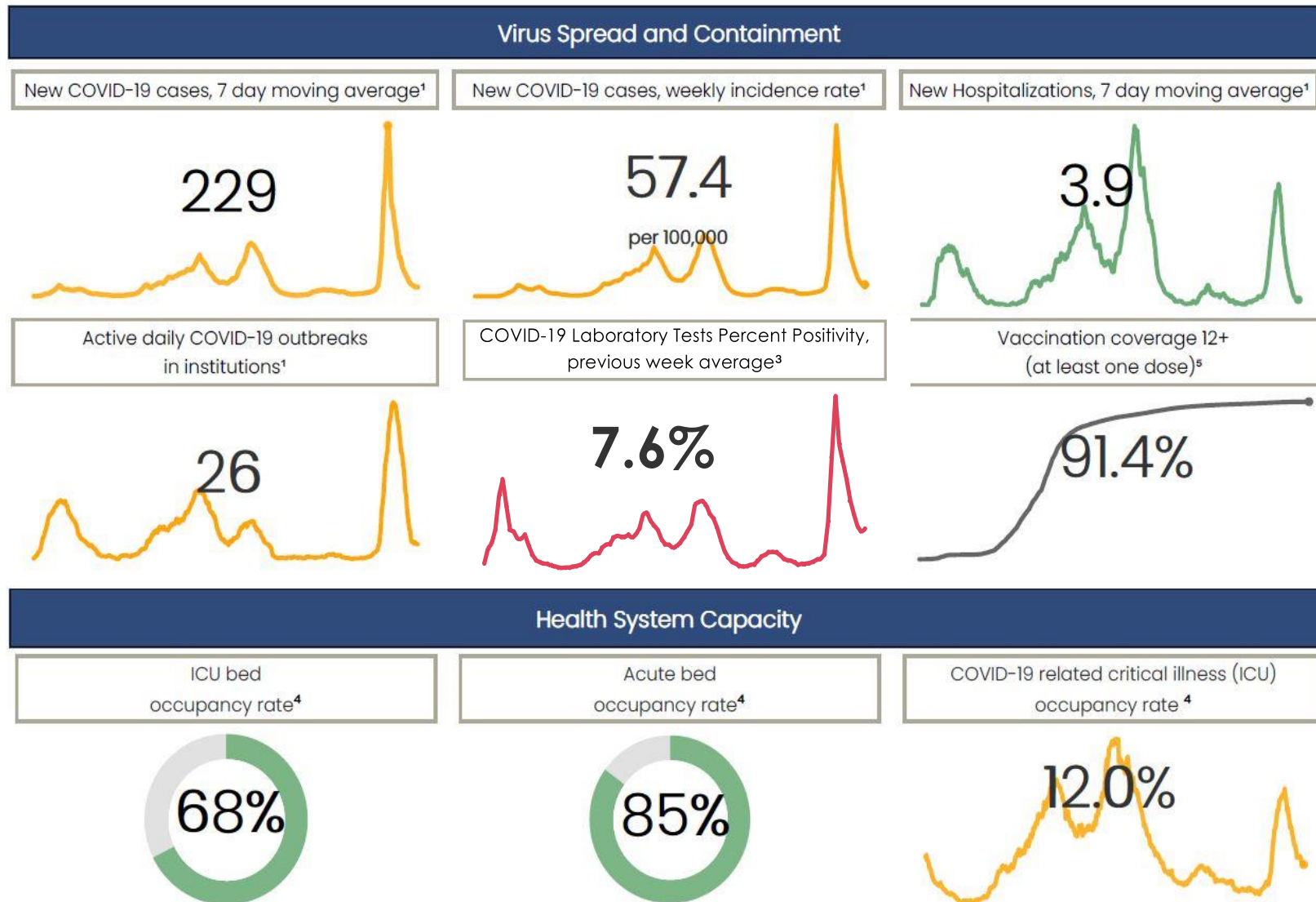


# **Response to COVID-19: March 2022 Update to City Council**

Presentation from the Medical Officer of Health  
March 9, 2022

**Item CC41.1**

# The Omicron wave in Toronto has peaked and is now subsiding across a range of indicators



**Notes:** 1. Data as of: March 1, 2022; 2. N/A; 3. Data as of: Week ending February 26, 2022; 4. Data as of February 27, 2022; 5. Data as of: Mar 7 2022  
Available at [www.toronto.ca/COVID19data](http://www.toronto.ca/COVID19data)

