



# Town of East Gwillimbury

## MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: March 23, 2021

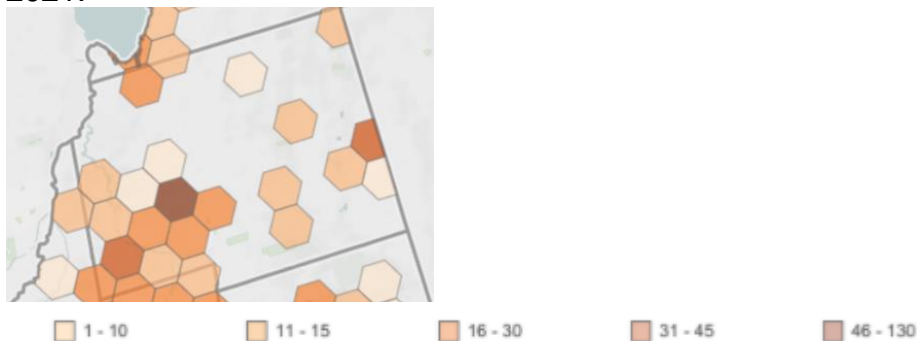
Subject: COVID-19 Update 2021-5

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](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 and data is from March 19, 2021:



East Gwillimbury Metrics	Feb 25, 2021	Mar 19, 2021
Total Confirmed Cases	613	678
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	569	643
Total Active Cases	42	33
Total Confirmed Deaths	2	2
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	26	32
Total Current Outbreaks (Institutional and workplace)	3 (institutional)	3 (1 institutional and 2 schools)
Total Closed Outbreaks	23	27
Total Variant Cases Identified	11	45
School Closures	N/A	1. Good Shephard Catholic Elementary School is closed until March 24

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		2. Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Elementary School is closed until March 22
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## York Region Vaccination Plan Updates

York Region Public Health continues to maintain a primary focus on securing vaccine supply and safely operationalizing current vaccination centres. At present there are eight vaccination centres in York Region and additional centres and options for all municipalities are actively being investigated.

### **The Town continues to work with York Region Public Health for a potential vaccination site within East Gwillimbury**

Town staff and York Region staff have conducted a number of site visits at community centres in Mount Albert. The Region has indicated that a potential site could be the Mount Albert Lions Hall, which could be used as a possible pop-up drive-thru clinic. The projected timeframe for set-up of this site is between April and May, dependent on vaccine supply. The Region has also indicated that this potential site would be the best option to serve both the community and public health. Staff continue to review requirements of a potential agreement related to the site use and the logistics to set-up the site. Further updates to Council will be provided when additional information is made available.

**Due to an increase in available vaccine supply, and a successful roll out to those 80+, York Region is now expanding vaccine eligibility to [high priority health care workers](#) and those 75 and over.**

As of March 18, 2021, vaccination availability has been expanded in York Region to include residents aged 75 and older (born 1946 or earlier) and high priority front-line health care workers. Further, the Region has indicated that as additional vaccine supplies become available, York Region Public Health is looking to utilize any daily surplus to vaccinate front-line essential municipal workers, such as those in the positions of Water/Wastewater and Roads. Further details on this initiative will be shared as more information is made available. Residents can visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) for more information on [eligible priority groups](#).

### **Phase Two of the Provincial vaccine roll out plan is coming as vaccine supply stabilizes, according to Province**

The Province is expecting over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government before the end of March and at least 1 million Pfizer doses per week from March 22 to May 10. Once these vaccines are available, the Province indicated that Ontario will move to Phase Two, allowing up to nine million Ontarians to be vaccinated between April 2021 and July 2021. During this phase, groups that will receive the vaccine include:

- Older adults between 60-79 years of age;

- Individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers;
- People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers;
- People who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmission; and
- Certain workers who cannot work from home.

In addition to the current vaccination centres, the province announced that a pharmacy pilot program will take place in 325 pharmacies within the areas of Toronto, Windsor and Kingston health units. The Town and York Region Public Health will continue to closely monitor the expansion of this and other future pilot programs.

### **Provincial booking system for COVID-19 vaccines now available**

On March 15, the Province launched a provincial booking system and customer service desk to support COVID-19 vaccination appointment bookings.

At this time, the majority of vaccination clinics in York Region are using the existing booking systems through [york.ca/covid19vaccine](http://york.ca/covid19vaccine), however, the Cornell Community Centre vaccine clinic in Markham has transitioned to the Provincial booking system. Residents can book through either [york.ca/covid19vaccine](http://york.ca/covid19vaccine) or the Provincial portal at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://Ontario.ca/bookvaccine) for this location.

When visiting the Ontario booking site, individuals will be asked for information from their green Ontario health card, birth date, postal code, and email address and/or phone number. At the time of booking, eligible individuals will schedule their first and second vaccination appointments. Individuals who still have a red and white health card, or who require assistance with booking, can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488.

### **EG offers Vaccine Appointment Support for Seniors**

Town staff continue to provide support for East Gwillimbury to ensure residents have support for booking vaccination appointments and facilitating transportation services, where necessary, to access the centre.

Recognizing there are some technical barriers for some to book appointments, the Town has put in place a number of options to assist our senior residents with making their vaccination appointment and coordinating transportation to the appointments, if needed. Town will continue to work with our partners to find solutions to address any barriers, ensuring all EG residents have the support they need.

