

This message has been approved by Tanya Rowell, CEO of the Public Service Commission

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Today, Premier Dennis King and our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, announced thirty-one (31) new cases of COVID-19 for a record high of seventy-five (75) active cases in Prince Edward Island. We must do all we can to slow down the spread of Omicron. Effective immediately, everyone is asked to reduce their number of close contacts by 50% to help reduce the risk of transmission. Dr. Morrison also announced the implementation of important adjustments to the [new temporary public health measures](#) announced earlier this week.

The following additional measures come into effect tomorrow morning, December 18, at 8 am for a three (3) week period (January 8, 2022):

- Personal gatherings are limited to ten (10) people plus household members. In order to decrease the number of contacts, it should be a steady ten (10) people, i.e. not a different ten (10) people each day.
- Strict physical distancing between people from different households is required in ALL organizations, events, venues, businesses and organized gatherings. Physical distancing is now a legal requirement in all venues up to a maximum of 50% capacity, in retail businesses, and vax pass events, including theatres, gyms, community gatherings, casinos etc. Public venues are responsible to put measures in place to remind patrons of the requirement to maintain physical distancing, including signage and floor markers and monitoring capacity limits to support distancing.
- Restaurants and eating establishments must maintain 6 feet between tables and continue to require proof of vaccine for patrons; masking is required by all patrons except when actively eating and drinking. The maximum table size in an eating establishment is ten (10) people.
- Visitors in long-term care and community care will be limited to three (3) partners in care plus three (3) designated visitors, with physical distancing. Facility operators will be asked to continue to screen visitors and ensure access to hand sanitization supplies and masks.
- All indoor sport and recreational activities are paused; this includes all organized sports, tournaments, competitions, games, team training and practices.
- There is to be no dancing at any event and karaoke is not permitted.
- Church services can proceed as planned during the Christmas season respecting masking, cohorting and physical distancing requirements.

What does this mean for Civil Service employees?

- Deputy Ministers and CEOs are working with their Directors and staff on any necessary operational amendments as a result of today's announcement. Departments and agencies are to communicate with their staff and clients as soon as possible to advise of any process or service amendments.
- Strict physical distancing between people from different households is required in ALL workplaces, events, venues, businesses and organized gatherings. Physical distancing is now a legal requirement in all venues up to a maximum of 50% capacity, in retail businesses, and vax pass events. Workplaces must ensure measures remain in place to maintain physical distancing and ensure monitoring of and adherence to same.
- Store front services (e.g. Access PEI, LCC Stores, Taxation Payments) will continue to provide services within the additional measures announced today, i.e. limited to 50% capacity.
- Departments and agencies should make every effort to facilitate any staff who can effectively work remotely to begin to do so effective December 20 until January 8, 2022. Managers are to touch base

with those staff and make the necessary arrangements. Safety protocols must be adhered to at all times, such as physical distancing and wearing masks etc.

- Where possible, meetings should be held virtually during this time.
- Those who need to be in the workplace must adhere to the new measures at all times.
- For everyone working at the workplace, limit unnecessary visits to other offices, shared spaces or public areas.

The following important public health measures remain in place in the Civil Service:

- [Get vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 if you are eligible.
- [Wear a mask](#) in indoor public places, see [Civil Service Mask Protocol](#).
- Practice physical distancing of 2m/6ft. at all times and wash your hands frequently.
- Stay home when you are sick or experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#). [Get tested](#) if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (even if the symptoms are mild).
- Report to your Manager immediately if you have symptoms or concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure or if Public Health has advised that you need to be [tested](#) and/or [self-isolate](#). Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 at work must immediately perform hand hygiene, report to their Manager, avoid contact with staff, leave as soon as it is safe to do so, and arrange to be tested. Managers should then consult with their HR Manager on next steps.
- Visitors coming into buildings are to be screened with the [Screening Script](#).
- [Travel](#): Work related out-of-province travel should be restricted to essential travel only.
- Stay informed by checking www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19 regularly for updates from the Chief Public Health Office.

If you have any questions, please contact your Director, Manager or HR Manager.

The safety of our employees and Islanders is our top priority, and we will continue to follow the guidance of our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, to make decisions. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Thank you