

Response to COVID-19: March 2021 Update

Presentation to the Board of Health

March 22, 2021



We have surpassed 106,000 cases in Toronto

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 CASES IN TORONTO



All Cases	
Case Count*	106,463
Recovered Cases	98,574
City Incidence Rate per 100,000 People	3,898
Fatal Cases	2,759
Ever Hospitalized	6,457
Ever in ICU	1,159

Currently Hospitalized	258
Currently in ICU	51

As of March 21, 2021



CASES IN THE COMMUNITY	84%
Recovered Cases	83,502
Median Age At Time of Illness	37
Percent Female	48%
Percent Male	51%
Fatal Cases	919
Median Age of Deaths	79
OB ASSOCIATED CASES**	16%
Recovered Cases	15,072
Median Age At Time of Illness	57
Percent Female	59%
Percent Male	39%
Fatal Cases	1,840
Median Age of Deaths	88

*Includes confirmed and probable cases

**Outbreak associated cases include persons with COVID-19 within a defined group or setting. These are generally in healthcare (e.g., long-term care homes, hospitals) and residential or congregate settings (e.g., homeless shelters, group homes), but can also be in workplaces and other settings

†Gender was unknown or other for some cases

Monitoring dashboard indicators are concerning

Virus Spread and Containment

Status: YELLOW - Indicators need attention

New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average¹

432



Goal: A 14-day decline* OR a stable trend with less than an average of 1 case per 100,000 per day (30 cases).

New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average¹

13.4



Goal: A 14-day decline OR a stable trend with less than an average of 2 hospitalizations per million population per day (6 hospitalizations).

Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks in institutions¹

19



Goal: A 14-day decline* OR a stable trend AND below 10% of healthcare institutions with an active outbreak (18 facilities).

Effective Reproductive Number for COVID-19 Cases²

$R_t = 1.08$

(90% CI 0.89 to 1.29)

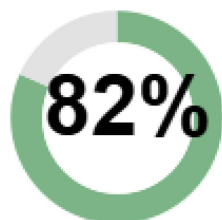
Hover over number for data note
Goal: Under 1.0

Health System Capacity

Status: GREEN - Indicators at goal

ICU bed occupancy rate⁴

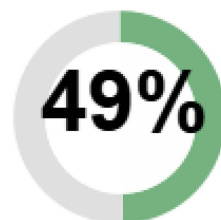
82%



Goal: <90% occupancy

ICU-ventilator bed occupancy rate⁴

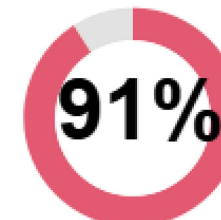
49%



Goal: <60% occupancy

Acute bed occupancy rate⁴

91%



Goal: <90% occupancy

Notes: 1)Data as of: March 18, 2021 2)Rt calculated by date of infection using confirmed case data from August 1, 2020 to March 14, 2021, 3)Data as of: Week ending March 13, 2021 4)Data as of March 17, 2021 5)Data as of March 14, 2021

