



COVID-19 Update

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Public Health and Emergency Services
September 17, 2021

Highlights

- Our local trends have remained fairly stable but we are seeing a slowly increasing trend in our daily case rates, especially amongst those who have not yet been vaccinated.
- Due to changes with the availability of vaccines, vaccination policies, and strong infection prevention and control requirements that have positively impacted the size and scope of outbreaks, we will be lowering the disclosure criteria for workplace, facility and event outbreaks.
- Vaccines are changing the pandemic but the severity of the Delta variant cannot be understated. Public health measures are still very important.

Overall trends

- Our local trends have remained fairly stable but we are seeing a slowly increasing trend in our daily case rates, especially amongst those who have not yet been vaccinated.
- As of yesterday's dashboard update, our case rate is approximately 31 cases per 100,000 per week.
- The fourth wave has begun in Ontario and we are seeing that the risk for infection and serious outcomes is far greater for those who are not yet fully vaccinated.
- The vaccine is the best measure to reduce your risk of severe outcomes but we all must continue to practice public health measures to reduce the spread.
- Both public health measures and full vaccination, together, offer the strongest protection against COVID-19.

Reported death

- Sadly, today we are reporting the death of a young child, under the age of 10 due to COVID-19. The child had underlying health conditions. There were no school-related or child care-related exposures in this case.

- This is a rare but tragic circumstance and a devastating reminder of the serious nature of this virus.
- This is a heartbreaking loss and I wish to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and loved ones.

Changes to outbreak disclosure

- Effective today, for outbreaks declared today or in the future, we will be implementing new disclosure criteria for workplace, facility, and event outbreaks.
- We expect that outbreaks will continue to occur, but the size and scope of the outbreaks should be better controlled due to:
 - Ample availability of vaccine;
 - The ability for workplaces to enact vaccination policies; and
 - Strong infection prevention and control requirements for workplaces.
- Due to these changes, the disclosure criteria for workplace, facility and event outbreaks will be lowered to:
 - Five or more cases in a setting of 10 or more people and there are no significant privacy concerns.
- This criteria will also be used for other congregate care settings except in circumstances where there are safety concerns.
- For significant outbreaks – outbreaks with 25 cases or more – we will provide a weekly dashboard update of the number of resolved cases.
- There will be no changes to disclosure for outbreaks in long-term care facilities, retirement homes, schools, and child care facilities.

Closing remarks

- Vaccines are changing the pandemic but the severity of the Delta variant cannot be understated. Public health measures are still very important.
- Together, vaccines and public health measures provide the best protection against COVID-19 for yourself and your loved ones.
- Thank-you to all those eligible who have been vaccinated, thank-you to the thousands who are getting their vaccines this week, and thank-you to those who are taking public health precautions to protect one another.
- Every dose, every person counts, and each one of you is making our community safer and stronger.
- Thank you, and stay safe.