

MEDIA RELEASE



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Omicron variant spreading in region

The Omicron variant is spreading across the region quickly. Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) warns that the newest variant is likely in all local communities, and notes that community transmission appears to be happening.

Case numbers in the region have increased significantly over the holidays. The NWHU region currently has 172 active cases of COVID-19 and NWHU urges the public to follow all public health restrictions and gathering limits. "The more people you gather with, the higher the likelihood is that you will be exposed to COVID-19. It is critical that as case numbers increase, everyone follows the restrictions in place to keep yourself and others safe," says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU.

Due to the surge in case numbers, public health officials are concerned that the demand on the health system will soon exceed capacity. "As case numbers increase, hospitalizations often do as well. The best way to protect yourself from getting sick and needing hospitalization is to get your booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine," says Dr. Young Hoon. Booster doses are available at local pharmacies, from health care providers, or at a NWHU clinic. For more information on booking an appointment at a NWHU clinic, visit: <https://www2.nwhu.on.ca/covid-19/booking-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment/>.

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