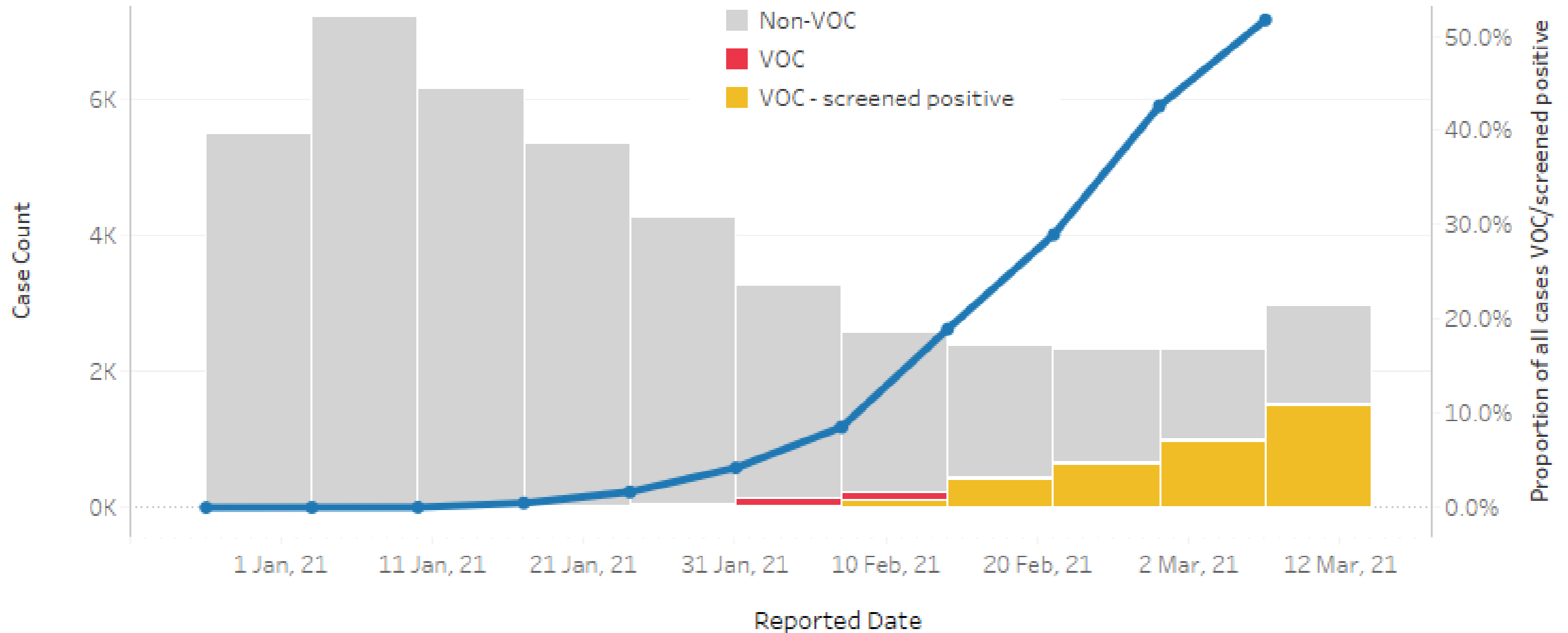
What is a variant of concern (VOC)?

- A VOC is a mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 genome that results in easier spread between people, more severe illness or reduced efficacy of vaccines.
- VOCs have been identified in Toronto, including B1.1.7, B.1.351 and P.1

- Variants of concern are appearing in settings across Toronto and increasing as a proportion of confirmed cases.
- Identified in long-term care homes, hospitals, schools, shelters and workplaces.
- B1.1.7 will likely drive the resurgence.
- Compared to long-term care, in all other congregate settings we are seeing the number of cases can build quickly – increased diligence is required.
- We are only as strong as the strongest measures for the most vulnerable.

