

## OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [Protected Code Blue procedures](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates and clinic information on GRH website](#)
- [Free or discounted goods/services for health care workers](#)

## KEY CONTACTS

- All staff questions—contact your immediate manager
- Physician inquiries—contact the Chief of Staff office
- Union inquiries—ext. 2184
- COVID-19 Employee Health—ext. 1919 or [covid.travel@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covid.travel@grhosp.on.ca)
- COVID-19 Testing for staff: 226-806-5690 option 4
- Employee & Family Assistance Program: 1-800-663-1142
- Here 24/7: 519-821-3582 or 1-844-437-3247
- Staff Support Chats: 226-750-0953 (text or call) or [staff.support@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:staff.support@grhosp.on.ca)

All COVID-19 Updates and messages are meant for internal audiences only. Please do not share outside the organization.

# COVID-19 Update

## Thursday, October 14

**We currently have fewer than five admitted patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. There are currently no COVID-19 positive patients in ICU. (October 14 @ 13:30). We have received requests to provide information regarding the number of staff and physicians that have tested positive for COVID-19. We'll provide this information on a weekly basis. There have been 202 positive staff and physician cases since the start of pandemic, with 7 people off work due to a positive test. (October 14 @ 6:00)**

HUMAN RESOURCES

COVID-19 VACCINE

**Mandatory Vaccination Policy:** [Read the full notice of policy here.](#) **Effective October 12, 2021:** GRH is permitting team members with proof of one (1) dose of the COVID-19 vaccination on file with Occupational Health and Safety as of October 12th to continue working where they comply with all requirements listed below. [Read the full update here.](#) Team members will have until November 9, 2021 to submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination to [covid@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covid@grhosp.on.ca). Team members with proof of one dose must comply with all of the following requirements:

- Submitted proof of first dose of vaccine to [covid@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covid@grhosp.on.ca) no later than October 12, 2021
- [Submitted the attestation](#) to [covid@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covid@grhosp.on.ca) no later than October 12, 2021, advising that you have a scheduled appointment for your second vaccination dose, including the date of the appointment, which must be prior to November 9, 2021
- Confirmed in the attestation that you are committing to receiving the scheduled vaccination dose
- Consistently provide proof of negative antigen tests twice-weekly (on Tuesdays and Fridays) to [covidtesting@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covidtesting@grhosp.on.ca)

**Care Partners and Vaccines:** We are preparing to share with you a policy for how we will manage care partner access and their vaccine status, in light of the launch of the provincial vaccine passport on September 22. More details will be shared soon.

HUMAN RESOURCES

LAB AND TESTING

### Reminder for COVID-19 Rapid Testing:

Employees, staff, contractors and students who are not fully vaccinated or have not surpassed 14 days beyond the date they received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination must self-test at home twice per week. [Read the full reminder](#) for information on where to pick up kits and how to self test.

- Tests will be required biweekly – every Tuesday and Friday.
- You will submit your proof of negative test to [covidtesting@grhosp.on.ca](mailto:covidtesting@grhosp.on.ca).
- Your email must include in the subject line your first and last name, department, and employee number, and must include an attached photo of: 1. Your negative test, and, 2. A piece of paper with your name and the date.
- Reminder: Please continue to [complete your e-screening](#) each day, regardless of vaccination status.

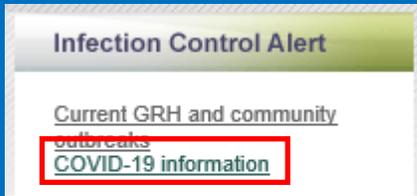
HUMAN RESOURCES

PPE AND SUPPLIES

**Universal Masking Policy for Patients and Visitors:** Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and Occupational Health and Safety have formulated a policy on universal masking for patients and visitors. The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance on the application of medical mask use at GRH for patients and visitors. This policy has been developed to ensure the safety of patients, care partners, visitors, staff and other team members. [Read the full policy here.](#)

GRH FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

**Freeport Campus Door Hours:** There has been a change in hours to enter through the main doors of the Freeport Campus. The main doors are now open daily from 730-2000. Outside of these hours, staff will need to enter using their prox cards.



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# COVID-19 Update

## Thursday, October 14

**Virtual Vaccine Panel Recording and FAQ:** Missed the Virtual Vaccine Education Panel? [Click here to watch the recording!](#) GRH worked with SMGH to organize a panel of physicians to acknowledge concerns surrounding vaccine efficacy and answer staff questions! The FAQ document has now been posted. [Click here to read it in full!](#) The questions answered within the FAQ include:

- Q: I am pregnant/planning to get pregnant and feel like getting the vaccine could put me or my baby at risk. I don't feel it's safe to get the vaccine until my second trimester. Is it safe to have the vaccine while I am breast feeding? Why are women seeing changes in their monthly menstrual cycles after the vaccine?
- Q: My general health is pretty poor. I'm afraid about the potential side effects of the vaccine?
- Q: I feel like there is insufficient long term data regarding vaccine side effects. Is this true?
- Q: Are vaccinated individuals less likely to transmit COVID? What is the transmission rate difference between vaccinated and unvaccinated?
- Q: I am a recent transplant recipient, is the vaccine safe for me, or other medically complicated individuals?
- Q: Will I need a third dose? When will I get it?
- Q: Do I need a vaccine if I've already contracted COVID-19?
- Q: Why isn't PPE sufficient to managing COVID-19?
- Q: If someone is allergic to one or more of the vaccine components, can she/he still be vaccinated? What would keep me from getting the vaccine?
- Q: Are there aborted fetus cells in the vaccine?
- Q: I had Chicken pox previously and then didn't have to get the Varicella vaccine. Why is this different?
- Q: Any information you can share regarding myocarditis risk as we move to immunizing the 5-12 group to provide reassurance to get the kiddos vaccinated when available?
- Q: I have a question for a young male family member who received Moderna as a first dose and is struggling to decide on second dose brand. Pfizer is being recommended because of the recent alert but he is hesitant due to the ongoing restrictions surrounding mixed vaccines.
- Q: I am fully vaccinated but acquired Covid after my first vaccine. Would you recommend a booster when and if one becomes available to the general public?
- Q: In order to make a fully informed decision to be fully vaccinated, what are the long-term effects of the vaccine?

**Waterloo Region News:** Effective October 18, patrons accessing non-essential Region of Waterloo services will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination along with identification. Proof can be provided by using a Ministry of Health vaccine receipt or the provincial proof of vaccination system. [Read the full notice here.](#)

**Ontario News:** In keeping with the government's cautious approach, effective October 9, 2021, capacity limits have been lifted to allow 100% capacity in select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required, as well as certain outdoor settings that have a capacity below 20,000. [Read the full news release here.](#)

**Ontario and local numbers:** October 14 brought 417 new cases, bringing the Ontario total to 593,437 (updated October 14, 10:30 am—[source](#)). Waterloo Region reported 14 new cases, for a total of 111 currently active cases. (updated October 14, 1:30pm—[source](#)). Waterloo Region has administered 881,296 vaccine doses. 435,053 WR residents 12+ are fully vaccinated— 85.79% of the population. (updated October 14, 1:30pm—[source](#))