

Response to COVID-19: April 2022 Update

Presentation to the Board of Health

April 11, 2022





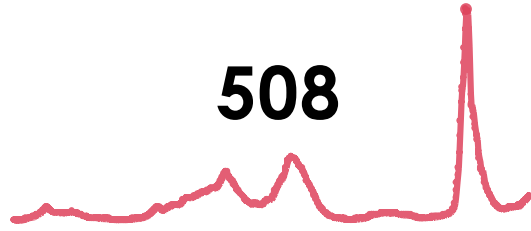
Status of the COVID-19 Epidemic in Toronto

Key indicators show an increase in COVID-19 activity

Virus Spread and Containment

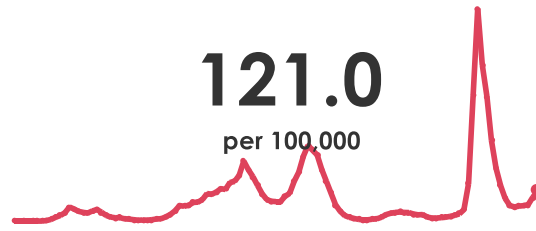
New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average¹

508



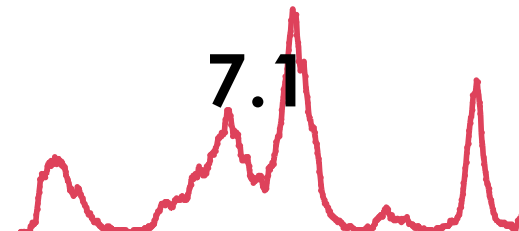
New COVID-19 cases, weekly incidence rate¹

121.0
per 100,000



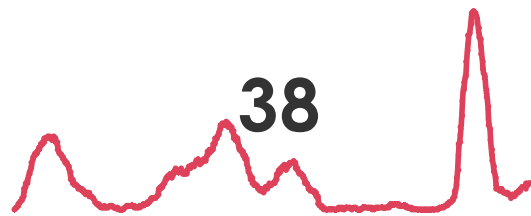
New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average¹

7.1



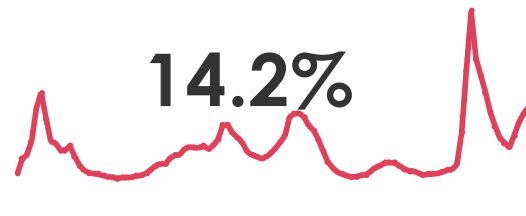
Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks in institutions¹

38



COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Percent Positivity, previous week average³