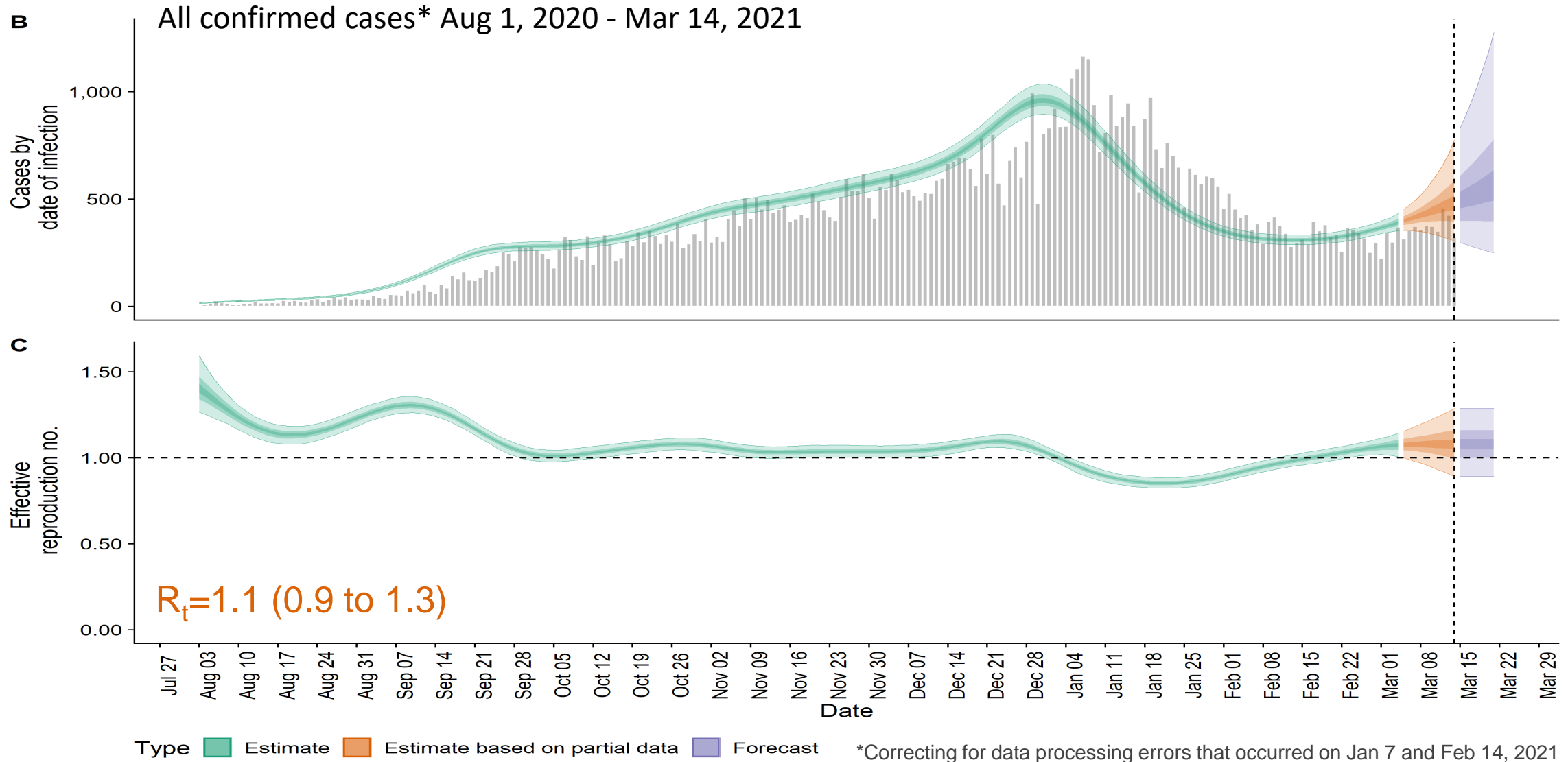
Half of Toronto's cases are now VOCs

Proportion of cases that are VOC and screened positive by reported week. Week of December 27, 2020 to week of March 7, 2021

