

YCC 323/COVID-19 Update December 22nd, 2021

Dear Residents,

New restrictions for Ontario and most importantly for Toronto have been announced. The Omicron variant has been spreading very quickly and it is important to remember that coming through successfully depends on us taking care of ourselves and our families. The effort required to maintain this care is a discipline, but we must not forget the importance of being flexible, keeping perspective, and learning to adopt as the situation unfolds.

1. All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval

To protect Ontario's progress in the fight against COVID-19 and safeguard the province's hospitals and intensive care units (ICUs) in the face of the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, the Ontario government is rapidly accelerating its booster dose rollout by expanding eligibility to all individuals aged eighteen and over, as well as shortening the interval to three months following an individual's second dose.

Individuals aged eighteen and over are eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the Ontario's booking portal by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, participating pharmacies and primary care settings. Appointments will be booked three months (84 days) after a second dose as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals. Additionally, pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for eighteen and over at the three-month interval starting Friday, December 17, 2021, for walk-ins.

2. Pop-up holiday schedule for rapid antigen tests

To provide an additional layer of protection against COVID and variants including Omicron, Ontario is launching a holiday testing blitz to offer voluntary rapid antigen screening to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province. This initiative is part of the government's enhanced COVID-19 testing strategy to mitigate the increased risk of transmission over the holiday season.

Throughout December to mid-January, up to two million rapid tests will be provided free of charge at pop-up sites in high-traffic locations such as malls, retail settings, holiday markets, public libraries, and transit hubs. Take-home rapid tests will also be available at select LCBOs. Rapid antigen holiday pop-up schedule:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/pop-up-holiday-schedule-rapid-antigen-tests#section-2>

4. Omicron Threat: Ontario Modifies Step 3 To Include New/Old Restrictions

On December 17, Ontario announced a series of new measures in response to the rapidly spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant. These measures, effective December 19 include:

- Indoor amenities, such as gym, meeting room, games room, change rooms may not have more than ten people at one time. Currently our gym operates at 3, Meeting room at 10, Library at 4, Change Rooms at 3, Sauna at 1 and games Room is for one household only. There is a possibility of the amenities closing again and if so, the information will be communicated as tougher restrictions are implemented.
- Indoor gatherings or social gatherings are at 10 people maximum. These restrictions apply to private dwellings as well.
- Outdoor amenities and gatherings are not to have more than twenty-five people congregating.

Contact tracing, transparency and following the safety guidelines are particularly important in preventing the spread. The staff will keep working to make sure high traffic areas remain sanitized and/or fogged as often as possible.

Please do look at the infection flowchart to help assess next steps following exposure to a positive case.

Stay informed of the latest developments and to refer to information provided by verified and vetted public health websites such as Federal, Provincial and Municipal public health organizations.

Stay safe and healthy!

You've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, now what?