14.2%



Vaccination coverage 12+ (at least one dose)⁵

91.6%

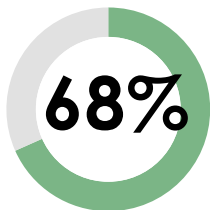


This indicator was last updated on March 30, 2022

Health System Capacity

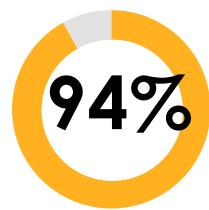
ICU bed occupancy rate⁴

68%



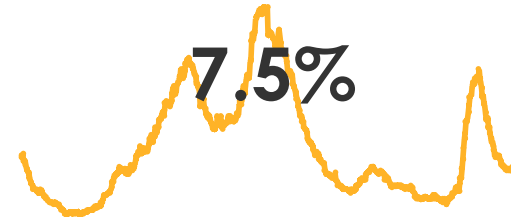
Acute bed occupancy rate⁴

94%



COVID-19 related critical illness (ICU) occupancy rate⁴

7.5%

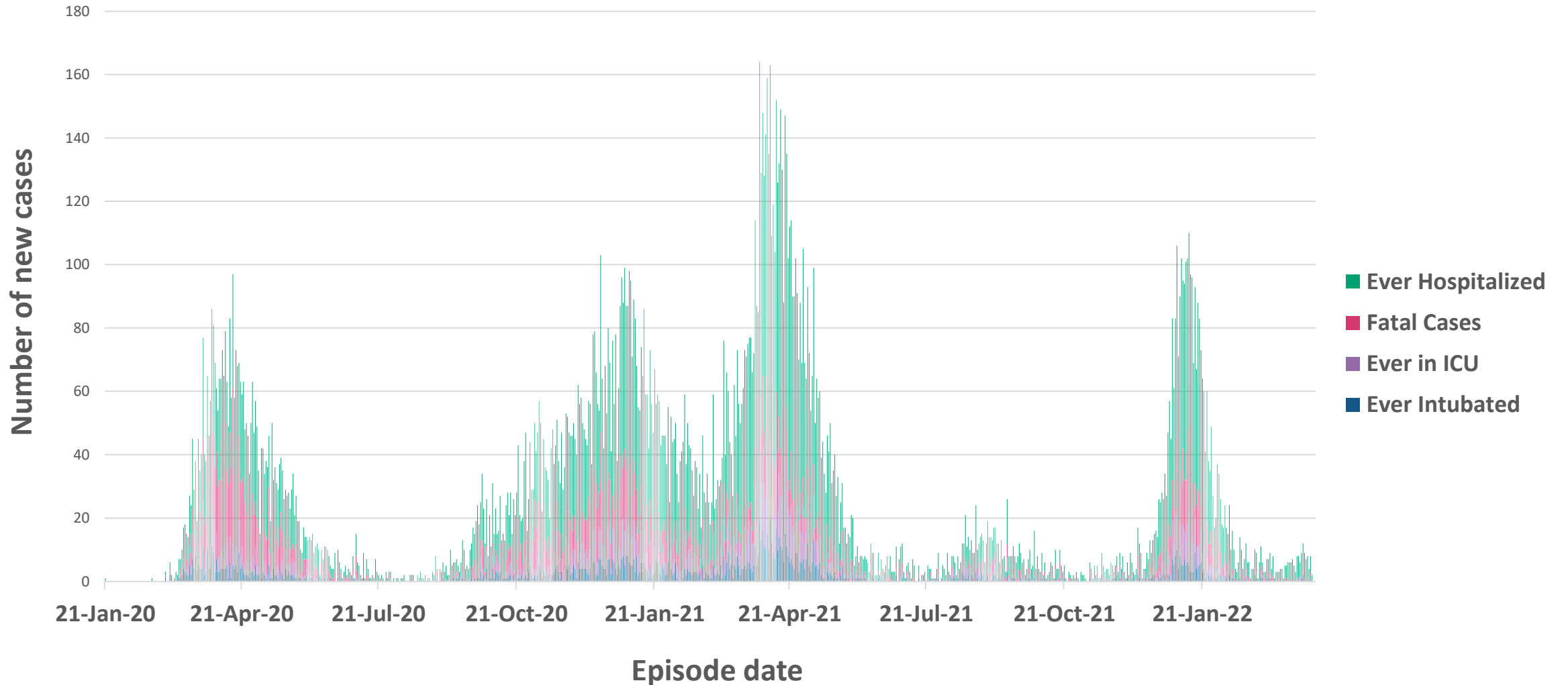


Due to changes in eligibility for testing driven by increasing COVID-19 cases related to the Omicron variant, case counts are an underestimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 in Toronto. Changes in trends should be interpreted with caution.

