



Jason Liebrechts/Metroland

Here's a weekly roundup of COVID-19 cases and news.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: MANDATORY MASK BYLAW EXTENDED

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Halton Region has extended the mandatory mask bylaw until Dec. 31.

The bylaw was initially due to expire at the end of May, but regional councillors voted at a recent meeting to keep the regulation in place for the rest of the year.

"I think it's really important for folks to recognize that even as we continue to vaccinate our population, it's going to take some time, and other health measures are absolutely critical," Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward said at the meeting.

Ward pointed to the continued need for mask-wearing and physical distancing until more people are inoculated, and experts gain a better understanding on how the vaccines will fare against the COVID-19 variants.

As for the weekly COVID-19 cases, the region's website shows that from April 16 to 22 there were 992 more cases of the deadly disease, down from 1,105 the previous week. The virus had also claimed three more lives.

As of April 23, the number of active COVID-19 cases stood at 901 — with 91 in Halton Hills, 274 in Milton, 277 cases in Oakville and 259 in Burlington. To date, there have been 14,092 cases of COVID-19 during the pandemic, with 12,982 marked as resolved and 209 deaths.

— with files from Melanie Hennessey



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