



Ward 19 (Cumberland) By-Election: COVID-19 Campaign Guidance for Candidates and Voters

General Information

Beginning July 15, 2020, candidates who have submitted their nomination form to run in the Ward 19 By-Election will be permitted to begin campaigning. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) strongly encourages candidates and voters to remain COVIDWise while participating in campaign activities.

Be COVIDWise is an OPH initiative that provides guidance on how to go about daily activities, while continuing to protect ourselves and others. OPH strongly encourages both candidates and voters to Be COVIDWise, by following these general recommendations:



W – Wear a cloth mask in indoor public spaces and when you cannot maintain a physical distance of two metres (six feet).

Wearing a mask helps to trap COVID-19 if you are infected and protects the people who are around you. Since, some people who are infected with COVID-19 may not know it, it is important that we all wear a mask when in close contact with other people.

I – Isolate yourself from others when you are sick (and get tested promptly if you have COVID-like symptoms). Visit ottawapublichealth.ca for more Information regarding COVID-19 Assessment Centres and Care Clinics.

S – Stay two metres (six feet) apart from those outside your household.

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

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

Campaign Guidance

The following recommendations are intended to help candidates, volunteers and residents stay as safe as possible while participating in the Ward 19 By-election.

These recommendations have been developed in conjunction with the [Province of Ontario's Framework for Reopening our Province](#), the [Center for Disease Control's Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters](#), and the City of Ottawa's [Business Reopening Toolkit](#). Given that regulations around the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly changing, please visit [OPH's website](#) regularly.

<p>Prior to Campaigning</p>	<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 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 expected that any in-person campaign related activities occurring incorporate COVIDWise practices (such as daily self-assessment for all candidates and volunteers) and adhere to the COVID-19 guidance and recommendations put forth by the Province of Ontario, the city of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health. • All candidates must make an appointment and self-assess, using the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, prior to submitting their nomination form at the Elections Office. As per the Ottawa mandatory mask requirements, all prospective candidates must wear a cloth mask when accessing public spaces, including the Elections Office. • If you or any member of your team have COVID-19 symptoms, you should self-isolate and seek testing.
<p>While Campaigning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider alternative ways you can engage that do not require in person interactions such as virtual town halls and online communication platforms. • Prior to campaigning and or participating in any 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. • Please keep the safety of voters in mind! While door-to-door campaigning is permitted, candidates must consider the health and safety of voters. Some voters might not feel comfortable answering their door to speak with you. • If you develop symptoms while campaigning, stop immediately, seek testing and self-isolate. • Invite residents to put on their mask before engaging in discussions with them at their doorway. • If candidates choose to participate in door-to-door campaigning, please ensure that masks are worn and that 2-meters of physical distance is maintained between yourself, members of your campaign team, and voters. Wearing a mask and promoting mask use shows you care about the health of potential voters, the campaign team and the community.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the City of Ottawa, any resident accessing public areas of enclosed space must 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-meter distance even when wearing a mask. • All candidates 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. • Do not engage in any physical contact including hand shaking. • Wash your hands when handling or handing out campaign materials such as brochures, handouts, and buttons. • Consider using alternative campaign marketing tools such as road signs, posters, social media ads, or mass email outreaches to minimize the sharing of paper products. Please note that signs must adhere to the City’s signs by-laws. • Given that regulations around the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly changing, please visit OPH’s website regularly for updates.
<p>Campaign Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If candidates choose to host an in-person campaign event, they must follow the provincial limits on gatherings (currently at 50 for indoor events, and 100 for outdoor events). • Maintain a 2-meter physical distance between attendees and wear masks, particularly if indoors. • In lieu of in-person events, consider hosting a virtual campaign event. • Any campaign events taking place indoors and accessible by the general public will also need to follow the City of Ottawa’s mandatory mask requirements. • Visit OPH’s COVID-19: Guidance for Special Events 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.

OPH wishes all candidates, volunteers and voters a safe, happy, and COVIDWise campaign! It is important to recognize that the COVID-19 situation continues to change. Please visit ottawapublichealth.ca for the most current information.