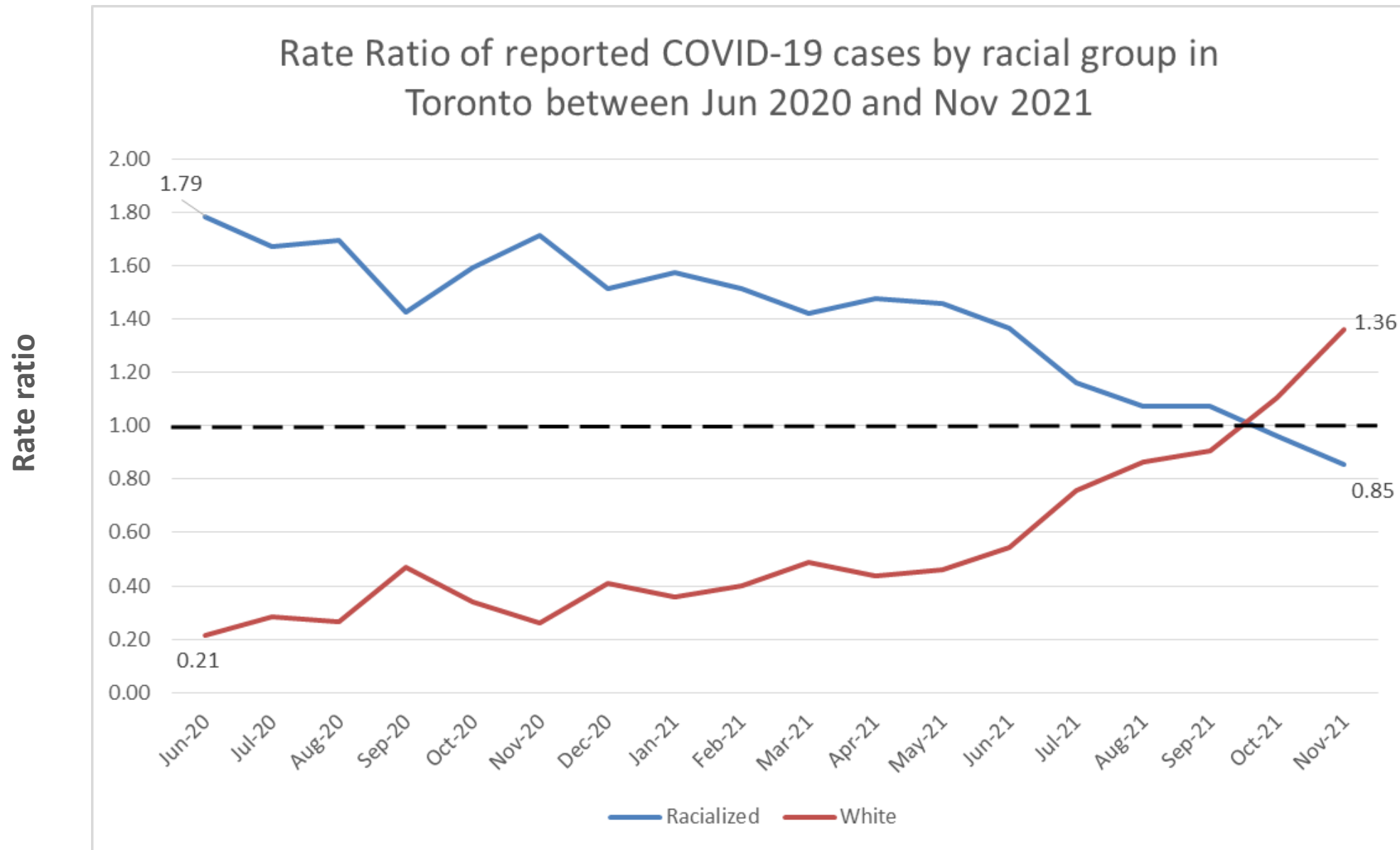
¹ Notes: 1) Data as of: April 6, 2022 2) N/A 3) Data as of: Week ending March 26, 2022 4) Data as of April 4, 2022 5) Data as of: Apr 4 2022 6) Data for September, 2021

