

Omicron VOC and End-of-Year Planning for PSE Institutions

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B.1.1.529 (Omicron) Variant of Concern

- On November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization designated **B.1.1.529 (Omicron)** as a Variant of Concern
- Omicron VOC has been found across the world, including in the City of Toronto
- Early data suggests that the Omicron variant of concern **may be more transmissible** - further study ongoing
- Severity of disease and impact on vaccine effectiveness are unknown

Enhanced Measures at Border

- Travellers from countries identified as **high-risk** due to Omicron are subject to enhanced protective measures
- Foreign nationals who have been in any of these countries within the previous 14 days are **not permitted to enter Canada**
- The requirements for entry are changing often – look to the federal government's website for the most up to date information



Enhanced Measures at Border Cont'd

- There are additional testing requirements for Canadian citizens, permanent residents, people with status under the Indian Act who have travelled to high risk countries:
 - pre-entry testing (*within 72 hours of departure*)
 - arrival testing (*e.g. on arrival and on day 8*)
 - screening and quarantine (*14 days*)
- Applies **regardless of vaccination status**, or history of previously testing positive for COVID-19



Enhanced Measures at Border Cont'd

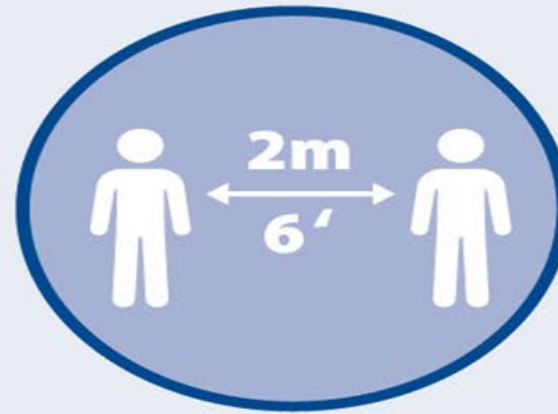
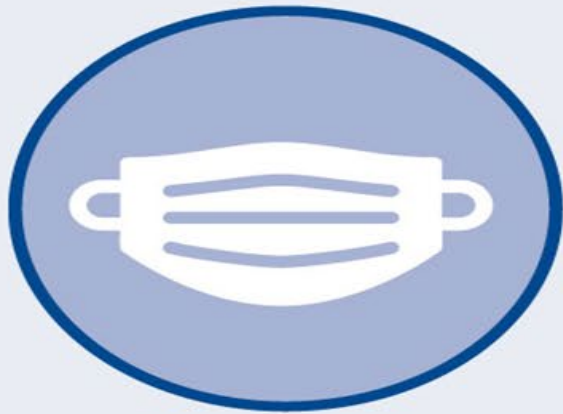
- All other fully vaccinated travellers will be required to have a pre-departure test, arrival PCR test and must quarantine until negative test result
 - applies to travellers from **all countries**, except those arriving from the United States
- As of November 30, all travellers coming into Canada are required to be vaccinated. **COVID-19 molecular tests are no longer accepted as an alternative** to vaccination unless travellers are eligible for one of the limited exemptions



Be aware that travel restrictions are changing frequently and requirements for entry or re-entry to Canada may change while one is out of country

- For international students and staff, entry into Canada may not be permissible based on country of origin
- See information from the [Federal Government](#) for the most current requirements

Ongoing Protection Measures



Infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures:

- Use of face masks and coverings
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing
- Respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Ventilation











Daily Screening and Testing

- **Active screening** of everyone entering your facilities at the point on entry, with **emphasis on recent travel history** and countries deemed high-risk by the Government of Canada
- City of Toronto's [COVID-19: Symptoms, Illness, Exposure & Testing](#) webpage provides comprehensive information on what to do if symptomatic, if a close contact, how to get tested and more

STOP COVID-19 Staff Screening Questionnaire
All staff must complete before beginning their work shift or entering the workplace.
Updated July 26, 2021

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Fever or chills	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Cough	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Trouble breathing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Sore throat or trouble swallowing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Runny or stuffy nose
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Decrease or loss of taste or smell	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Pink eye	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Headache	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	 Very tired, sore muscles or joints

If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms, select "No," unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse.
*If mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, select "No" and wear a medical mask when at work. If symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, select "Yes."
If "YES" to any symptoms: Stay home & self-isolate + get tested or contact a health care provider

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms and/or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? Yes
No
• If you are fully vaccinated*, select "No."
• If the household member's mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occurred within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, select "No". If their symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, select "Yes."


3. Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes
No
• If you are fully vaccinated* and have not been advised to self-isolate by public health, select "No."

4. In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit? Yes
No
• If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select "No."

5. In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements? Yes
No

If "YES" to questions 2, 3, 4 or 5: Stay home + follow Toronto Public Health advice
Operators must keep a record of attendance + contact information for all workers for 30 days and then shred.

Developed in accordance with recommendations and instructions issued by the [Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)
*Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual ≥14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19 

Physical Distancing

- TPH **strongly recommends** physical distancing as much as possible, regardless of location, to reduce risk
- Wherever possible, large gatherings of students should be eliminated, rescheduled, or changed to be smaller and held at greater distance



The Ministry of Health released [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#):

- Enhanced Management of High-Risk Contacts of Omicron Cases or PUIs
- Low threshold for assessing an exposure as high risk
- Require **isolation for all high-risk contacts** regardless of vaccination status or previously positive status



- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 on campus or in the surrounding community must isolate *in place*
- Anyone providing housing should have a plan in place to accommodate isolation



Vaccination is the best way to protect against severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19 infection.



- Encourage students, faculty and staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccine and 3rd booster dose if eligible
- Post signs and share [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#)
- Individuals looking to get immunized can visit the City of Toronto [COVID-19: How to Get Vaccinated](#) website for more information
- Institutions seeking to partner with TPH for onsite COVID-19 vaccination clinics in their student residences and on-campus are invited to complete the [Mobile Clinic Request Intake Form](#)

Supporting Safe Return to Campus

PSE institutions can support students arriving from abroad for the Winter term:

- Inform students of enhanced control measures for travellers
- Support and establish **14 day quarantine plan** as per Designated Learning Institution's COVID-19 readiness plan
- Engage with Toronto Public Health to promote vaccination and to establish vaccination clinics on campus



You Are Not Alone

You are not alone. Support is available.

Call 211 if you are having a hard time. Through 211 anyone be connected to free mental health supports, including including kids, seniors, racialized, Indigenous, Black and LGBTQ2S communities.

Language interpretation is available if you don't speak English.



These are stressful times.

Reach out for help to find
mental health support.

**Call 211, 24 hours a day,
7 days a week.**

Have Questions?

Call Toronto Public Health
416-338-7600

8:30 am to 4:30 pm / Monday to Sunday

Interpreter service is available in many languages.

TTY 416-392-0658

Visit toronto.ca/COVID19 for more information on **COVID-19 & vaccines.**

Questions

