

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
- 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

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

COVID-19 Update

Thursday, October 28

We currently have 7 admitted patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 (October 28 @ 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 4 people off work due to a positive test. (October 27 @ 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. 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 no later than October 12, 2021
- [Submitted the attestation](#) to 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 committed to receiving the scheduled vaccination dose
- Consistently provide proof of negative antigen tests twice-weekly (on Tuesdays and Fridays) to covidtesting@grhosp.on.ca

Care Partner 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 have begun 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.

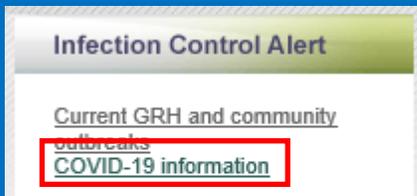
HUMAN RESOURCES

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.
- 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: I am a recent transplant recipient, is the vaccine safe for me, or other medically complicated individuals?
- 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?

HUMAN RESOURCES

COVID-19 and Take Our Kids to Work Day: Historically, Take Our Kids to Work Day has been an in-person event where grade 9 students are shown what it is like to work at GRH. While we would like to get back to hosting an in-person event it is just not possible this year. Instead, we are recommending participation in The Learning Partnership's Virtual Take Our Kids to Work Day. This year's National Take Our Kids to Work Day is on Wednesday, November 3, 2021.

The Learning Partnership prepares students to thrive in a diverse, connected and changing world. Their programs build the essential skills and competencies needed in tomorrow's leaders, innovators and problem solvers. On November 3rd the program will offer the following education sessions for students:

- A 20 minute keynote Learning Partnership Video – You Belong Here, and
- Multiple virtually hosted breakout sessions including:
 - Diversity in the skilled trades sponsored by Toronto Hydro
 - Le boum créatif à venir, présentée par RBC
 - Pathways to entrepreneurship
 - The coming creativity boom presented by RBC
 - Careers in tech sponsored by IBM
 - Unsung heroes in science sponsored by Johnson & Johnson

If you have a grade 9 child interested in participating, please [use this link to register](#). Please email jessica.ivo@grhosp.on.ca if you have any questions.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL UPDATE

Ontario News: The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, released [A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#), which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022.

Ontario and local numbers: October 28 brought 409 new cases, bringing the Ontario total to 598,840 (updated October 28, 10:30 am—[source](#)). Waterloo Region reported 20 new cases, for a total of 107 currently active cases. (updated October 28, 1:30pm—[source](#)). Waterloo Region has administered 893,423 vaccine doses. 443,105 WR residents 12+ are fully vaccinated— 87.38% of the population. (updated October 28, 1:30pm—[source](#))