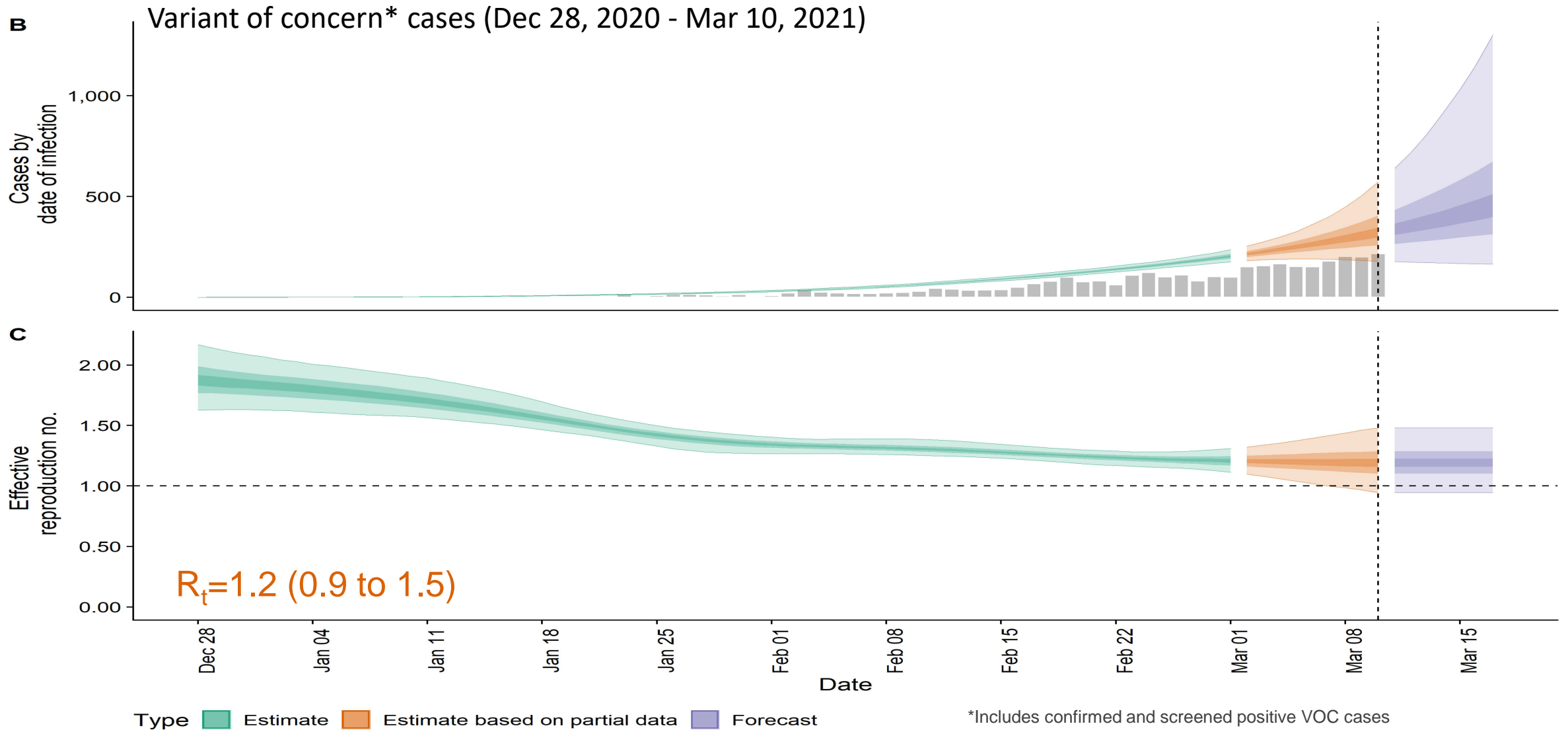


Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution (CCM). Data as of March 20, 2021

Effective reproductive number (R_t) remains above one



Effective reproductive number (R_t) for VOCs suggests rapid growth



This resurgence is different than last year's

Vaccinations

VOCs over
50%

Weather:
entering
springtime

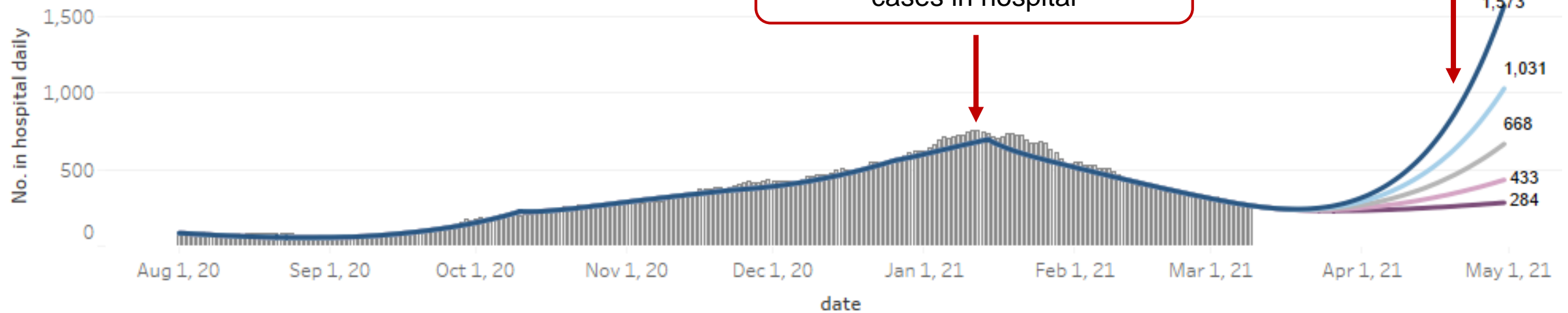
Similar hospitalization numbers to January peak could be seen by the second week of April

Transmission:

- increased by 20%
- increased by 10%
- stayed the same as now
- decreased by 10%
- decreased by 20%

