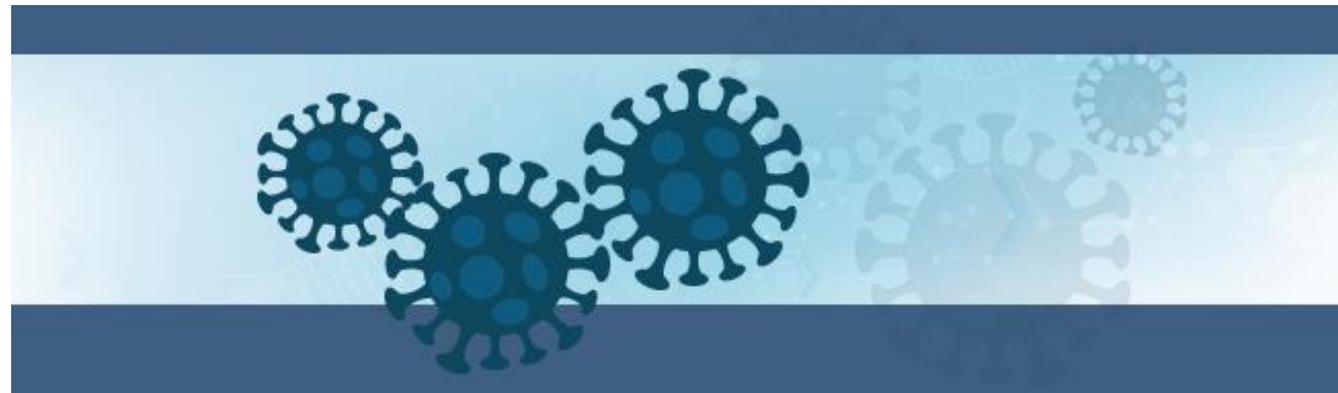


# Response to COVID-19: October 2021 Update

Presentation to the Board of Health

October 25, 2021



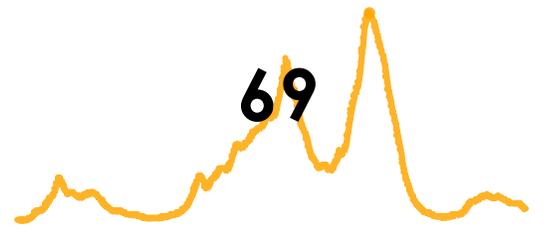


# **Status of COVID-19 Epidemic in Toronto**

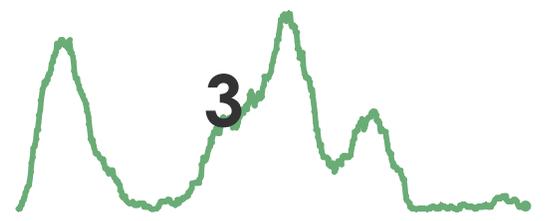
# Monitoring Dashboard – Oct 20\*, 2021

## Virus Spread and Containment

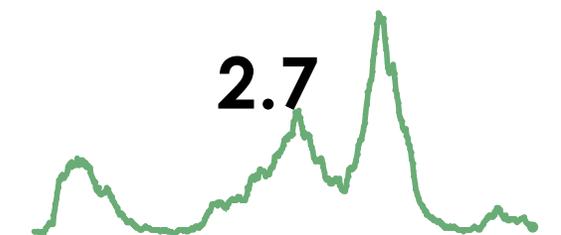
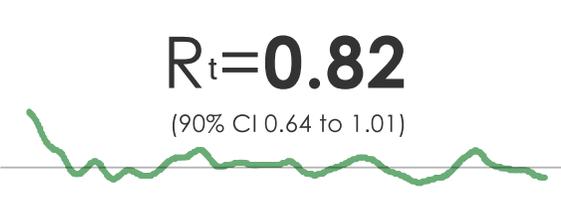
New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average<sup>1</sup>    New COVID-19 cases, weekly incidence rate<sup>1</sup>    New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average<sup>1</sup>



Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks in institutions<sup>1</sup>



Effective reproductive number, COVID-19 cases<sup>2</sup>



Vaccination coverage 12+ (at least one dose)<sup>5</sup>

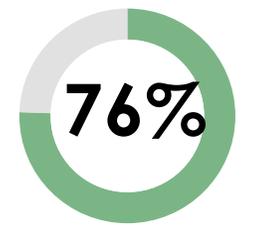


COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Percent Positivity, previous week average<sup>3</sup>

