

Friday, April 16, 2021
MEDIA RELEASE



CITY OF WELLAND CALLS FOR INCREASED VACCINE SUPPLY

Welland, ON – Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Welland, Mayor Frank Campion, Interim CAO, Steve Zorbas, and Fire Chief, Adam Eckhart, dispatched a letter to Premier Doug Ford and provincial representatives requesting that Niagara receive an increase in the supply of vaccinations to help control the spread of infection.

Record numbers of positive and active cases in Welland supported the request to have Welland and the Niagara Region declared a hotspot.

A copy of the letter is attached.

For further information on vaccination clinics, please visit [COVID-19 Vaccination - Niagara Region, Ontario](#).

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April 16, 2021

Premier Doug Ford

Legislative Building
1 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
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Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing today to express our gratitude to the provincial government for its efforts to support the COVID-19 vaccination program. Designated vaccination sites and select pharmacies within the Niagara Region have enabled many residents to receive their first dose of the vaccine.

The Niagara Health System recently reported a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases including the transmission of variant strains and those that require treatment in ICU. Several outbreaks in schools have occurred and many teachers, educational assistants, and students have tested positive which has spread to their family members. Welland is experiencing an increasing infection rate which has resulted in the highest case count per capita in the Niagara Region Public Health Unit.

The Niagara Region experiences a high volume of travellers coming from outside our region as many arrive to take in our sights and outdoor amenities. This, in addition to our close proximity to the United States border, where essential travel is permitted, has resulted in an influx of people to our region.

With this in mind, we respectfully and urgently request your support in providing additional shipments of vaccines to help control the spread of infection and protect our community.

Please also seriously consider designating Welland and the Niagara Region as a hotspot in order to stop the spread amongst our younger population so that they, in turn, will not spread the virus throughout the population.

Sincerely,



Frank Campion
Mayor



Steve Zorbas
Interim CAO/
Director Corporate Services/
CFO



Adam Eckhart,
Fire Chief and Community
Emergency Management
Coordinator

c.c. Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West
Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens, MPP St. Catharines
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre
Jim Bradley, Niagara Regional Chair