



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 17, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City urges residents to get vaccinated, limit gatherings to slow spread of Omicron variant

(Barrie, ON) Effective Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., certain businesses and facilities will be reduced to 50 per cent capacity. As well, private social gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors as per the direction from the Provincial Government. The City is asking the community to adhere to these restrictions that were announced today by the Province.

The following settings will be impacted by the 50 per cent capacity restriction:

- Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments and strip clubs
- Personal care services
- Personal physical fitness trainers
- Retailers (including grocery stores, pharmacies and malls)
- Non-spectator areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g. gyms)
- Indoor recreational amenities
- Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities
- Tour and guide services
- Photography studios and services
- Marinas and boating clubs

These limits do not apply to any portion of a business or place that is being used for a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite, or ceremony. Businesses or facilities will also need to post a sign stating the capacity limits that are permitted in the establishment.

The following additional protective measures are also being applied:

- The number of patrons permitted to sit at a table will be limited to 10 people and patrons will be required to remain seated.
- Bars and restaurants, meeting and event spaces and strip clubs will be required to close by 11 p.m. Take-out and delivery will be permitted beyond 11 p.m.
- Food and/or drink services will be prohibited at sporting events; concert venues, theatres and cinemas; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues.
- The sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m. and consumption of alcohol in businesses or settings after 11 p.m.

The full list of restrictions can be reviewed on the [Provincial Government's website](#).

The following changes are being made at the City of Barrie's recreation facilities, effective December 19:

- You must pre-register for all activities. Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes prior to your activity start time.
- Due to capacity limitations, please come to your program dressed and ready to participate.
- Change rooms will be limited to 10 people, and available only after participating in a program.
- Recreation staff are in the process of contacting registrants if programs are full to reduce the registration to 50 per cent capacity. Staff will be in touch with program registrants for activities that start soon, please be patient.

Visit barrie.ca/RecUpdates for detailed, up-to-date information.



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Starting Monday, December 20, 2021, individuals aged 18 and over are eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the [Ontario's booking portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [participating pharmacies](#) and primary care settings. Appointments can be booked three months (84 days) after a second dose as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals. Additionally, pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for 18 and over at the three-month interval starting Friday, December 17, 2021 for walk-ins.

All other individuals who have not yet received a first or second dose of vaccine are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

To provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19 and variants including Omicron, the province has launched a holiday testing blitz to offer rapid antigen tests to individuals free of charge at pop-up sites across the province, as well as at select LCBO stores across Ontario. This initiative is part of the government's [enhanced COVID-19 testing strategy](#) to mitigate the increased risk of transmission over the holiday season.

For more information, visit barrie.ca/COVID19.

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