Response to COVID-19: September 2021 Update

Presentation to the Board of Health
September 27, 2021
This presentation includes:

2. Update on Team Toronto Vaccination Campaign
3. Update on Vaccination Policy
4. Update on Safer Reopening in Schools
Status of COVID-19 Epidemic in Toronto
Monitoring dashboard

Virus Spread and Containment

- Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks in institutions: 143
- Effective reproductive number, COVID-19 cases: \(\hat{R}_t = 0.98\) (90% CI 0.78 to 1.20)
- New COVID-19 cases, weekly incidence rate: 35.0 per 100,000
- New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average: 5.3
- COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Percent Positivity, previous week average: 2.7%

Health System Capacity

- ICU bed occupancy rate: 72%
- Acute bed occupancy rate: 86%
- COVID-19 related critical illness (ICU) occupancy rate: 10.5%

Notes:
1) Data as of: September 21, 2021
2) \(\hat{R}_t\) calculated by date of infection using confirmed case data from August 1, 2020 to September 19, 2021
3) Data as of: Week ending September 18, 2021
4) Data as of: September 19, 2021
5) Data as of: Sep 23 2021
6) Data for May, 2021
Longer-term projections: Cases – then and now

Then: Data up to Aug 14, 2021

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

Anticipated start of 5-11 vaccination

If transmission stays the same (grey line) then:
~600 daily cases by beginning of December

Now: Data up to Sep 18, 2021

NOW, if transmission stays the same (grey line) then:
~130 daily cases by beginning of December

Model by Zhu et al, Centre for Disease Modeling, York University
Vaccination status: Toronto residents

Share of Toronto residents vaccinated
- 75.7% initiated vaccination*
- 70.8% completed vaccination

Share of Toronto residents 12+ vaccinated
- 85.2% initiated vaccination*
- 79.7% completed vaccination

Doses administered over time: Daily count
- Data as of: Sep 23 2021 8:00 am

Vaccination by age group
- Data as of: Sep 23 2021 8:00 am

Data sources:
CoVAXON: Vaccine administration, as of September 23, 2021
Making progress towards 90% fully vaccinated (of the eligible 12+ population)

**August 28, 2021**

- **360,000** people to be vaccinated to reach 90% of the eligible population.

  Of these, **170,000** already had one dose.

**September 23, 2021**

- **278,000** people to be vaccinated to reach 90% of the eligible population.

  Of these, **147,000** already had one dose.

Data sources:
CoVAXON: Vaccine administration, as of September 23, 2021
Update on Team Toronto Vaccination Campaign
Team Toronto Vaccine Strategy

• Team Toronto continues to adjust its Vaccine Rollout Strategy and is focusing on maximizing access to vaccines through a new hyper-local vaccination strategy and Vaccine Engagement Teams.

• The City is also focused on delivering third vaccine doses to eligible individuals, as determined by the Province.

• Toronto Public Health is also supporting residents who have received vaccines in other provinces or countries to ensure that they are properly documented in Ontario’s system.
Hyper-local Vaccination Strategy

- 5 vaccination clinics

- Hyper-local Strategy brings vaccination clinics to:
  - Workplaces
  - Retail spaces
  - TTC stops
  - Faith groups
  - Schools and post-secondary institutions
  - Child care facilities
  - Other public spaces.
Vaccination Engagement Teams (VETs)

• 14 geographic and population based consortiums made up of over 155 organizations

• Vaccine Engagement Teams use a variety of approaches to increase vaccine confidence and access:
  • Vaccine education and awareness building campaigns
  • Targeted outreach strategies
  • Mobilization of over 200 multi-lingual community ambassadors
Update on Vaccination Policy
Provincial Vaccine Certificate Program

• Vaccine certificate program came into effect on September 22\textsuperscript{nd}

• Proof of full vaccination is required in settings and facilities such as:
  • bars
  • restaurants
  • gyms
  • Indoor meeting spaces

• Individuals with a recognized medical exemption and children under the age of 12, are exempted from the program.

• The Province will launch a digital vaccination certificate and a smartphone app on October 22
Workplace Vaccination Policies

- The Province has announced that certain employers will be required to have COVID-19 vaccination policies for staff e.g. health care, child care.

- The MOH strongly recommends that local employers institute a workplace vaccination policy.

- Toronto Public Health has provided resources to help employers create workplace vaccination policies on the City’s website.

- The City is implementing a policy that requires all employees to receive two doses of a vaccine by October 30, 2021, and to provide proof of vaccination.
Supporting Safer Re-Opening of Schools
Case rates increased in the 4-11 year age group in the most recent three weeks

Case rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population by age group and reported week, Toronto

COVID-19 cases in school-aged children (4 to 17 years) by outbreak type and week, Toronto

Case rate of 4-11 year olds 64.2/100,000

Data sources: CCM: The Public Health Case and Contact Management Solution, as of September 23, 2021
25% of Toronto Residents Aged 30-49 are not Fully Vaccinated

Number of Toronto residents not vaccinated, by age groups

Data sources:
CoVAXON: Vaccine administration, as of September 23, 2021
TPH Support for Schools

• Toronto Public Health continues to support elementary and secondary schools by:
  • Investigating COVID-19 cases and providing support with contact and outbreak management
  • Providing education on the COVID-19 vaccine
  • Information for students, teachers, and parents to access COVID-19 testing
  • Working with partners to support a lower-barrier take-home testing kit program

• Toronto Public Health will support schools in implementing new provincial guidance:
  • infection prevention and control,
  • COVID-19 screening,
  • masking protocols,
  • physical distancing,
  • promotion of the COVID-19 vaccine.
Reflections on the Last 612 Days