



Hamilton

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

BIA Advisory Committee

November 9th, 2021



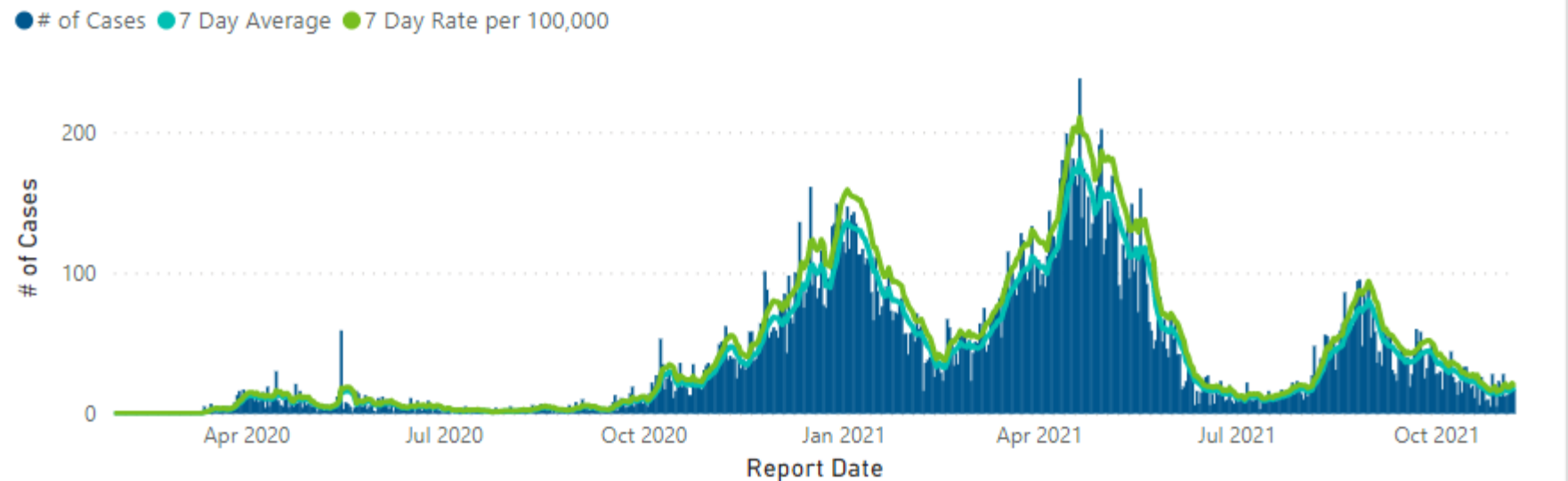
Overview

- Local Epidemiology & Vaccination Update
- Vaccine Verification Requirements
- Business Sectors and Capacity Limits
- Provincial Plan for Lifting of Public Health Measures
- Local Direction/Recommendations

Local Epidemiology Update

- Local data can be found on the CoH webpage “[Status of Cases in Hamilton](#)”
- Brief update as of November 8th, 2021:
 - Number of new cases (7-day average): 17
 - Current reproductive number: 1.07
 - Current # of outbreaks: 7

Cases by Report Date



Vaccination Update

Of the eligible population in Hamilton (as of Nov 8, 2021): 85.5% have at least one dose & 81.9% are fully vaccinated

In Hamilton, the risk of:

- COVID-19 **infection** among the unvaccinated population is **9.1** times higher than for fully vaccinated
- **Hospitalization** due to COVID-19 among the unvaccinated population is **28.9** times higher than it is for fully vaccinated
- **ICU** admissions due to COVID-19 among the unvaccinated population is **70.4** times higher than it is for fully vaccinated.
- **Death** due to COVID-19 among the unvaccinated population is **11.5** times higher than it is for fully vaccinated



Vaccination Verification Requirements

Proof of vaccination requirements took effect on September 22, 2021

The following documents can help businesses understand vaccine verification requirements:

- Government Regulations – [O.Reg 364/20](#) (Step 3, Schedule 1)
- Ministry of Health – [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses & Organizations](#)
- Ministry of Health – [Questions & Answers](#) for businesses about proof of vaccination requirements
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce- [Proof of Vaccination Framework](#) (*)
- City of Hamilton – [Proof of Vaccination](#)

