

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: TRAVEL MASK MANDATE STILL IN EFFECT

BAMBANG SADEWO
bsadewo@metroland.com

It may have been dropped in the U.S., but Canada's top doctor said it's not yet time to remove the mask mandate on planes in the country, given that the Omicron subvariant is "still going strong."

"I think it is prudent to continue to require wearing a mask. It takes the guesswork out of the traveller... it's an additional layer of protection that can reduce transmission," Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public

Health Officer, said during a public health briefing on April 22.

However, she noted the policy requires ongoing evaluation, given the epidemiological situation in Canada and overseas.

Tam said there were early signs that transmission may have been nearing peak in some parts of the country prior to the Easter weekend. Despite the rise in hospitalizations in many jurisdictions, they appear to be manageable — with critical care still trending at low levels, she said.

In Halton, there were

more people with COVID-19 in hospitals than the previous week. As of April 22, there were nine people being treated in Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington. There were also 17 patients in Milton hospital, eight in Oakville, and three in Georgetown.

Three more deaths were also reported, bringing the death toll to 352.



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