

Public Service Announcement

Friday, April 23, 2021

COVID-19 update from Niagara Health

Niagara Health continues to face significant pressures in the hospital. Today we are caring for 83 patients with COVID-19, an increase of 10 from yesterday. Of these patients, 22 are in Intensive Care.

Niagara Health Vaccination Clinic and Assessment Centre updates:

- This weekend, the Niagara Health Vaccination Clinic at Seymour Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre will be dedicated to vaccinating Niagara's migrant workers. Farms with migrant workers were prioritized in an effort to reduce the number outbreaks within this sector. A total of 3,050 workers from 152 farms are scheduled to be vaccinated on Saturday and Sunday. Translation services will be provided at the clinic to support this priority group.
- As of today, pregnant women can register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Dr. Johan Viljoen, Niagara Health Chief of Staff and former Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology, encourages people who are pregnant to speak with their healthcare provider to see if this is right for them. "We know the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at protecting against the virus, and in this third wave we are seeing more critically ill pregnant patients ending up in the hospital," he says. "Please protect yourself, your family and your community by getting vaccinated." Pregnant individuals living in Niagara can call the provincial call centre at 1-888-999-6488 to book their appointment.
- The hours of operation at our Niagara Falls and Welland COVID-19 Assessment Centres have been extended to 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Niagara Falls centre is open Monday to Sunday and the Welland centre operates Monday to Friday. The St. Catharines centre's drive-thru service continues to operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Sunday. The Assessment Centres are available by appointment only and are prioritizing testing for those most at risk for the virus. Appointments can be booked online [here](#) or by calling 905-378-4647 ext. 42819.

As we head into the weekend, we strongly urge the community to follow public health measures to minimize further increases in COVID-19 cases in our region and help us protect capacity for life-saving critical care and other services for COVID and non-COVID patients. This includes masking, physical distancing, handwashing, having contact with members of your household only, and getting vaccinated when you are able to do so.

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