

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release: March 18, 2022

Situation Risk Assessment Recommended in Regard to Lifted Mask Mandates

NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND, ON – Although face covering requirements for many settings will end on Monday, March 21, 2022, there is still substantial transmission of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 within the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit district. Wearing a face covering is a simple precaution people can still choose to take to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 as we learn to live with the virus.

It is important that everyone continues to be vigilant and assess each situation individually as they decide whether or not to wear a face covering.

Factors to consider when conducting a situational risk assessment could include, but are not limited to:

- personal health risks,
- health risks of household members,
- employment in highest-risk settings,
- the type of environment (e.g. a small indoor poorly ventilated crowded room versus an open outdoor location),
- the type of activity and,
- the level of COVID-19 risk in the community.

Masking continues to be required in certain settings such as on public transit, and in health care settings. As the Health Unit and community vaccine clinics are health care settings, all clients, visitors and Health Unit staff will continue to be required to wear a face covering when in these facilities after March 21.

The Health Unit respects the individual decisions of community members to do what is best for themselves based on their own situational risk assessments, and reminds individuals to be COVID-kind to others who may choose differently.

In addition to choosing to wear a face covering, it is recommended that people are fully vaccinated and receive their booster dose, if eligible.

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