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# Media Release

For Immediate Release

## Waterloo Wellington COVID Report

**Waterloo Region & Wellington County | February 25, 2022** – Attached is the Waterloo Wellington COVID Report for Friday, February 25, 2022 that local hospitals have committed to jointly providing weekly throughout Omicron.

As hospitalizations for COVID-positive patients stabilizes locally, so too does the number of staff impacted by COVID. Regional hospitals began providing these reports to provide an accurate and timely look at the challenges our sector faced. As the impact of Omicron decreases and the province plans for further re-opening on March 1<sup>st</sup>, we will no longer issue these weekly reports. We remain available to the media and COVID related metrics are accessible through the ROW and WDG Public Health Units.

Some of our hospitals continue to deal with active outbreaks, reminding us that although the number of COVID-positive cases is declining, we must continue to take every possible precaution to protect our patients and staff. Vaccines are an important part of our strategy to reduce transmission and severity of COVID-19. As the province moves next week to further loosen public health measures and restrictions, as higher-risk settings, proof of vaccination will still be required in hospitals beyond March 1<sup>st</sup> for all staff, physicians, volunteers and Care Partners. This approach for higher risk settings such as hospitals was addressed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health at the February 24<sup>th</sup> briefing.

By taking all possible steps available to us to protect our staff and patients, this will allow hospitals to focus our resources on ramping up long-awaited surgeries and procedures that were paused through the pandemic. Resuming scheduled care is a priority for all hospitals, as we understand the importance of providing these much-needed procedures for our patients. However, with bed capacity gaps in our region that existed prior to COVID, we do anticipate ongoing occupancy pressures.

All local hospitals have nearly fully resumed diagnostic imaging and endoscopy. For remaining surgeries and procedures, hospitals will be opening more Operating Room capacity in the coming days and weeks. As of today, local hospitals report the following percentage of surgeries have been resumed:

- Cambridge Memorial Hospital is at 47%, and expected to reach 62% reach next week;

- Guelph General Hospital fluctuates daily between 37.5% and 50% with a planned increase over the coming weeks;
- Grand River Hospital is at 71% including cancer, urgent/emergent and elective surgeries, focusing on the highest need cases first. As the Regional Cancer Centre, last week's data included significant cancer and endoscopy cases prioritized for the first week of resumption;
- St. Mary's General Hospital is at 51% with a goal of reaching 70% in March; and
- Wellington Healthcare Alliance is at 75%.

"Each wave of the pandemic brings new challenges but one thing that remained constant was our collective and continued dedication to supporting patients as a system of care across our communities," says Lee Fairclough, Regional Hospital Lead for COVID response and President, St. Mary's General Hospital. "Although each hospital's ability to ramp up will vary slightly based on unique areas of specialty, we will continue to move forward as a system of care. In continuing to support one another in smoothing capacity issues across our hospitals, we will work together towards our first collective goal of 70% of major surgeries resumed to support our patients."

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# Waterloo Wellington Hospital Capacity Report (Omicron Wave)

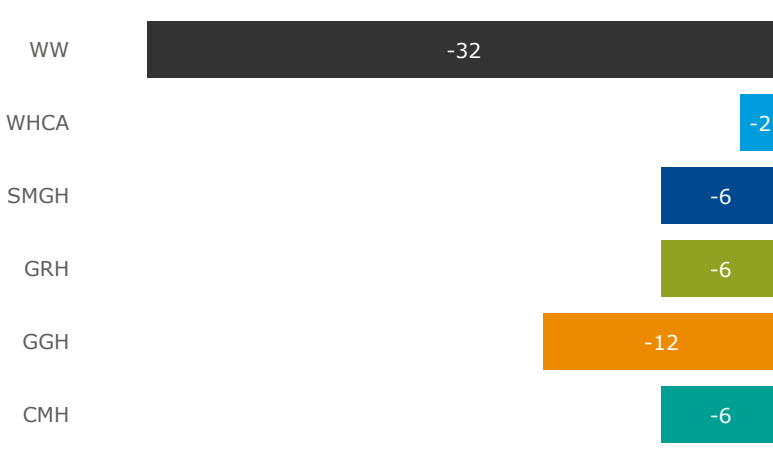
## Beds Available and ED Activity

This section highlights available beds at a point in time to support patients presenting at our hospitals. Positive numbers suggest there are beds available to support patients. A negative number means that a hospital is full, and supporting patients waiting for admission from the ED.

