



October 7, 2021

Halton Region Public Health  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

Dear Parents and Families of students attending school in Halton Region,

At Halton Region Public Health, we recognize the actions that each of you have taken to keep our schools and communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for doing your part. We have reached significant milestones in our COVID-19 vaccine rollout, with 87 per cent of residents 12 years and older having received one dose and 83 per cent of residents fully vaccinated.

This pandemic has brought us together as a community, has shown how resilient we can be in the face of adversity and has revealed how Halton continues to work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The virus is still present in our community and we must remain vigilant as we look forward to celebrating the many holidays, seasonal gatherings, festive occasions, and other events in the fall and winter months to help keep our community safe.

If you are planning fall or winter celebrations, please:

- stay home if you have any symptoms, even if they are mild;
- consider virtual gatherings or events as they are the safest way to celebrate, especially if people in the group are unvaccinated or if their vaccination status is unknown;
- do not exceed the gathering limit of 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors - the fewer people who gather, the lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission;
- use outdoor spaces whenever possible. When gathering outdoors with:
  - a group of fully vaccinated individuals, no face covering or physical distancing is necessary; and
  - people from multiple households who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or vaccination status is unknown, you should consider wearing a face covering if physical distancing cannot be maintained; and
- open windows if indoors. When gathering indoors with:
  - a group of fully vaccinated individuals, you may consider removing their face covering if everyone is comfortable; and
  - people from multiple households who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or status is unknown, you should wear a face covering and physically distance.

Regardless of the setting, remember to wash your hands, cover your cough or sneeze and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to help protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

Please visit [halton.ca/COVID19](https://halton.ca/COVID19) for the latest information on COVID-19 vaccines, cases and public health guidance.

Have a safe and happy fall season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hamidah Meghani".

Dr. Hamidah Meghani  
Medical Officer of Health

**Regional Municipality of Halton**

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