* OCC- for businesses looking to implement their own POV mandate



Vaccination Verification Requirements

- As of September 22, 2021, Ontario **patrons** need to be fully vaccinated to enter certain higher-risk settings.
- **Workplace policies**- Organizations can also choose to implement proof of vaccination requirements even if not mandated by Ministry *could consider consulting legal prior to implementation
- **Fully vaccinated** = (full series of vaccine plus 14 days since last vaccination) and provide proof of identification to access certain public settings
 - *Where 3rd dose is recommended rather than required, no change to what is considered fully vaccinated will be made
- **Validation of identification**- name and date of birth need to match on both the vaccination receipt and the name identification document
- **Management of personal health records** – a business or organization **shall not retain any information** provided by a patron if the information is provided pursuant to a requirement under section 2.1 of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20 under the ROA

Vaccination Verification Exemptions

Exemptions:

- **a) Medical** - Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions (must show medical note)
- **B) Children (under 12)** – Children who are 11 years and younger and are not eligible to be vaccinated
- **C) Youth under 18 actively participating in an organized sport**- including training, practices, games and competitions. For example, sports league, organized pick-up sports, dance classes, martial arts, swimming classes. **There is not an exemption for youth spectators**
- **D) Temporary entry** exclusively to access a washroom, outdoor area, make a retail purchase or place an order
- **E) Meeting or event space to attend a wedding or funeral ceremony** (but not an associated social gathering)

*Other limited exemptions apply in meeting and event spaces (e.g. day camp, child care, social services, court services, government services). ** Exemption for individuals participating in a Health Canada COVID-19 clinical trial 7



Vaccination Verification Requirements

Identification documents that may be used as proof of identification include:

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's licence
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card
- Indian Status Card/Indigenous Membership card
- Passport
- Permanent Resident card

Note:

- picture identification not required.
- Expired ID acceptable
- Under 18/youth may show photocopies of ID

Higher-risk settings where Proof of vaccination required:

- Indoor areas of food establishments
- Indoor & outdoor areas of food establishments with dance facilities
- Indoor areas of meeting & event spaces
- Indoor areas of facilities used for sports & rec fitness activity (includes waterparks)
- Indoor gyms, fitness/recreational facilities and indoor areas where spectators watch events (i.e. sporting events). Outdoors with usual capacity of over 20,000
- Indoor areas of casinos, bingo and other gaming establishments
- Indoor areas of concert venues, theatres & cinemas
- Indoor areas of bathhouses, sex clubs and strip clubs
- Indoor areas of horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues
- Indoor areas where commercial film and TV productions take place with studio audiences
- Racing venues (e.g. indoor horse & car tracks)



Vaccination Verification Requirements continued

As of October 22, 2021 Ontario has an enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app

- Businesses must have the verification app (i.e. Verify Ontario) and accept paper and downloaded proof of vaccination documents
- Note the **Verify Ontario app is the only authorized app** for use by businesses/organizations
- The app provides greater security and privacy protection (the app does NOT retain or store data)
- The app speeds up the process of verifying vaccine eligibility
- **Businesses or organizations are responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements regarding proof of identification and proof of vaccination against COVID-19 as outlined in the *Reopening Ontario Act*.**

Capacity Limits

Indoors

- For workplaces without public access, capacity is based on ability to physically distance
- Indoor business open to the public = 50% capacity (e.g. museums, indoor clubhouses...)
- Other indoor areas open to the public 25% capacity where specified (e.g. dance clubs, sex clubs)

Outdoors

- General guidance – outdoor business or facility limited to 75% capacity (e.g. outdoor dance establishment)
- Recent changes - Capacity limits have been removed for outdoor organized public events (such as outdoor parades, outdoor memorial services and other similar events and activities like concerts) and requires a mask to be worn if physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- Motor vehicles for drive-in and drive-through venues no longer need to maintain 2 metre distance

Proof of Vaccinations & Capacity Limits

Capacity limits have been lifted to allow 100% capacity in the following settings:

- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas;
- Facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities, including areas for spectators within those facilities, areas where personal fitness trainers provide instruction within those facilities, and waterparks.
- Meeting and event spaces
- Horseracing tracks, car racing tracks, and other similar venues; and
- Commercial film and television productions with studio audiences
- Restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments;
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments;

In the vast majority of settings where POV is required, capacity limits and physical distancing requirements have been dropped