**Reminder:** The total beds in our region has increased by 235, (nearly a third more for each hospital that was able to add beds). To support the recent Omicron surge further additional beds have been added.

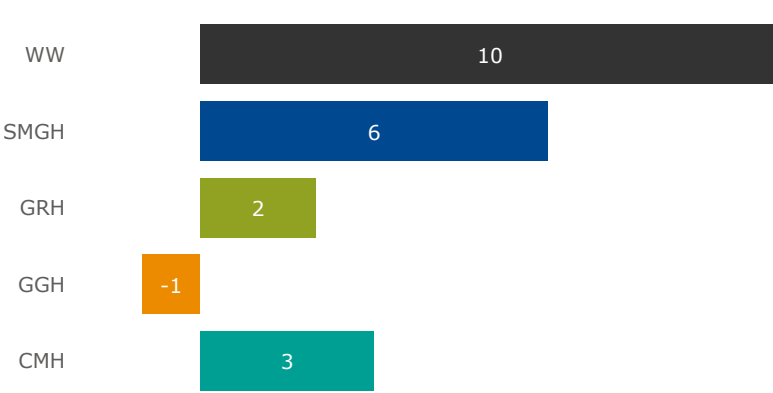
### Available Med/Surg Beds (as of 9am)<sup>(1)</sup>

Source: Hospital Reporting



### Available ICU Beds (as of 9am)<sup>(2)</sup>

Source: Hospital Reporting



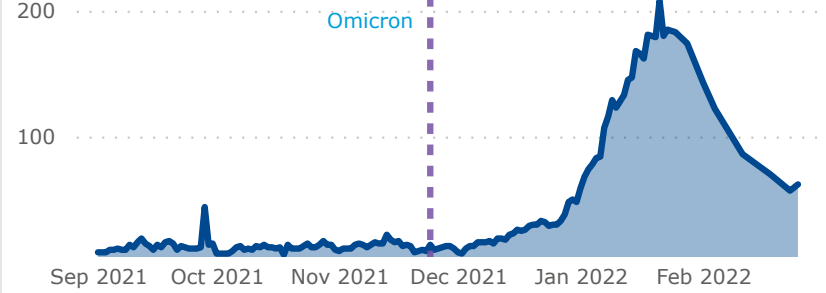
## COVID information

● WW ● WHCA ● SMGH ● GRH ● GGH ● CMH

This section describes the number of patients requiring COVID care at our hospitals.

### COVID +ve Hospitalizations

Source: MOH SAS



### WW COVID +ve Hospitalizations by Vaccination Status(%)

Source: MOH SAS

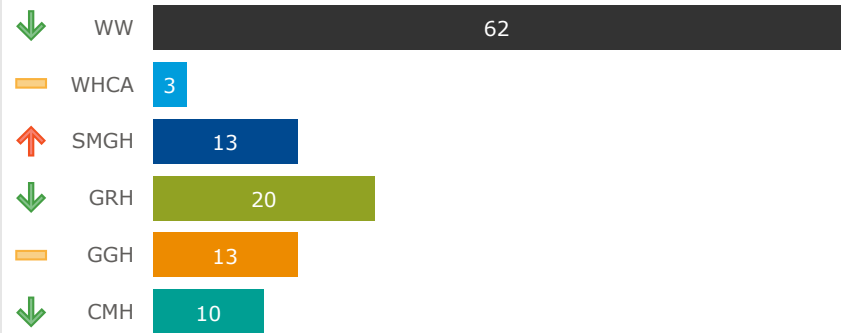


\* "Unvaccinated people currently have a 6-fold higher risk of being in the hospital and 12-fold higher risk of being in the ICU compared to people who received 2 or 3 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine."

- Ontario Science Table, Update on COVID-19 Projections, Feb 1, 2022

### Current COVID +ve Hospitalizations

Source: Hospital Reporting



Arrows: Compared to last report

## Implications of COVID for the workforce

Prevalence of COVID in the community is very high and across all sectors/organizations, and the workforce is being impacted. This section describes the number of staff impacted by COVID (COVID positive, and/or isolating at home due to high-risk contact). It does not reflect additional reasons staff may not be at work.

### Staff Impacted by COVID-19<sup>(3)</sup>

Source: Hospital Reporting



(1) Incl. open and staffed Med./Surg. beds net of admitted patients waiting in ED or in decant units.

(2) ICU beds are those that are open and staffed.

(3) Staff impacted by COVID (excluding work isolation and other reasons staff may be off)

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