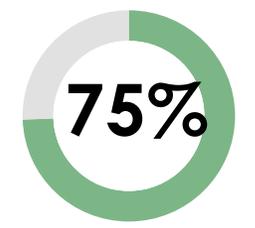


## Health System Capacity

ICU bed occupancy rate<sup>4</sup>



Acute bed occupancy rate<sup>4</sup>



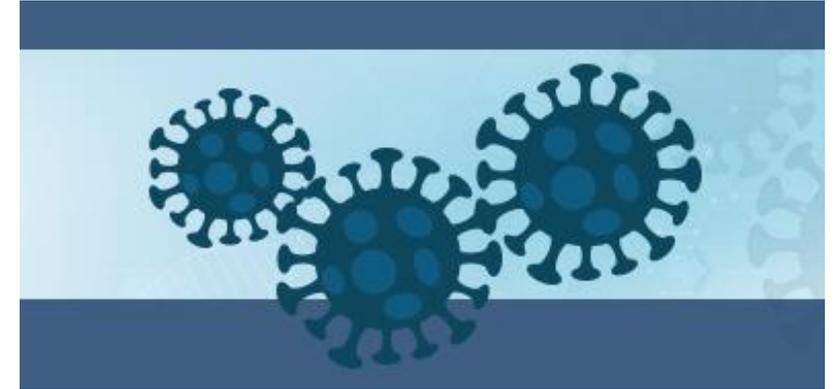
COVID-19 related critical illness (ICU) occupancy rate<sup>4</sup>



\*Notes: 1) Data as of: October 19, 2021. Outbreak data as of October 8th. 2) R<sub>t</sub> calculated by date of infection using confirmed case data from August 1, 2020 to October 17, 2021. 3) Data as of: Week ending October 9, 2021. 4) Data as of October 17, 2021. 5) Data as of: Oct 18 2021. 6) Data for July, 2021.

# Beyond COVID-19: Circulating Respiratory Viruses

- Toronto Public Health is getting ready for influenza season.
- Circulation of viruses other than COVID-19 is already occurring and is expected to continue.
- Continuation of some public health measures for COVID-19, such as masking and physical distancing, may reduce the impact from other respiratory viruses.





# **Update on COVID-19 Vaccination**

# Over 80% of Toronto Residents 12+ are Fully Vaccinated

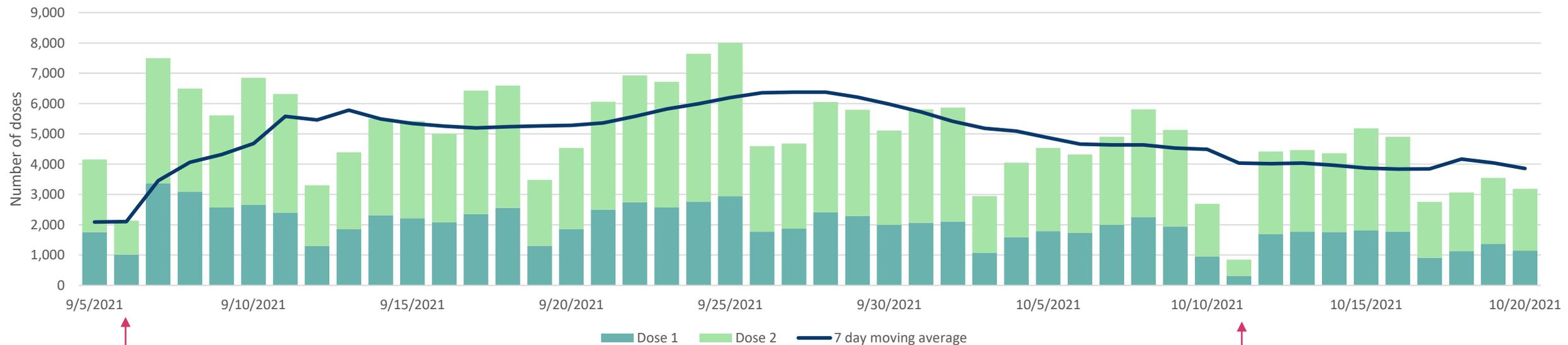
## Vaccination Uptake (filters do not apply to this)

Share of Toronto residents vaccinated

**77.5% initiated vaccination\***  
**73.8% completed vaccination**

Share of Toronto residents 12+ vaccinated

**87.2% initiated vaccination\***  
**83.0% completed vaccination**



September long weekend Monday

Thanksgiving Monday

## **Vaccine Approval Process**

- Canada has one of the best vaccine safety programs in the world.

## **Vaccines for Ages 12-17**

- In addition to protecting children and youth aged 12-17 from COVID-19, vaccination for this age group is critical to prevent transmission of the virus to others (e.g., family members, such as grandparents).

