



COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members **December 23, 2021**

CDHA is Here to Help

Read our latest updates: www.cdha.ca/COVID19

Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

Due to the growing body of evidence that Omicron has a high rate of transmission, CDHA has asked the provincial dental hygiene regulatory bodies to consider erring on the side of caution and mandate the use of fit tested N95 masks when providing procedures that generate aerosols for the registered dental hygienists in their province.

There are so many uncertainties, limited and conflicting research regarding the virulence of Omicron, the potential of infections and reinfections in vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, and the effectiveness of current vaccines. Below are some resources we wanted to share with you ahead of the holiday season.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC's [science brief](#) on Omicron.

Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network

The network includes interdisciplinary researchers from across Canada with a goal to assist the federal government in its overall strategy to address potential threats from emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. We invite you to check their [website](#) regularly for any updates on SARS-CoV-2 and all variants of concern, including Omicron.

Government of Canada COVID-19 Daily Epidemiology Update

This [website](#) provides a summary of COVID-19 cases across Canada including results per variant of concern.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

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Hong Kong University Research on Omicron

The latest [findings](#) from a non-peer-reviewed publication suggest that Omicron multiplies 70X faster than Delta in the bronchial passageways with a less severe infection in the lungs.

Denmark Study on Omicron

A report dated December 13, 2021 from the Statens Serum Institute on the status of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant of concern shows that the number of reported cases are higher in populated areas, with the 20 to 29 age group, and prevalent in the vaccinated population. On a positive note, most of the Omicron cases do not require hospitalization. Read [more](#).

Preliminary data on Omicron and the benefits of mRNA Boosters

Data is growing that vaccines boosters enhance immunity protection against severe illness. Read [more](#).

Rapid Antigen Testing

- [Cochrane Review](#) on the diagnostic accuracy of rapid, point of care tests for diagnosis of COVID infections
- Diagnostics for COVID-19: Moving from pandemic response to control from [The Lancet](#)
- Health Canada [Interim guidance](#) on the use of rapid antigen detection tests for the identification of COVID infections
- [Access to free COVID-19 rapid tests](#) for workplace use
- [Ontario Science Table](#) on Rapid Antigen Tests

Preliminary Data on the Odds of Testing Positive Following Receipt of a mRNA Booster dose

This case-control study showed that a third dose of mRNA vaccine is associated with a lower risk of testing positive to SARS-CoV-2 infection and hospitalization. Read [more](#).



Government of Canada - Fiscal Update

In December, the federal government introduced a tax credit for small businesses for the improvement of air quality in their offices. See p. 5 of the 2021 [Fiscal Update](#) to see if your office qualifies for the tax credit.

Travel Guidelines

If you are planning to travel during the Holidays, please read the [News Release](#) dated December 17, from the Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos. Stay Safe!

Note: CDHA's office will be closed from December 24 to January 3, 2022, inclusive. We wish you all a happy, healthy, holiday season.

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*Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.*