



**For Immediate Release  
December 15, 2021**

## **Leeds, Grenville & District Health Unit seeks assistance of the Town**

The Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, has issued an urgent call-out to residents within the County. It is known that the Omicron variant is in this region.

The Kingston Health Sciences Centre is experiencing the highest number of pandemic cases since 2020 when COVID was first in our communities. Over the last 18 months, the health units in Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington, Leeds Grenville & Lanark and Hastings, Prince Edward have been in a fairly stable case count in comparison to other areas of Ontario. This has changed dramatically in the last month with numbers far exceeding the first and second wave. It is challenging the health care system at the Kingston Health Sciences Centre including patients in hospital at Kingston General and Hotel Dieu Hospitals.

“I realize that many people may have relaxed their health protocols such as hand washing, avoiding crowds and social gathering” stated Mayor Ted Lojko “but to prevent the Town of Gananoque and Ontario from being shut down again, I think it is incumbent on all of us to be vigilant.”

The Town of Gananoque is reminding all of our residents and business of the health protocol issues particularly with the significant spike in case numbers. We are approaching the Christmas and New Year holiday season which generally brings about social gatherings and social activities. Try to avoid large crowds when shopping and getting together with family or friends.

The Leeds Grenville and District Health Unit is urgently asking for our help. Although you and your loved ones may be fully vaccinated, it is still important to maintain strong public health measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Screening, physical distancing, being fully vaccinated and masking are the most effective barriers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination often prevents severe symptoms; however, a vaccinated person can still pass COVID-19 onto others.

Municipally, the Town has reached out to Santa and asked if he can wait till December 24, 2021 to visit with our children and families. Santa planned on stopping in at Maverick's/Pistachio Café on December 18, 2021. Santa is disappointed with the request, but understands that we all need to take care of our friends and families and it is the right thing to do. He additionally wants to let the children know that he is

still watching to ensure we are all doing our part and being nice.

Further, Town Hall administration buildings will be closed to the public effective December 16, 2021. Municipal Staff will remain available and Staff can be reached for our day-to-day services via email or telephone.

Residents are reminded to refer to the Town of Gananoque COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information webpage (<https://www.gananoque.ca/covid-19-coronavirus-information>) for further information and updates as they become available. This page includes municipal changes, press releases from the Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and links to government websites.

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For more information, contact:  
Shellee Fournier, CAO  
30 King Street East  
Gananoque ON K7G 2T6  
613-382-2149 ext.1113  
[sfournier@gananoque.ca](mailto:sfournier@gananoque.ca)