



## **TOWNSHIP OF WHITE RIVER MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

### **PLEASE READ THE NOTICE BELOW**

In the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care indicators, Ontario will follow a cautious and phased approach to lifting public health measures, with 21 days between each step.

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2022 AT 12:01 A.M.** Ontario will begin the process of gradually easing restrictions, while maintaining protective measures, including but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Increasing or maintaining capacity limits at 50 per cent in indoor public settings, including, but not limited to:
  - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities;
  - Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies)
  - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms;
  - Meeting and event spaces;
  - Recreational amenities;
  - Religious services, rites, or ceremonies.

Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements would continue to apply in existing settings.

**EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2022**, Ontario will lift public health measures, including:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Removing capacity limits in indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to restaurants, indoor sports and recreational facilities, cinemas, as well as other settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Limiting capacity in most remaining indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is not required to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance.
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies limited to the number that can maintain two metres of physical distance, with no limit if proof of vaccination is required.
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing.

Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements would continue to apply in existing settings.

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2022**, Ontario will take additional steps to ease public health measures, including:

- Lifting capacity limits in all indoor public settings. Proof of vaccination will be maintained in existing settings in addition to other regular measures.
- Lifting remaining capacity limits on religious services, rites, or ceremonies.
- Increase social gathering limits to 50 people indoors with no limits for outdoor gatherings.

To manage COVID-19 over the long-term, local and regional responses by public health units may be deployed based on local context and conditions.

For more information visit <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001451/ontario-outlines-steps-to-cautiously-and-gradually-ease-public-health-measures> or <https://www.algomapublichealth.com/disease-and-illness/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus/>



In-line with the Province, the Township of White River Municipal Office and Service Ontario Kiosk will **NOT** be reopening until **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**. The Staff of the Township of White River will continue to work and can be reached by telephone at (807) 822-2450 during regular business hours and appointments can be made for essential reasons. The White River Community Centre will also **remain closed** with a tentative re-opening date of **January 31, 2022**.

### **ACTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR HOUSEHOLD, AND YOUR WORKPLACE**

1. Anyone who is sick, even with mild symptoms, must stay home and isolate away from others - regardless of whether you have received the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Take the COVID-19 self-assessment every day before work and complete the school screening tool before school or child care. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, isolate.
  - Household members who are not fully immunized must also stay home until the symptomatic person's test results are available.
  - Isolation means you must stay home and not go to work or school. Do not gather, visit, or have visitors or playdates while you are isolating.
2. Cut back on unnecessary activities where you have unmasked, face-to-face close contact with people you don't live with. Do this even if you are fully immunized, and especially if you have vulnerable health conditions or are not fully immunized.
3. Get your COVID-19 vaccine
  - Protect your workplace by putting a workplace vaccine policy in place. Use APH's COVID-19 vaccine policy toolkit for workplaces to learn more.
  - If you have questions or want to talk to someone about the COVID-19 vaccine, you may contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre – 1-833-943-3900

### **WHERE TO GET COVID-19 TESTING IN ALGOMA**

- Symptomatic testing will be available for high-risk individuals, and individuals who work in high-risk settings.
- Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are presumed positive and they should follow isolation and/or self-monitoring guidelines.
- Testing for asymptomatic contacts of cases is generally no longer recommended, except for high-risk contacts/individuals that are part of confirmed or suspected outbreaks in high-risk settings, as recommended by public health.
- Positive rapid antigen tests will no longer require PCR confirmation.

Based on the latest scientific evidence, individuals with COVID-19 should isolate for five days if they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 12, and if their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours.

**Thank you for your understanding and participation in working to limit the spread of COVID-19.**