



Graham Paine/Metroland

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

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: HOSPITALS UNDER PRESSURE, COVID DEATHS RISING

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The Omicron surge has put a pressure on Halton hospitals, as the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 continues to rise.

As of Friday (Jan. 15), there were 118 people being treated in hospitals with the illness, up from 82 from the start of the week. There were also 14 people in intensive care units, up from 10.

The week also saw 13 more residents die from COVID-19 related issues.

The deaths include eight people from Burlington, three from Oakville, and two from Halton Hills.

A total of 263 people in Halton have lost their lives due to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Halton Healthcare (HH) is also dealing with increasing aggression toward staff, which prompted HH to hire more security guards. According to a spokesperson, staff have been on the receiving end of frustration for the longer wait times — particularly in the emergency departments, as well as testing centre and screening desks.

"We recognize how stressful the current situation is for patients and families. Our teams continue to do their absolute best in a system which is overloaded. They continue to offer incredible care and have done extraordinary work throughout the pandemic," the spokesperson said.

— *With file from Kathy Yanchus*



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