***Indoor areas of bathhouses, sex clubs and strip clubs, & food establishments with dance facilities are still subject to physical distancing & capacity limits**

Proof of Vaccinations & Capacity Limits – opt-in options

Settings that can choose to require proof of vaccination

- Personal care services (e.g., barber shops, salons, body art);
- Indoor areas of museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;
- Indoor areas of amusement parks;
- Indoor areas of fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals;
- Indoor tour and guide services;
- Boat tours;
- Indoor areas of marinas and boating clubs;
- Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities;
- Open house events provided by real estate agencies;
- Indoor areas of photography studios and services and;
- Indoor recreational amenities
- Indoor places of worship

Public health measures such as screening, masking and contact tracing remain in effect even when opting-in

Day-to-Day opt-in option

When opting-in members of the public are **not** required to maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from others in the business/facility

When opting-in, proof of vaccination signs **must be** posted

Provincial Plan for Reopening Safely

Proposed rather than fixed plan – based on monitoring of key public health and health care indicators

The following data will be used to monitor COVID-19:

- New ICU admissions and hospitalizations
- Effective reproduction number
- Test positivity
- Weekly cases incidence rates
- Vaccination coverage rates

Local indicators will also inform any decisions to apply additional measures to specific public health regions at the discretion of the local Medical Officer of Health

Provincial Plan for Reopening Safely

– [News Release](#)

A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term

September 22, 2021

- Begin to require proof of vaccination in higher-risk indoor settings

October 9, 2021

- Lift capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required

September 25, 2021

- Begin easing capacity limits in certain settings

October 22, 2021

- Enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and Verify Ontario app launched

October 25, 2021

Lift capacity limits where proof of vaccination is required in:

- restaurants and bars
- sports, recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms), physical fitness training and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments
- meeting and event spaces (indoor)

Permit certain settings to lift capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination, including, but not limited to:

- museums, galleries, etc.
- religious services, rites, or ceremonies
- tour and guide services
- personal care services, including barber shops, salons, body art

March 28, 2022 (and onwards)

- All remaining public health and workplace safety measures in businesses and organizations lifted, including masking
- Revoke public health Emergency Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act*
- Recommendations on where masking could be maintained (such as transit)

Fall 2021

Winter 2021-2022

Spring 2022

November 15, 2021

Lift capacity limits in other high-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as, night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

In the absence of concerning trends, begin to lift vaccine certificate requirements, starting with the lowest risk settings, as follows:

January 17, 2022

- restaurants and bars
- sports and recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms) and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, etc.

February 7, 2022

- night clubs
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

March 28, 2022

- meeting and event spaces
- sporting events
- concerts, theatres and cinemas
- racing venues
- commercial and film productions with studio audiences

Also begin to lift CMOH directives and capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required.

Monitoring COVID-19

- As the province safely reopens, the government will monitor trends in COVID-19 provincial and local public health and health system indicators, including:
 - new ICU admissions and hospitalizations
 - test positivity
 - effective reproduction number
 - weekly cases incidence rates
 - vaccination coverage rates
- It will be particularly important to monitor trends in indicators over the winter holidays and as students return to schools in January

Managing COVID-19 for the long term

- As the province manages COVID-19 for the long term, responses will be localized and tailored based on local context and conditions
- Local indicators will also inform any decision to apply additional measures to specific public health regions at the discretion of the local medical officer of health

Key principles:

- ongoing monitoring and testing
- infrastructure in place to manage outbreaks
- targeted, localized measures based on local context and conditions
- minimize disruption to business and individuals

Sample measures that may be implemented locally or regionally could include:

- reintroduce capacity limits and/or physical distancing requirements (percent and/or hard caps)
- add settings where proof of vaccination is required
- reduce gathering limits
- apply public health and workplace safety measures in specific settings where transmission is occurring
- recommend or require work from home, where possible

Local Directions/Recommendations

- Updated **workplace vaccination letter** issued by our MOH (October 7th, 2021), recommending establishing COVID-19 Workplace Vaccination Policies:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-and-workplaces>



Hamilton

THANK YOU



Additional Questions

Visit the City of Hamilton's COVID-19 website at [Hamilton.ca/coronavirus](https://hamilton.ca/coronavirus)

Visit the Concierge Workwise website at <https://hamiltoncovidconcierge.ca/workwise/>

Contact us with your questions at (905) 974-9848 or phscovid19@Hamilton.ca

