



2022 Municipal Elections: COVID-19 Campaign Guidance for Candidates, Third Party Advertisers and Voters

General Information

Beginning May 2, 2022, candidates and third party advertisers who submit their nomination and registration forms for the 2022 Municipal Elections on October 24, 2022, will be permitted to begin campaigning. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective and safe. It is highly recommended that all individuals be vaccinated with all the doses for which they are eligible, including third and fourth booster doses.

As more public health measures are lifted, it's important to remember that COVID-19 is still present in Ottawa. There is still risk of transmission, and the risk of infection and severe outcomes from COVID-19 is greater for some individuals than others.

As such, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) strongly encourages candidates, third party advertisers and voters to protect themselves and others while participating in election-related activities.

Be [Social Wise](#) is an OPH initiative that provides guidance on how to go about daily activities, while continuing to protect ourselves and others. OPH strongly encourages candidates, third party advertisers and voters to Be Social Wise, by following these general recommendations:

W – Wear a mask or face covering, especially indoors when physical distancing may not be possible.

I – Isolate yourself from others when you are sick and if you have COVID-like symptoms.

S – Share your enthusiasm with friends and family about being up-to-date with your immunizations and encourage them to get vaccinated.

E – Exercise proper hand hygiene; wash your hands regularly or use sanitizer especially before touching your face.

For more information on the Social Wise initiative, please visit: ottawapublichealth.ca

Campaign Guidance

The following [recommendations](#) are intended to help candidates, third party advertisers, volunteers and residents stay as safe as possible while participating in the 2022 Municipal Elections.

Prior to Campaigning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With community transmission of COVID-19 in Ottawa, there is a risk that transmission from both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons may occur. While measures to attempt to control these risks may be implemented in community settings, it is important that prospective candidates, third party advertisers and their team(s) be made aware of and understand the risks.• The risk of serious COVID-19 infection increases with age, and for those who have chronic medical conditions including being immunocompromised. Anyone participating in any campaign related activities should consider the risk to themselves personally, particularly if participating in activities that could potentially expose them to numerous people. It is highly recommended that anyone participating in campaign related activities be vaccinated with all the doses for which they are eligible, including third and fourth booster doses. To support in assessing risk and making the best decision, OPH has launched a new webpage: OttawaPublicHealth.ca/RiskReduction. This new webpage provides important information to help assess individual level of risk of severe outcomes and choose all the layers of protection accordingly.• It is expected that any in-person campaign related activities incorporate practices such as daily self-assessment for all candidates and volunteers and adheres to COVID-19 guidance and recommendations put forth by the Province of Ontario, the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health.• All candidates and third party advertisers should self-assess, using the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, prior to submitting their nomination and registration forms at the Elections Office. Ottawa Public Health strongly recommends all prospective candidates
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	<p>wear a mask when accessing public spaces, including the Elections Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you or any member of your team have COVID-19 symptoms, you should self-isolate and follow the recommended self-isolation guidelines.
<p>While Campaigning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider alternative ways you can engage those at higher risk of severe illness, particularly when transmission in the community is high. This might include virtual town halls, online communication platforms and organized outdoor events. • Prior to campaigning and/or participating in in-person campaign-related events, ensure that you and all participating members of your team have completed the COVID-19 self-assessment tool. Request that all attendees at campaign events also self-assess prior to their participation. • Adopt measures to reduce the risk of infection while carpooling, such as wearing a mask and opening car windows to create airflow. • Please keep the safety of voters in mind! With door-to-door campaigning, candidates and third party advertisers must consider the health and safety of voters. Some voters might not feel comfortable answering their door to speak with you due to continuing COVID-19 transmission. • If you develop symptoms while campaigning, stop immediately, self-isolate and follow the recommended self-isolation guidelines. • Invite residents to put on their mask before engaging in discussions with them at their doorway. • If candidates or third party advertisers choose to participate in door-to-door campaigning, please ensure that masks are worn and that two metres of physical distance is maintained between yourself, members of your campaign team, and voters. Wearing a



	<p>mask and promoting mask use shows you care about the health of potential voters, the campaign team and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the City of Ottawa, during resurgences of COVID-19 transmission, it is strongly recommended that any resident accessing public areas of an enclosed public space should wear a mask that covers their nose, mouth and chin (exceptions provided for individuals with medical conditions or cognitive difficulties). • Remember wearing a mask is not an alternative to physical distancing. Every effort should be made to keep a two-metre distance even when wearing a mask. • All candidates, third party advertisers and their teams should wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer before, during and after participating in campaign activities. • Ensure you have alcohol-based hand sanitizer with you at all times. Wash your hands between homes and following contact with high touch surfaces such as doorbells. • Wash your hands when handling or handing out campaign materials such as brochures, handouts, and buttons. • Avoid direct physical contact including hand shaking. • Visit OPH's website regularly for updated recommendations to help candidates, third party advertisers, and volunteers and residents stay as safe as possible while participating in the 2022 Municipal Elections.
<p>Campaign Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend maintaining a two-metre physical distance between attendees and wear masks, particularly if indoors. • In lieu of in-person events, consider hosting a virtual campaign event or an organized outdoor event. • Visit OPH's COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Special Events (ottawapublichealth.ca) resource for more information related to special events.



Supporting Each Other and Our Community

We understand that these enhanced measures place an additional burden on campaigning; however, measures like this are needed to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 in our community is reduced. We appreciate all the efforts you are taking to help protect our community. Ottawa Public Health provides guidance but does not provide approval for special events and meetings.

OPH wishes all candidates, third party advertisers, volunteers, and voters a safe and happy campaign!

It is important to recognize that the COVID-19 situation continues to change. Please visit the OPH [website](#) for the most current information.

