

August 31, 2021 Update

SUBJECT: COVID-19 update: Fall-winter planning, revised guidance, and more



Vaccination rate status and improvements in key public health and health care indicators continue to guide the cautious reopening of the province, which is currently paused in Step 3 of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#).

Considerations for Ontario fall and winter 2021

Public Health Ontario (PHO) is working with the Ontario Ministry of Health, the provincial testing network for COVID-19 and other lab, research and health-care partners to test for and monitor COVID-19 variants of concern (VOCs) in Ontario. [Consideration for Ontario Fall and Winter 2021 COVID-19 Planning](#) has just been released. This evidence brief summarizes literature on the Delta variant and VOCs in general, and experiences from other jurisdictions to inform a discussion of potential scenarios and their public health risks going into fall 2021 and the next stage of the pandemic in Ontario.

Updated PHO guidance

PHO has released revised *Interim Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern for Health Care Settings* (August 2021). You can access the document [here](#).

COVID-19 cases and deaths in health-care workers in Canada

The Canadian Institute for Health Information has released an infographic of COVID-19 cases and death in health-care workers in Canada. View infographic and full report [here](#).

Refer to the ongoing updates on the ODHA [COVID-19 update page](#) to stay informed.