

## 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 21

**We currently have fewer than five admitted patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 (October 21 @ 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 204 positive staff and physician cases since the start of pandemic, with 6 people off work due to a positive test. (October 21 @ 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 Partner Vaccination Guidance:** Starting Tuesday, November 9, 2021 care partners arriving to visit with, or accompany a patient will be asked to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, along with government issued identification. There will be few exceptions to this guidance. [Click here to read the recently updated media release](#) regarding the upcoming changes to our Care Partner guidance and [click here to read the FAQ:](#)

- **Friday, October 22:** To provide sufficient notice, screeners at hospital entrances will begin asking care partners to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination and government-issued ID. However, no approved care partners will be turned away from visiting at this time.
- **Tuesday, November 9:** Care partners will be asked to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination as well as government issued ID to accompany or visit a patient. There will be few exceptions to this new process.
  - Care partners that are fully vaccinated will be able to proceed to their visit or accompany their loved one.
  - Care partners that are not fully vaccinated but have been approved as an exception will be permitted to visit and escorted to their visit appointment by a hospital staff member. Exceptions will be determined on a case by case basis.

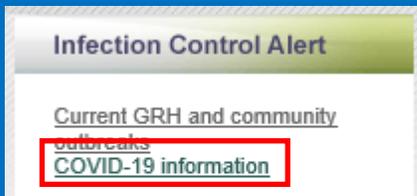
HUMAN RESOURCES

LAB AND TESTING

### Reminder for COVID-19 Rapid Testing:

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.



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HUMAN RESOURCES

COVID-19 VACCINE

**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! You might find this information helpful in your discussions with patients, friends, and families. The FAQ document has now been posted. [Click here to read it in full!](#) The questions answered within the FAQ include:

- Q: Do I need a vaccine if I've already contracted COVID-19?
- Q: Why isn't PPE sufficient to managing COVID-19?
- Q: I am fully vaccinated but acquired COVID-19 after my first vaccine. Would you recommend a booster when and if one becomes available to the general public?

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.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL UPDATE

**Waterloo Region News:** Effective October 18, patrons accessing non-essential Region of Waterloo services are 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:** Enhanced vaccine certificates can now be downloaded. The enhanced vaccine certificate is an easier and more convenient way to provide your proof of vaccination. Each enhanced vaccine certificate contains a SMART Health Card QR code that businesses can easily scan at the door. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Ontario and local numbers:** October 21 brought 413 new cases, bringing the Ontario total to 596,280 (updated October 21, 10:30 am—[source](#)). Waterloo Region reported 9 new cases, for a total of 98 currently active cases. (updated October 21, 1:30pm—[source](#)). Waterloo Region has administered 887,758 vaccine doses. 439,465 WR residents 12+ are fully vaccinated— 86.66% of the population. (updated October 21, 1:30pm—[source](#))