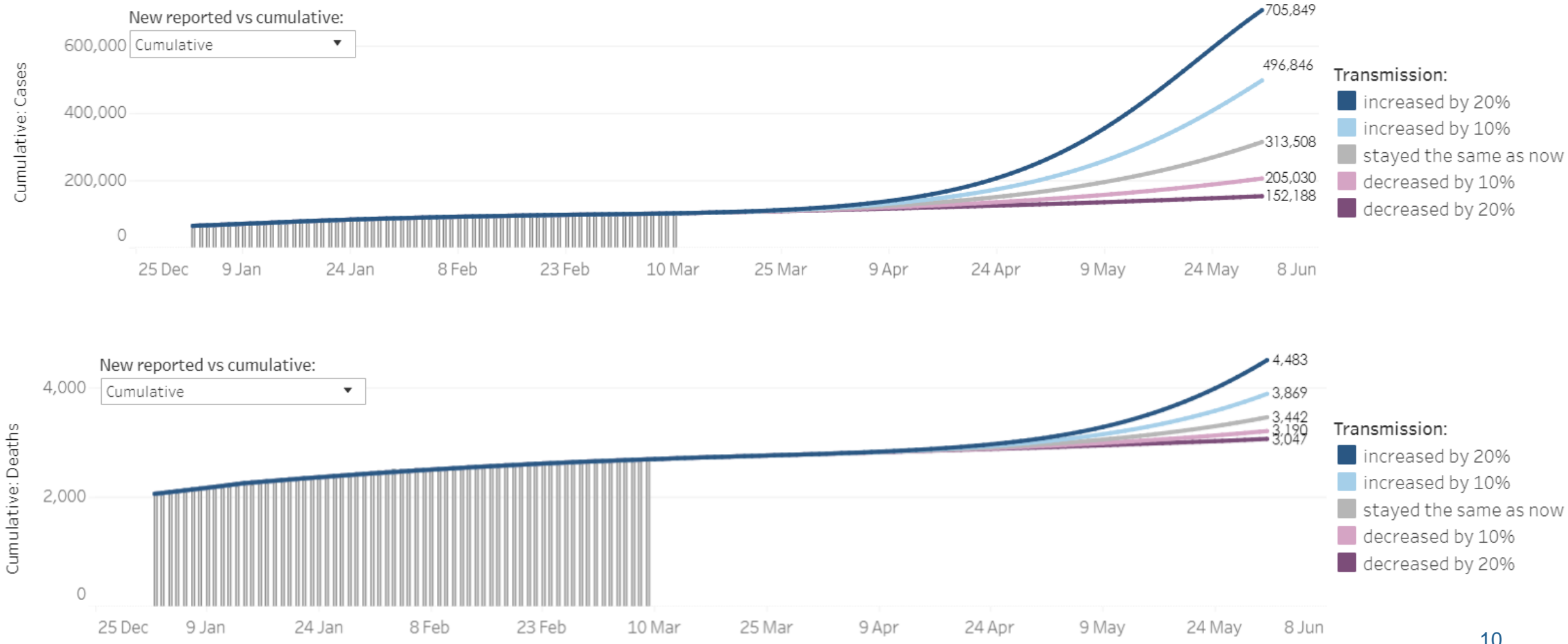
Projected hospitalizations given
20% increase in transmission:
week of Apr 18, 2021

Jan 11, 2021: 761 reported
cases in hospital



Increased transmissibility of VOCs leads to exponential growth in cumulative number of cases and deaths

Compartmental SEIR model by Zhu et al., Centre for Disease Modeling, York University



Continue to respond, prepare to contain, and quickly vaccinate those likely to be seriously ill

Key points:

- Resurgence is here and will look different.
- Vaccination alone will not be enough to stop resurgence.
- We can expect many more cases and potentially significant stress on health system capacity.
- Vaccination should be directed to those at the highest risk of severe illness.

Implications to the public health response:

- Containment strategy
- Public health measures
- Strategic vaccination efforts

Toronto Public Health continues to plan for increased vaccine rollout

Provincial announcements – Friday March 19

- As of Monday March 22
 - 75+ can begin booking vaccine appointments
 - 60+ can begin booking at participating pharmacy and primary care providers
- Expanding pharmacy locations across the province:
 - 350 new locations to be added in the next two weeks
 - Aiming for a total of 1,500 locations by the end of April

Accelerating planning for Phase 2:

- Additional age categories - 5 year age bands
- Congregate care settings (corrections, supportive housing, developmental services etc.)
- Those with high risk medical conditions (transplant patients, obesity, disability, diabetes etc.)
- Hot spot strategy that includes mobile teams to focus on seniors in highly impacted neighbourhoods particularly in vertical communities

Vaccines are safe and effective

- Vaccines must pass many safety tests before they are considered safe for people.
- Health Canada only authorizes vaccines when there is sufficient scientific and clinical evidence that they are safe, effective, and are manufactured to the highest quality standard.
- All four vaccines work well at preventing serious illness requiring hospitalization and at preventing serious illness resulting in death.