## **Health Conditions and the COVID-19 Vaccine**

- Individuals with health conditions, including allergies, can get vaccinated.

## **Myocarditis and Pericarditis**

- Some people who have had a COVID-19 infection have also experienced myocarditis.
- Rates of myocarditis and pericarditis in Ontario remain rare following vaccination. Individuals tend to respond well to rest and treatment, and symptoms improve quickly.
- Pfizer is the preferred vaccine for eligible recipients under 24 years old.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Group: Children 5-11**

- Toronto Public Health is collaborating with health sector partners to plan for vaccination of children between ages 5 to 11, upon Health Canada approval and Ontario Ministry of Health receipt of vaccine.
- Planning includes health partners, school boards, community representatives and the Ministry of Health.
- Vaccination strategy will be informed by a needs-based approach.

## **Third Dose Administration**

- Ontario Ministry of Health determines which individuals are eligible for a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine and when.
- Toronto Public Health is delivering COVID-19 vaccine to these eligible populations, and any future populations based on Ministry direction.

## **Last Mile Vaccination**

- Efforts continue to promote COVID-19 vaccination for those who are unvaccinated in the City.



# COVID-19 Policy Updates

## **Provincial**

September 29: Recommends Pfizer for individuals aged 18-24

October 5: Targeted rapid antigen screening for schools

October 7: Additional guidance from the Province on populations eligible for a third dose

October 15: Launch of app to allow digital verification of an individual's vaccination status

October 22: Ontario Releases Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term

## **Municipal**

October 5: Letter of Instruction for proof of vaccination requirements as of November 1 for participants in indoor sports and fitness activities aged 12 and up

# Provincial Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term

## A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term

### September 22, 2021

- Begin to require proof of vaccination in higher-risk indoor settings

### September 25, 2021

- Begin easing capacity limits in certain settings

### October 9, 2021

- Lift capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required

### October 22, 2021

- Enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and Verify Ontario app launched

### October 25, 2021

Lift capacity limits where proof of vaccination is required in:

- restaurants and bars
- sports, recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms), physical fitness training and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments
- meeting and event spaces (indoor)

Permit certain settings to lift capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination, including, but not limited to:

- museums, galleries, etc.
- religious services, rites, or ceremonies
- tour and guide services
- personal care services, including barber shops, salons, body art

### March 28, 2022 (and onwards)

- All remaining public health and workplace safety measures in businesses and organizations lifted, including masking
- Revoke public health Emergency Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act*
- Recommendations on where masking could be maintained (such as transit)

## Fall 2021

### November 15, 2021

Lift capacity limits in other high-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as, night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

## Winter 2021-2022

In the absence of concerning trends, begin to lift vaccine certificate requirements, starting with the lowest risk settings, as follows:

### January 17, 2022

- restaurants and bars
- sports and recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms) and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, etc.

### February 7, 2022

- night clubs
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

### March 28, 2022

- meeting and event spaces
- sporting events
- concerts, theatres and cinemas
- racing venues
- commercial and film productions with studio audiences

Also begin to lift CMOH directives and capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required.

# COVID-19 Updates: Use of Rapid Antigen Testing in Schools

- Focus in Toronto is on take-home PCR testing.
- TPH continues to work with Province on the best use for rapid antigen testing in Toronto schools.

## TAKE HOME PCR TEST KIT



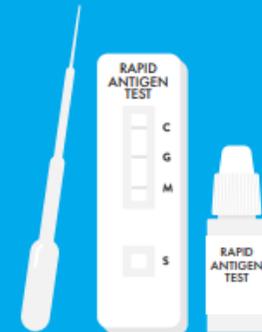
Collect the sample at home & return to your child's school/child care. Use if your child has a COVID-19 symptom or was a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

## PCR TEST AT AN ASSESSMENT CENTRE



Book an appointment for your child before going. Go if your child has a COVID-19 symptom or was a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

## RAPID ANTIGEN



Not recommended if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. If you have a positive rapid antigen test, self-isolate & get a PCR test to confirm the result.

**Toronto Public Health has redirected significant resources to COVID-19 response. A small number of staff continue to carry out essential functions.**

**This has had impacts on work to address:**

- Chronic disease and injury prevention
- Prevention and control of infectious and communicable diseases other than COVID-19
- School health
- Healthy growth and development
- Healthy environments, including food and water safety
- Oral health
- Population Health Assessments

# Thank you

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City of Toronto

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Toronto, ON M5B 1W2

[toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19)

**Dr. Eileen de Villa**  
Medical Officer of Health