

# HALTON HEALTH OFFICIALS URGE CAUTION AS OMICRON CASES RISE

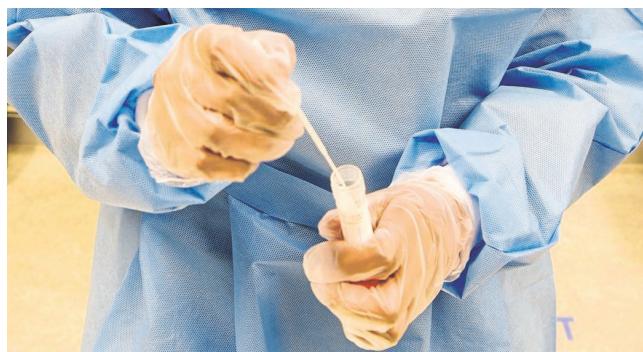
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The incidence rate of COVID-19 infections in Halton is soaring, with local health officials reporting a large increase in numbers driven by the Omicron variant.

In fact, Halton associate medical officer of health Dr. Deepika Lobo says new provincial modelling data is projecting case counts could climb to a stunning 10,000 new infections per day by the end of the year in Ontario.

According to Lobo, cases across the region have been "rapidly increasing" since mid-November.

"We are now seeing an average of about 64 new cases reported per day," she told regional council dur-



Dan Pearce/Metroland

Provincial modelling data projects that COVID-19 case counts could climb to 10,000 new infections per day by the end of the year in Ontario.

ing a Dec. 15 presentation — numbers that haven't been seen since May 2021 during the third wave.

With the recent arrival of the Omicron variant, Lobo said the incidence rate has "soared" from about 20 new cases per 100,000 resi-

dents on Nov. 21, to 64 cases per 100,000 on Dec. 12.

"This represents a 224 per cent increase in just three weeks," she said. "This sudden increase in cases has greatly impacted

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