

# WEEKLY ROUNDUP: PROVINCE TO INTRODUCE VACCINE PASSPORTS

## COVID-19 CASES RISE SLIGHTLY IN HALTON

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The province's new COVID-19 passport, requiring proof of vaccination for restaurants, bars, gyms and theatres, will go into effect Sept. 22.

The province plans to issue digital certificates with QR codes containing vaccine information that will allow businesses to check a person's vaccine status.

Ontario is introducing the passport in hopes of avoiding another provin-

cial lockdown this fall. It will apply to most indoor non-essential businesses. People with medical exemptions for the vaccine will be admitted.

"We need to protect our hospitals. We need to avoid lockdowns at all costs," Premier Doug Ford said. "We want our kids in schools, and our business-

es to stay open."

As of Sept. 2, 76.4 of all eligible Ontario residents (age 12 and over) had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. In Halton, that number stood at 79 per cent. In a four-day period from Aug. 29-Sept. 1, there were 2,505 cases in Ontario where the vaccination status was known. Among

those, 66.5 per cent were unvaccinated, 10.2 per cent had one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 23.2 per cent had two doses.

Halton Region reported 141 new COVID-19 cases from Aug. 26-Sept. 1. That was a slight increase from 139 the previous week and 137 the week prior to that.

The number of active

cases in Halton dropped from 127 to 115 over the past week, though the region did report its first COVID-19-related death in almost months. There have been 238 COVID-19 related deaths in Halton since the beginning of the pandemic and 9,530 in Ontario.



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