



Stephen Blais, MPP / Député

Orléans

December 14, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
110 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Dear Premier:

Last week in the Legislature I asked you about plans to address the looming impacts of the Omicron variant, rising case counts and hospitals moving patients to manage ICU capacity. Unfortunately, as has become your habit, you were not present and the response from your Ministers was insufficient.

I fear Ontario is being walked into another public health disaster. We need strong leadership immediately to counter the threat that Omicron poses to our province.

COVID-19 cases in Ontario are exponentially growing and our province is being dominated by the Omicron variant. Today, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, stated that the Omicron variant is 4-8x more transmissible than the Delta variant.

I am again calling on you to immediately expand third dose vaccination eligibility to all individuals over the age of 18. I am also asking that you create a provincial rapid testing strategy that is robust by making free rapid tests available to the general public at important community hubs such as pharmacies, libraries, LCBO outlets and Service Ontario locations.

Additionally, we need to provide financial support to small businesses that may be adversely impacted by any new restrictions that are implemented to deal with the Omicron variant.

The government needs a comprehensive plan to counter the fifth wave, one that would include:

- Ramping-up vaccination clinics to 24/7 operations by mobilizing all available healthcare professionals including foreign trained doctors and nurses immediately
- Ensuring that all residents and staff in LTC, retirement homes and other congregate care settings for vulnerable individuals (e.g. group homes) have received their 3rd dose
- Ensuring that all healthcare workers and their close contacts and family members have received their 3rd dose

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- Addresses airborne transmission by promoting and distributing free and high-quality masks, and by supporting improvements in ventilation and filtration in indoor public settings
- Adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of compulsory vaccines in Ontario schools
- Establishing safety zones around hospitals and vaccine clinics to ensure that health care workers and patients are not targeted and harassed, and obstructed from providing or receiving care
- Launching a multidimensional and multilingual public campaign promoting vaccination, including boosters, and aggressively combat anti-science and anti-vaccine misinformation and disinformation
- Implementing a strong vaccine mandate for all education workers and healthcare workers in Ontario
- Long-term care staff who are currently mandated to receive the COVID-19 vaccine should only be considered fully vaccinated with three doses, or with a recent second dose
- Announcing that Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine certificate may soon require three doses for an individual to be considered fully vaccinated
- Requesting assistance from the Canadian military for a contingency plan to add emergency ICU capacity so that much needed surgeries don't get delayed yet again to make room for Covid patients
- Immediately implementing 10 paid sick days for all workers in Ontario

I am urging you to implement these measures now, because we cannot afford to wait any longer.

Yours very truly,



Stephen Blais
Member of Provincial Parliament
Orléans

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