Government of Canada

- Responsible for obtaining the supply of COVID-19 vaccines
- Vaccines are approved by Health Canada once they are proven to be safe and effective

Government of Ontario

- Responsible for distributing vaccines
- Identifies priority groups for vaccination

City of Toronto

- Administers the vaccine in accordance with provincial prioritization framework

Status of vaccine rollout

Phase One

(December 2020 onwards)

- A limited number of doses available for Ontario's most vulnerable populations and those who care for them

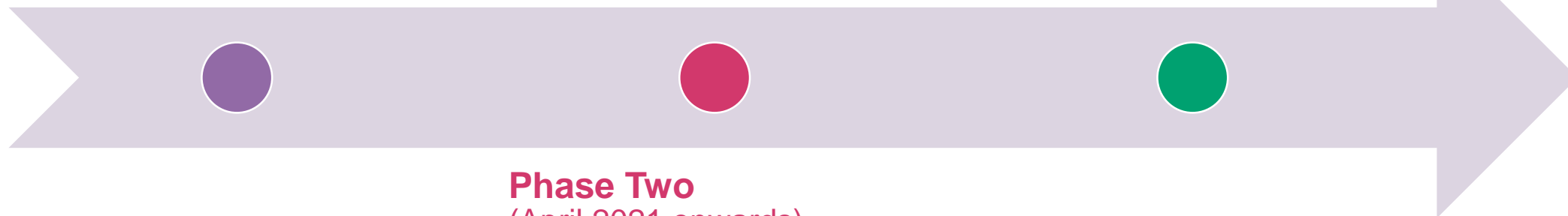
We are here



Phase Three

(July 2021 onwards)

- Vaccines available widely across Ontario for anyone who wants to be immunized



Phase Two

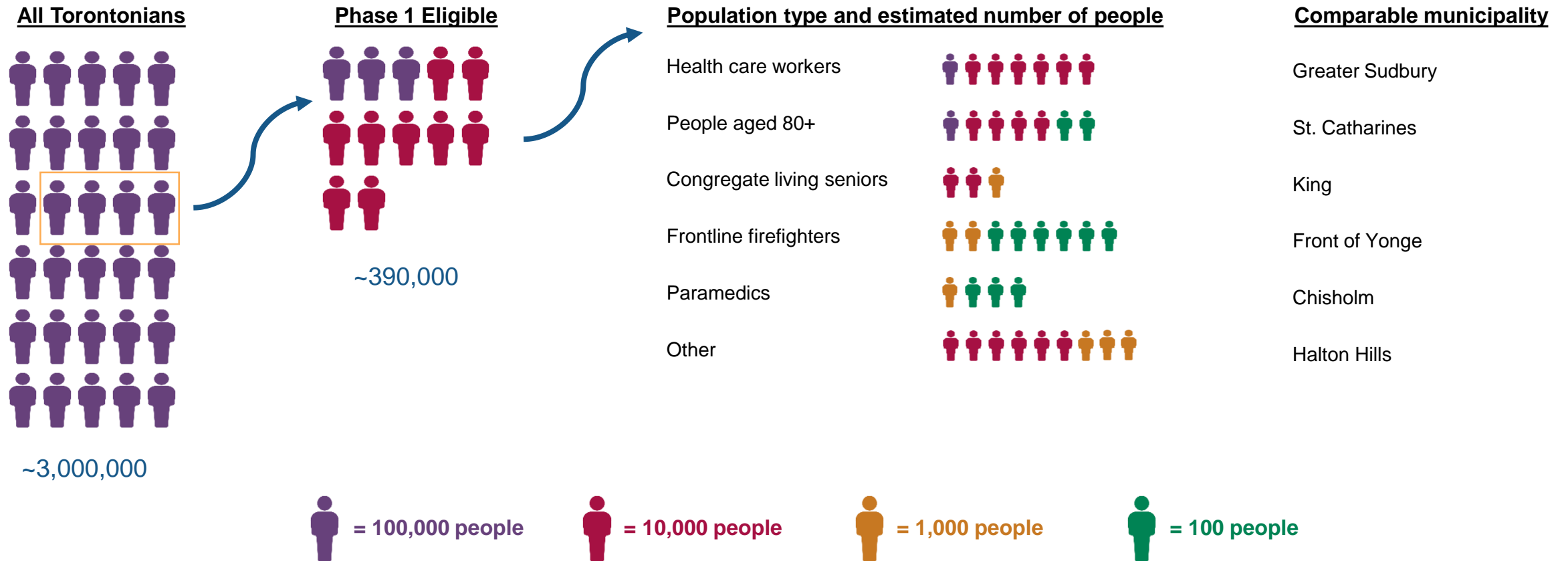
(April 2021 onwards)

