



OUTSTANDING CARE – NO EXCEPTIONS!

June 5, 2025

CEO/CNE Report
Board of Directors

Although our respiratory cases continue to drop in numbers with only 2 cases of COVID and 0 Influenza at the time of this report, we are still seeing cases of Measles in the community and as such continue to have specific visitor restrictions in place for our paediatric and neo-natal intensive care units as well as other visitor guidelines which can be found here: <https://www.wrh.on.ca/VisitingHours>.

We encourage residents with non-emergency concerns to continue to check out alternatives to the Emergency Department such as those found here: <https://www.wrh.on.ca/ED-Alternatives>. For emergent issues as always please come to the Emergency Department or call 911. Our ED wait times can be found at: <https://www.wrh.on.ca/EmergencyWaitTimes>.

For those with potential measles exposure or symptoms please continue to call ahead prior to coming to the Emergency Department or appointments.

Vaccination remains the most effective method of Measles, Covid and Influenza prevention. Contact your primary care physician for Measles, Covid and Influenza vaccination or your local pharmacy for Covid and Influenza vaccination. <https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/>

Please continue to follow the advice of WECHU and all our hospital partners by taking precautions to reduce the spread of viruses this season.

New COVID Variant NB. 1.8.1

- The World Health Organization has designated NB.1.8.1 a “variant under monitoring” with increasing proportions globally.
- The earliest sample of this variant was collected in January 2025.
- Has been identified in 22 countries and is growing rapidly compared to co-circulating variants.
- Despite a concurrent increase in cases and hospitalizations in some countries where NB.1.8.1 is widespread, and evidence that the variant has mutations making it more easily transmissible, current data do not indicate that this variant leads to more severe illness than other variants in circulation.
- The additional risk associated with this variant from a global public health perspective is low.
- Currently approved Covid vaccines are expected to remain effective against this variant in avoiding symptomatic and severe disease.

World Health Organization

https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/epp/tracking-sars-cov-2/23052025_nb.1.8.1_ire.pdf