While a lagging indicator, hospitalizations are starting to increase

Incidence of severe outcomes, by day. Toronto, January 21, 2020 – April 6, 2022

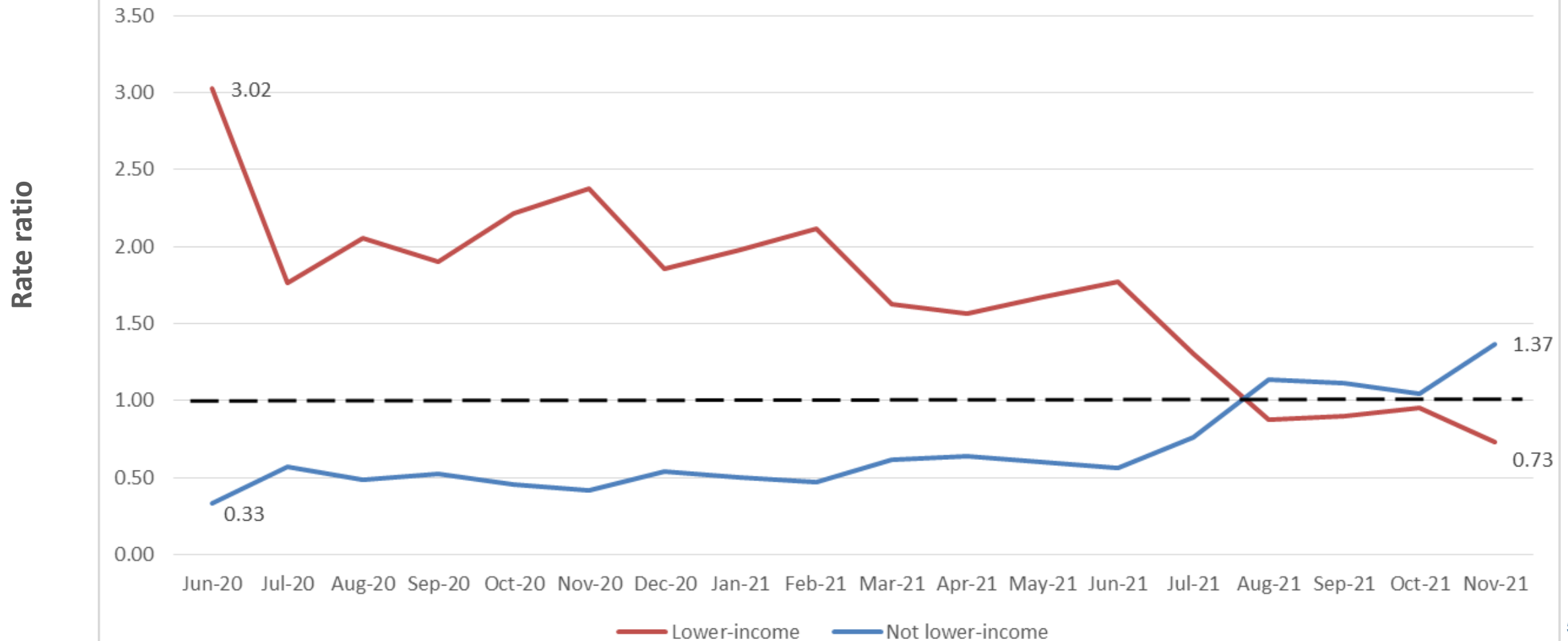


The disparity between racialized people and white people decreased in the fourth wave



The disparity between people living with lower income and those with higher income also decreased

Rate Ratio of reported COVID-19 cases by Low Income Measure (LIM) status in Toronto between Jun 2020 and Dec 2021





Reporting in the new phase of the pandemic

Monitoring dashboard is being updated to reflect a new phase of the pandemic

- The COVID-19 pandemic is entering a new phase, including easing of restrictions and changes in the availability of data.
- It is important to reflect this changing pandemic landscape through updated key surveillance and monitoring indicators.
- Toronto Public Health is planning to update the dashboard to reflect the changing availability and accuracy of data sources.
- This includes expanding the suite of indicators to enable a more meaningful understanding of the current epidemiology.

COVID-19: Pandemic Data

Due to the widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Toronto, there are not enough tests available for everyone who has symptoms. Find out what you need to do if you [have symptoms or think you may have been exposed](#) to COVID-19.

Monitoring Dashboard

Key metrics to monitor the activity and impact of COVID-19.

Case Counts

Weekday updates on new and cumulative COVID-19 cases and outbreaks.

Hospitalizations & Deaths

Detailed weekly summary of hospitalizations and deaths in COVID-19 cases.

Active Outbreaks

Data on active COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ethno-Racial Identity & Income

Data on race and income reported by COVID-19 cases.

Vaccine Data

Vaccine coverage trends.

Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater trends over time.

Archived Dashboards

Historical reporting pages.

Reporting on trends – sample future dashboard

Wastewater Surveillance

[More Info](#)

COVID-19 Wastewater trends in Toronto region

Ashbridges Bay



Highland Creek



Humber



North Toronto



Overall Toronto Wastewater Trends

Recent 17 days:



Previous 17 days:



Please note that this is a mock-up only for demonstration purposes, and the data included are not real.