# Toronto has strong vaccination coverage: 88.7% of residents 12+ have at least two doses

Total doses administered (includes first, second and third dose)	Number of people who have received 1 dose	Number of people who have received 2 doses	Number of people who have received 3 doses
<p><b>6,796,743</b></p> <p>+13,482</p> <p>newly reported since Mar 3</p>	<p><b>2,714,766</b></p> <p>+1,238</p> <p>newly reported since Mar 3</p>	<p><b>2,529,212</b></p> <p>+3,366</p> <p>newly reported since Mar 3</p>	<p><b>1,552,765</b></p> <p>+10,167</p> <p>newly reported since Mar 3</p>

## Vaccine Uptake (filters do not apply to this) Data as of Mar 7 2022 8:00 am

Share of all Toronto residents vaccinated	Share of Toronto residents 5+ vaccinated	Share of Toronto residents 12+ vaccinated	Share of Toronto residents 18+ vaccinated
<p>Dose 1: 84.9%</p> <p>Dose 2: 81.2%</p> <p>Dose 3: 48.5%</p>	<p>Dose 1: 89.0%</p> <p>Dose 2: 85.2%</p> <p>Dose 3: 50.8%</p>	<p>Dose 1: 91.4%</p> <p>Dose 2: 88.7%</p> <p>Dose 3: 54.5%</p>	<p>Dose 1: 91.1%</p> <p>Dose 2: 88.6%</p> <p>Dose 3: 56.7%</p>

# Team Toronto vaccination campaign continues with hyper-local, equity-focused strategy

- Implementing a **hyper-local, equity-focused strategy** aimed at improving vaccination uptake in 30 communities that continue to experience barriers to vaccination.
- Special event clinics throughout Toronto, such as Vax the East, Shop and Vax, and the current Vax and Read campaign.
- VaxTO outreach to older Torontonians to encourage them to access their third dose.

# Toronto's COVID-19 context supports gradual reopening measures

- Decreased hospitalizations and intensive care unit bed occupancy, as well as high vaccination coverage.
- Available tools include:
  - Vaccine (predictable supply); and
  - New COVID-19 treatments.
- The City of Toronto is now in Roadmap Exit Step of the *Reopening Ontario Act*.

# Recommendation: Mask Bylaw to expire when province-wide masking requirements are lifted

- In June 2020, when Toronto's Mask Bylaw was approved, there was:
  - Limited knowledge of the COVID-19 virus;
  - No access to vaccines; and
  - A small number of people immune as a result of an infection.
- Given the high rate of vaccine coverage and current epidemiological trends, Toronto can consider removing these regulations in concert with the Government of Ontario (as announced today, effective March 21, 2022).

# Recommendation: Affirm support for individuals to choose to wear masks

- Lifting masking requirements does not preclude individuals from wearing a mask and Toronto Public Health recommends the use of well-fitted, high-quality masks, particularly in crowded indoor spaces with limited ventilation.
- Toronto Public Health also encourages people to access their third dose as soon as they are eligible, practice physical distancing, and participate in activities outdoors, where possible.

# Recommendation: Engagement with provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health

- Toronto Public Health will continue to engage with provincial counterparts to:
  - Review Toronto's local epidemiology; and
  - Discuss mask use and other appropriate infection prevention and control measures, particularly in certain settings like hospitals and long-term care homes, public transit, and shelters.



# Toronto Public Health will continue to provide residents with COVID-19 guidance

## 4 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

We all have a role to play to help reduce COVID-19 spread & keep our city safe:



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

 TORONTO Public Health

- Continuing to publish the best possible guidance for residents on how to keep themselves, their households, and their community healthy and safe.
- Providing residents with access to a number of frequently-updated resources and supports online, as well as the COVID-19 Hotline.

# Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are key components of the COVID-19 response

- Toronto Public Health will continue to monitor Toronto's local epidemiological context, along with any emerging COVID-19 variants, and deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program in close collaboration with health system partners.
- The City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health have access to legal tools and other options that can be used to respond to COVID-19, if the science and Toronto's local context warrant new measures.
- Staff will report to City Council, as needed, with recommendations if COVID-19 bylaws are required to protect Torontonians and those who work and visit Toronto.