



Hello,

Currently the exact scope and magnitude of the Omicron variant is still materializing. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) states they don't yet know "how easily it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, or how well available vaccines and medications work against it".

The CDC expects that "***current vaccines will protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths*** due to infection with the Omicron variant, but breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur" and that is certainly what we have experienced in Alberta and across Canada.

In **Canada**, as of January 26, 2022 there has been **32,966 deaths** due to COVID-19. Of these reported deaths:

- 72.8% were unvaccinated
- 13.8% were vaccinated
- 6.7% cases not yet protected
- 6.7 partially vaccinated

In **Alberta**, as of January 25, 2022 there has been **3,483 deaths** due to COVID-19.

The Omicron variant is spread through direct contact- sharing the same space with another individual with no protective equipment (i.e. face mask and face shield). As well as, touching a contaminated surface and then touching your face without properly cleaning your hands. Finally, it is an airborne organism, which means infection spreads through droplets in the air.

In Alberta, as of January 25, 2022 there are:

- 51, 157 active cases\*
- 1377 hospitalized
- 111 in ICU

*\*Please keep in mind the number of active cases is only capturing those from PCR tests done in a laboratory, the number does not reflect positive results from home rapid tests or the entire population.*

Current PCR **positivity rate among those who are tested for COVID-19 in Alberta is 36.9%**.

At Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre, we have been implementing risk mitigating factors in the form of Infection Prevention Control (IPC) protocols to help guard against COVID-19 transmission.

Our COVID vaccination rates for residents is as follows:

- Total population on site-76 residents
- Total vaccinated including booster-73 residents
- Total to receive booster-2 residents (eligible in April 2022)
- Total to receive 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine-1 resident

We have been steadfast in our IPC protocols knowing this organism is very stealth at discovering new ways to permeate and survive, it does this by mutating. This latest mutation, Omicron has been a huge struggle to navigate and work through to ensure the residents are kept as safe as possible.

But make no mistake, it is a daily battle, at this junction *in particular* we cannot lose sight of the end goal, which is to navigate ECCC successfully through this latest pandemic challenge.

A number of family members have asked for clarity regarding visitation and what a 'week' constitutes. Please note the following:

- The definition of 1 visit a week is, up to **four members from the same household sharing the same space with a resident.** At all times, the face mask and face shield are to remain in place for all visitors.
- The definition of 1 week is Sunday through Saturday each week. Security will keep track of visitors.

Please note the above will only be in place for the duration of the outbreak on site. Currently our potential end date is February 18, 2022.

At ECCC, we currently have 1 resident who has tested positive. Thankfully the resident has had mild symptoms and is convalescing. To date we have had 13 staff test positive, 2 are still active, while 11 have recovered and are back to work.

Once again, our deepest gratitude to all the residents and their families who have supported our initiatives, without your support we would not have been as successful as we have been to date.

Kind regards,

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