

Dear staff,

With the increased prevalence of Omicron in the community, and our continued commitment to follow guidelines and directions from Public Health and our IPAC (Infection Prevention and Control) colleagues at MGH, we are providing the following directions to staff over the next two weeks:

- Staff that are scheduled to work over the next two week (who are not away due to previously approved vacation time) will **need to be available to come onsite** when needed to support with:
  - Screening clients onsite – this may require cancelling virtual appointments or other work to support our colleagues who are not able to work remotely.
  - Supporting with connecting our clients to vaccination centres and with onsite operational needs where appropriate, especially as staff may be off due to requirements to self-isolate, etc.
  - Redeployment to support health system efforts is needed (i.e., vaccine/booster promotion and access) particularly support with the mass vaccination clinics; more information will be shared when available
- Work remotely where possible in consultation with your manager and/or lead. Staff will continue to see clients requiring onsite care or in the community where needed as part of their work. Please work with your manager and/or lead if you have any questions. Some principals to consider are:
  - Client need – requiring in-person care that cannot be delayed
  - Health system support – preventing visits to hospital emergency clinics
- Get your booster shots as soon as possible! It's our absolute best defence and is vitaly important <https://tehn.ca/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-book-appointment-individual-aged-12-and-older-east>  
You can also call the provincial booking system at 1-833-943-3900 or book an appointment at a [participating pharmacy](#). COVID-19 vaccines are also available by walk-in [mobile and pop-up vaccine clinics](#). Please read the eligibility carefully for these sites.
- As an added precaution we are recommending N95 masks be used as PPE protocol for patients with known or suspect Covid. These clients are to be directed to an isolation room onsite.
- Staff are encouraged to review FHC's Covid-19 Safety Plan accessible below, to refresh their knowledge on FHC policies, procedures and guidelines during the Pandemic:  
<https://fhc.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?token=53d80ed7-95dd-4f11-bd7b-a9f01fcf950d&dtoken=fb3a954d-2a63-4d79-b76e-483bfb33bf08>

This will be effective as soon as possible and over the next 2 weeks, until Jan. 4, 2022.

We will continue to monitor developments and work closely with our health system partners to adjust as needed. We will provide more frequent updates over the next few weeks.

We understand how discouraging these developments must be, especially because it looked like these types of challenges were behind us. But this time around, we're armed with so much more knowledge and most importantly, vaccines that will continue to protect us, our loved ones and our communities.

We thank you for your continued support as we navigate changes and developments to ensure the safety of staff and the communities we serve.