribution will happen in stages. When more supplies become available, vaccines will be offered to everyone who wants one, in priority order. Residents will be notified when they are eligible to receive the vaccine based on supply. This information will be communicated in multiple languages through york.ca, social media, print advertising, through media and with the assistance of community partners.

York Region is currently in [Phase One of the Government of Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#) which includes high priority health-care and community care workers; members of the general public cannot book a vaccine appointment at this time.

The Provincial vaccination appointment portal and online call centre or help desk will be available as of March 15, 2021. The following outlines the current proposed timeline for vaccination (Note: This is dependent on vaccine supply):

- Begin vaccinating adults age 80+ the third week of March
- Begin vaccinating adults age 75 and older the week of April 15

- Begin vaccinating adults age 70 and older starting May 1
- Begin vaccinating adults age 65 and older starting June 1
- Begin vaccinating adults age 60 and older starting July 1
- Province to release further details later this Spring regarding prioritization after this date

Visit york.ca/COVID19 and york.ca/COVID19Vaccine, for COVID-19 information and COVID-19 vaccine information. Call inquiries can also be made Monday to Friday during regular business hours to the Access York contact centre at 1-877-464-9675.

Business Recovery

Supporting local businesses remains a top priority. An extensive social media campaign was launched in advance of Valentine's Day and Family Day offering a curated list of products and experiences that were organized around themes such as 'Family Togetherness', 'Treat Yourself or a Loved One', 'Health & Wellness', and 'Discover Local Flavours'. The return to the Red /Control Zone offers additional flexibility for in-person visits. For list of businesses offering in-person sales, curbside pick-up, and delivery residents are encouraged to visit [EG's Shop Local Directory](#)

Staffing Analysis & COVID-19 Financial Impacts

Following the initial impacts of COVID-19, the Town conducted an initial financial plan which has been monitored and updated throughout the last year. Staff are continuing to monitor and assess the COVID-19 staffing and financial impacts and further updates will be provided at a future Council meeting.

The preliminary financial analysis conducted for 2020 indicates that the Town has successfully been able to offset costs associated with the impacts of COVID-19. Staff will continue to monitor impacts and take steps to offset any potential cost associated with COVID-19 in 2021.