

City adopts latest restrictions to combat COVID-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2021

Welland, ON – As of 12:01 a.m., December 19, new restrictions in the province of Ontario took effect, impacting indoor and outdoor public settings.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is applying additional public health and workplace safety measures, including capacity and social gathering limits, to curb transmission and safeguard Ontario's hospitals and ICU capacity.

"As always, the City is ready to modify its approach with the changing rules and regulations brought forth by the provincial government," said Steve Zorbas, chief administrative officer. "In particular, our community services team has been exceptional in adapting its programs and services to the public, making sure they are aware of what is happening and how these changes affect their activities."

City facilities remain open to the public, including City Hall, the Welland Community Wellness Complex (WCWC), arenas, and libraries. In all facilities, excluding City Hall, the following restrictions are in place:

- 50% facility capacity
- No food or drinks
- Indoor social gathering limit reduced to 10
- Outdoor social gathering limit reduced to 25

Another significant change is, as of December 20, proof of vaccination is required for anyone 12 years of age and older participating in organized sports at recreational facilities. The only accepted proof of vaccination at City of Welland recreation facilities is the QR code version (print or digital).

To ease the transition, City staff have contacted all user groups to its facilities, and occupancy signage is visible at all entrance points. All patrons are reminded to exercise kindness and patience with City staff during visits to facilities, as they are complying with the provincial mandates.

Since reopening facilities in the fall, the City relies on its [award-winning reopening document](#) to guide its operations. Welcome Back Welland outlines the City's safety plan, building modifications, and overall commitment to health and safety during the pandemic.

Individuals aged 18 and over are eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment. Appointments are booked three months (84 days) after a second dose as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals.

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