Residents who are not comfortable booking an appointment online are encouraged to seek out a support person (caregiver, family member or friend) who can assist in booking an appointment on their behalf or use one of the following options:

## 1. York Region Public Health Booking Assistance

Residents can receive support by calling a designated COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic, as listed below or by using the live chat feature at [York.ca](https://york.ca).

- City of Markham - Cornell Community Centre - 1-844-301-8080
- City of Vaughan - Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital - 1-844-301-8080
- Town of Georgina - Georgina Ice Palace - 1-877-464-9675
- Town of Newmarket - Ray Twinney Complex - 1-844-301-8080
- City of Richmond Hill - Richmond Green Sports Centre - 1-877-464-9675

## 2. Direct Town Booking Assistance

The Town of East Gwillimbury, in partnership with the East Gwillimbury Public Library (EGPL) has a variety of tools available to assist seniors or caregivers with booking a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. This can be done in-branch, over the phone, and through One-on-One Tech Help services.

- Residents can call 905-836-6492 (Holland Landing Library Branch) or 905-473-2472 (Mount Albert Library Branch) for assistance with booking available appointments over the phone.
- If you need access to the internet, residents or caregivers may drop in and use one of the internet stations located at EGPL to directly access the [York Region Vaccination booking page](#).
- Residents can borrow a Chromebook at EGPL to get connected at home. Residents can call the Library to place a hold.
- Book One-on-One Technology Help from the comfort of your own home and a staff member will contact you to walk you through the vaccine booking process. Sessions can be scheduled at <https://www.egpl.ca/services/one-on-one-tech-help/>.

## 3. Wi-fi Access Hotspots

Residents that require internet access to book an appointment online may visit one of the Town's Wi-fi Access Hotspots located outside of the following facilities:

- Civic Centre - front entrance visitor parking spaces
- Holland Landing Community Centre - front entrance facing the windows
- Ross Family Complex - front entrance facing the windows

## 4. MPP York-Simcoe, Caroline Mulroney Offers Appointment Booking Assistance

Residents that require assistance with booking a vaccine appointment, can contact MPP Caroline Mulroney's Office at 905-895-1555.

## **5. Transportation to/from Vaccine Appointments**

YRT offers on-request transit service for eligible seniors to their vaccination appointments. If you require transportation to the closest vaccination clinic from your home, Mobility On-Request 65+ can take you there. They will accept bookings up to two days prior to your scheduled appointment. For more information visit [yrt.ca](http://yrt.ca).

## **6. Routes Connecting Communities**

The Town has partnered with Routes Connecting Communities for a pilot program to support residents who are 80 years of age and older to assist with getting to and from vaccination appointments. Residents can book a complimentary shuttle service for vaccine appointments by contacting Routes directly at:

- 905-722-4616
- [info@routesc.org](mailto:info@routesc.org)

Please note, for individuals who require wheelchair access or mobile device/support, please contact YRT (listed above) for these services.

## **7. CHATS**

Seniors can contact CHATS at 905-713-6596 to book transportation services or for more information.

Updates will be posted to the Town of East Gwillimbury's [website](#), social media and shared in the Town Page in the East Gwillimbury Express as available. Residents can also visit [York Region's website](#) to learn more about vaccines.

## **Community, Parks, Recreation and Culture Updates**

### **Spring Health and Active Living Programs**

Registration for the spring session programs opened on March 8, 2021. In-person and virtual programs are scheduled to start April 13. COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place for all in-person programming. Registered drop-in programs will also be available. The Town will be running a virtual Babysitting and Home Alone program the week of April 12-16.

### **Stories along EG Trails**

The East Gwillimbury Public Library and Community Parks Recreation and Culture have come together to offer residents an outdoor family literacy experience. While walking along some of the trails throughout East Gwillimbury, participants will see the addition of the Town's Storywalk(trademark) along the Simcoe Trail in Holland Landing, the Sharon Hills Park in Sharon, and the Shannon Park Trail in Mount Albert. Trails will be transformed into reading spaces featuring some popular stories.

### **Summer Camp Registration**

The Town, as well as a large majority of municipalities in York Region, are initiating plans for in-person summer camps and programs for the 2021 summer season. The Summer Camp guide is scheduled for released April 22, 2021 and Summer Camp registration is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on May 3, 2021.

Recreation staff will be launching a new in-person general camp called "Camp EG". Limited specialized partnership camps with East Gwillimbury Skating Club, East Gwillimbury Tennis Club, Karate and Hockey will also be offered.

### **Modifications made to upcoming Town events**

**Easter Activity:** Starting March 17, residents may register for an Eggcellent Easter Box. These do-at-home kits contain three crafts, a scavenger hunt activity, bunny ears and Easter treats. Activities will also be made available online. This event is sponsored by Lee and Shai Lander. Limited quantities are available.

**Farmers' Market:** Beginning May 18, residents can come visit the socially distanced Farmers' Market located at the Civic Centre Precinct. The Farmers' Market is proposed to run every Thursday until October 7. Vendors can register online at [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/farmersmarket](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/farmersmarket).

### **Indoor Ice Programs/Rentals**

East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association, East Gwillimbury Skating Club and Central York Girls Hockey Association have resumed modified on-ice programming until the end of the ice season on April 16.

All participants/users complete a COVID-19 active screening form prior to entering the facility. Recreation is currently offering limited registered drop-in ice programs that are available during the week for the public. At this time, there is limited ice available for a private rental with COVID-19 restrictions in place.