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Lambton County Workplaces and Municipalities:

Re: Provincial Measures to Respond to Omicron

In light of the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases across the province and locally, the following mandatory measures, [introduced recently by the province](#) in addition the continued measures required are highlighted below. The importance of businesses and workplaces implementing these new and continued measures cannot be stressed enough. Everything you can do as a business owner will assist in reducing spread within our community and subsequent overloading of our healthcare system.

Capacity Limits:

Ontario is introducing a 50 per cent capacity limit in the select indoor settings. See the [recent Provincial news release](#) for a list of businesses that apply. Specific details can be found in the updated [O. Reg. 364/20](#). Letters have been sent out to applicable sectors on our distribution lists.

Enhancing Proof of Vaccination Requirements

Proof of Vaccination requirement **remains in effect** for an undetermined time for applicable venues. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is mandatory by Provincial law under the [Reopening Ontario Act \(ROA\) 364/20](#) that these businesses continue to implement the [Proof of Vaccination requirement](#) at point of entry into their facility.

The provincial government has announced that **effective January 4, 2022, Ontario will begin requiring the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app** in the settings where proof of vaccination is required. This includes those individuals with an eligible medical exemption or who are participating in an active, [Health Canada Approved COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial](#). (p. 10). These individuals are required to obtain an enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code, by January 4th.

NOTE: The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy.

Additional Workplace Guidance:

Rapid Antigen Testing for Workplaces

Eligible workplaces and organizations may be able to [access free rapid tests for screening purposes from the province](#). While routine rapid antigen testing of employees serves as an effective screening tool for detecting COVID-19, it is **not to be used on symptomatic**

individuals or those that are considered close contacts of positive cases. Please refer to [provincial guidance](#) for further information, including what to do if an individual has a positive test.

Active Screening of Employees

[Active screening](#) **MUST be conducted actively every day before employees enter the workplace.** Using this [Ministry of Health Employee Screening Tool](#) will ensure that your screening process is current, as the Omicron variant is changing the COVID response approach rapidly. Employees CANNOT attend work if they are experiencing **any COVID-19 symptom(s)**. If an employee has symptoms, they must isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible at a [local testing centre](#). As stated in the provincial screening tool, anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in the screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed. Please refer to the [Workplace: Employee Symptom Flowchart](#) for further information.

Work Remotely

The provincial government is strongly recommending employees work remotely where possible.

Continued Measures

Indoor mask wearing is required:

- All indoor public spaces
- In employee only areas if employees are unable to maintain 2 metres/6 ft. distance from each other at all times

Promote Vaccinations

Encourage all employees to [get vaccinated](#), including third doses, to protect themselves, their families and fellow employees.

Please connect with Lambton Public Health if you have workplace questions by emailing us or calling the Covid information line at 519-383-8331 ext. 3682.

Sincerely,

Workplace and Municipal COVID-19 Liaison Team

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