

City reduces onsite capacity to 50 per cent for employees in January

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2021

Welland, ON – Beginning January 3, 2022, city staff whose positions allow them to work remotely will do so until the end of the month; all City facilities will remain open and there will be no staff reductions.

Working on a reduced access system, all City facilities, where permitted, will reduce to no more than 50 per cent capacity. The City's Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) – making the decision earlier this week – will review this protocol near the end of January to determine the next steps.

"As has always been the case, the health and safety of our employees, and by extension those visiting our facilities, is our number one priority," said Steve Zorbas, chief administrative officer. "The decision to reduce access to 50 per cent in the new year is our responsibility to the commitment to safety we've made for our staff. We will still provide the same service levels as before, but some staff will be doing it from home."

Given the current state of the pandemic and the prevalence of the new Omicron variant, taking measures to limit the potential exposure of staff was a unanimous decision by MECG.

Despite reduced staff numbers in the building, the public can still expect the same level of excellent customer service. City Hall, the Welland Community Wellness Complex, and arenas remain open and staffed to serve the public.

Protocols such as proof of vaccination with the QR code document remain in effect at recreational facilities. Residents are reminded to print their QR code proof of vaccination or have it ready on their mobile device for staff to scan. This measure, mandatory by the City currently, will be province-wide compulsory on January 4. Residents are also reminded that staff comply with provincial regulations and that patience and kindness will assist with smoother check-ins.

The City's MECG will review the reduced access protocol near the end of January and decide whether to extend or lift the protocol.

City Hall will close for the holidays from December 24, 2021, to January 3, 2022. A full list of holiday closures and hours can be found [here](#).

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