- Increasing stock of vaccines, available to older adults, people in high-risk settings, frontline essential workers and other populations that are at greater risk of illness



Toronto's Phase One

Note: numbers are approximate, for illustrative purposes only



Mass immunization clinics

Three clinics opened on March 17

Metro Toronto
Convention Centre
(255 Front Street
West)
Scarborough Town
Centre (300 Borough
Drive)
Toronto Congress
Centre (650 Dixon
Road)

Five clinics will be open on March 29

Malvern Community
Recreation Centre,
30 Sewells Road
Mitchell Field
Community Centre,
89 Church Avenue

Six clinics will be open on April 8

The Hangar, 75 Carl
Hall Road.

All nine clinics open TBD

Three remaining
clinics continue to
prepare to open.
Awaiting direction
from the Province
and available vaccine
supply.

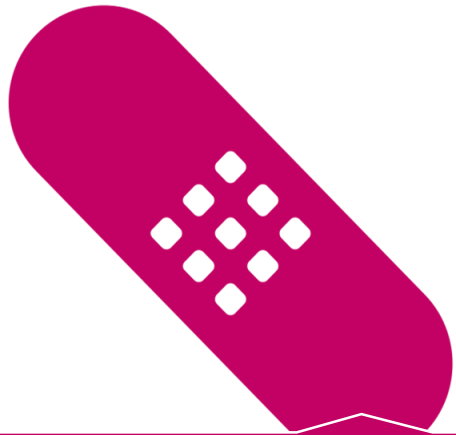
Mass immunization clinic locations



- North Toronto Memorial Community Centre (200 Eglinton Avenue West)
- Mitchell Field Community Centre (89 Church Avenue)
- The Hangar (75 Carl Hall Road)
- Metro Toronto Convention Centre (255 Front Street West)
- Scarborough Town Centre (300 Borough Drive)
- Carmine Stefano Community Centre (3100 Weston Road)
- Toronto Congress Centre (650 Dixon Road)
- Malvern Community Recreation Centre (30 Sewells Road)
- Cloverdale Mall (250 The East Mall)

Interactive map available online:
toronto.ca/covid19vaccinemap

Ways to get vaccinated



Mass Immunization
Clinics



Hospitals / Ontario
Health Team
Immunization Clinics



Pharmacies and Primary
Care Providers



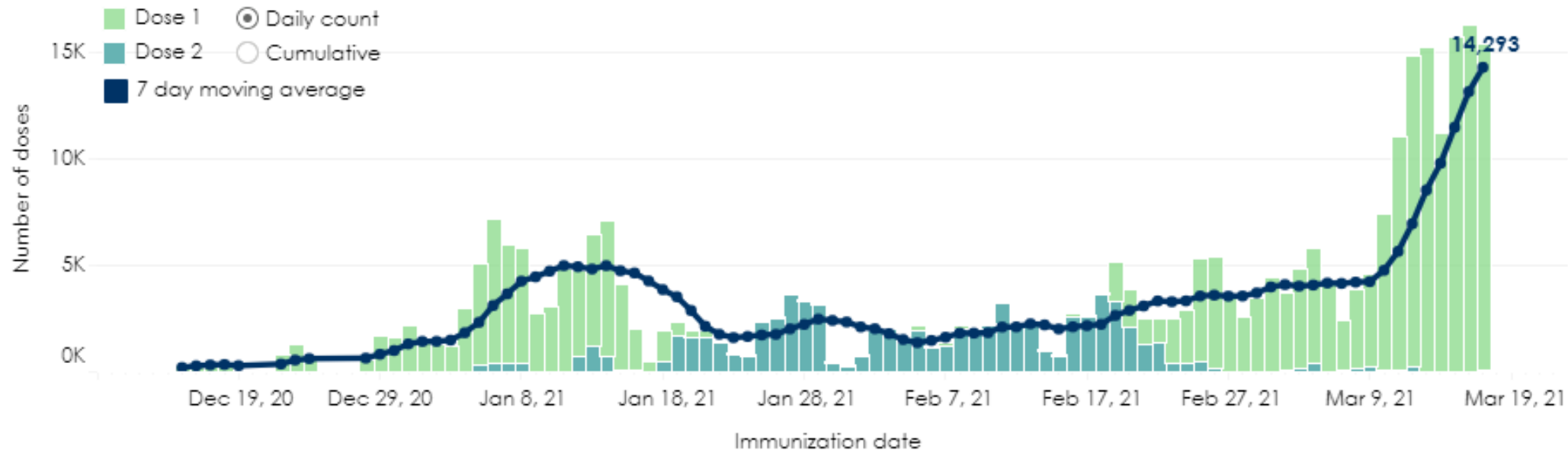
Mobile Teams

Interactive map available online:
toronto.ca/covid19vaccinemap

Toronto residents and non-residents vaccinated in Toronto

Total doses administered (includes first and second dose) 322,466 +55,685 newly reported since Mar 15	Number of people who have received at least one dose 247,922 +55,402 newly reported since Mar 15	Number of people who have completed vaccination 74,544 +283 newly reported since Mar 15	Share of population that has at least one dose *filters do not apply to this 6.9% (2.1% have completed vaccination)	Doses administered in the past 7 days (Mar 11 to Mar 17, 2021) 100,053
--	---	--	--	---

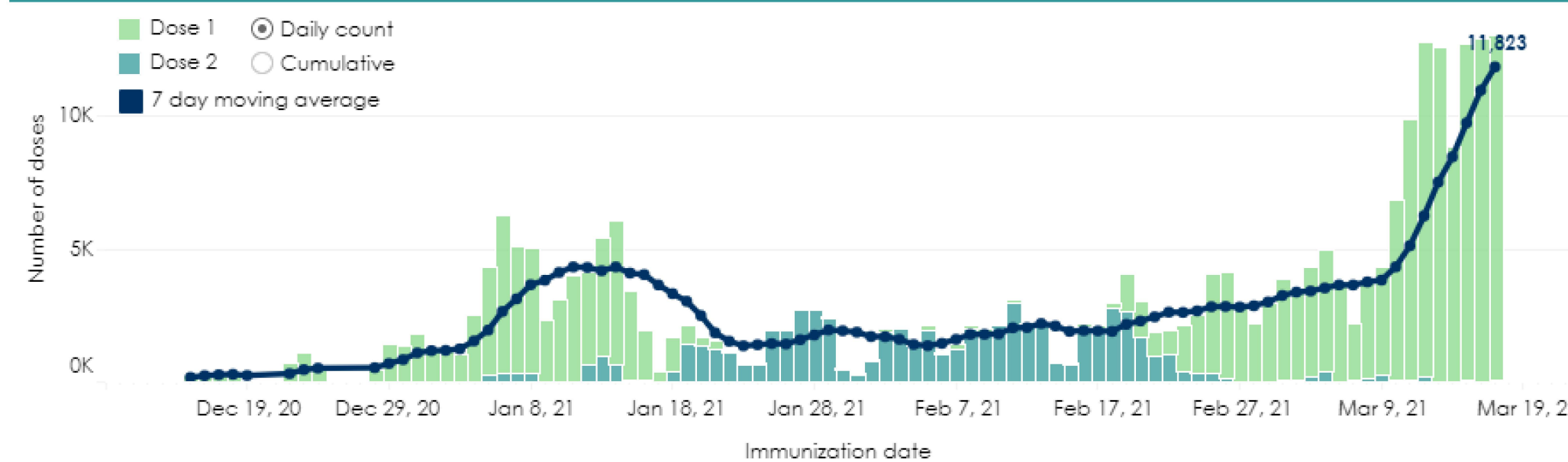
Doses administered over time



Toronto residents vaccinated



Doses administered over time



Thank you

Toronto Public Health
City of Toronto

277 Victoria Street
5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

toronto.ca/COVID19

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health