Update on COVID-19 Vaccination

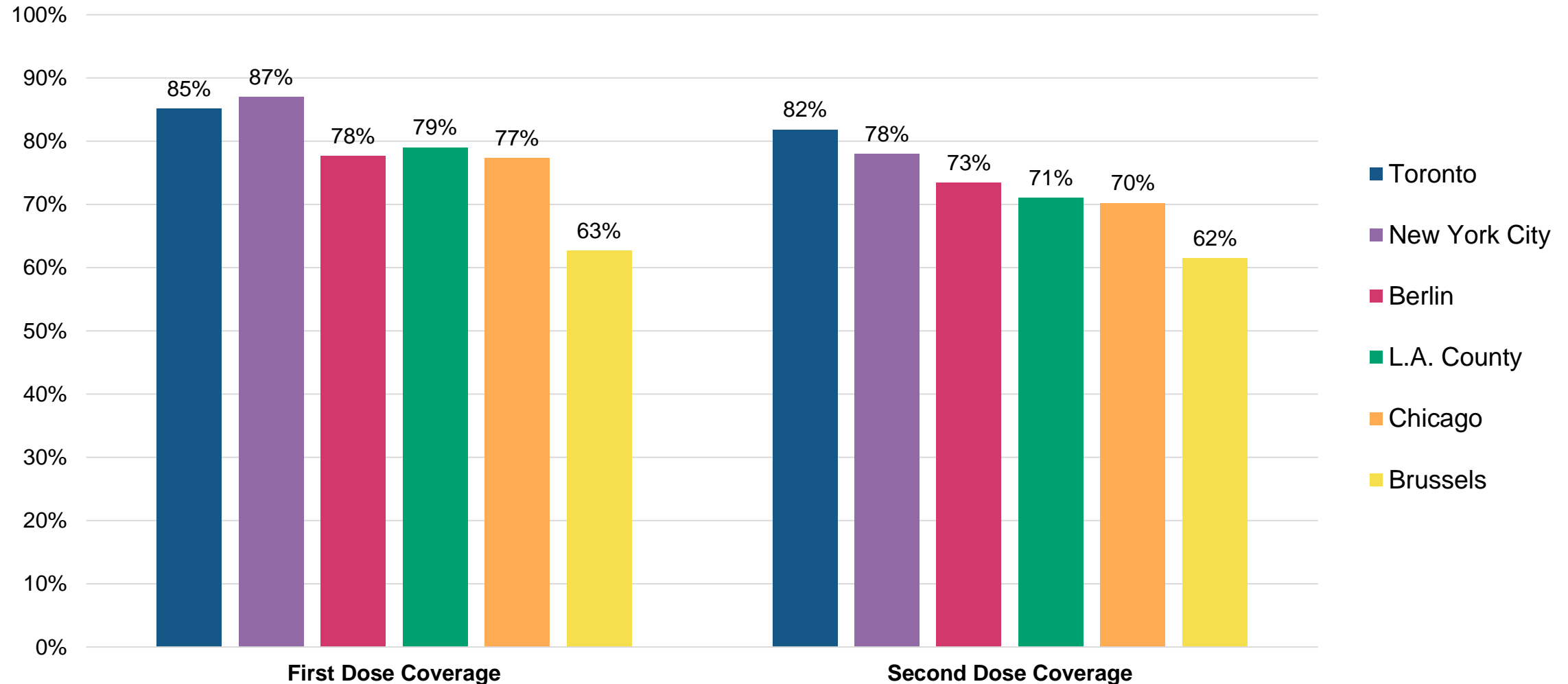
We have highly-effective tools that can mitigate the current Omicron wave

- Increased COVID-19 activity is being driven by the Omicron BA.2 variant.
- Residents with three doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had the lowest rates of serious outcomes compared to individuals with fewer than three doses.
- Given increased COVID-19 activity, layers of protection are essential to keeping yourself and others safe, including:
 - **getting vaccinated,**
 - **reducing your contacts,**
 - **wearing a well-fitted high quality mask,**
 - **staying home when you are sick, and**
 - **accessing treatment.**

COVID-19 vaccine coverage continues to increase

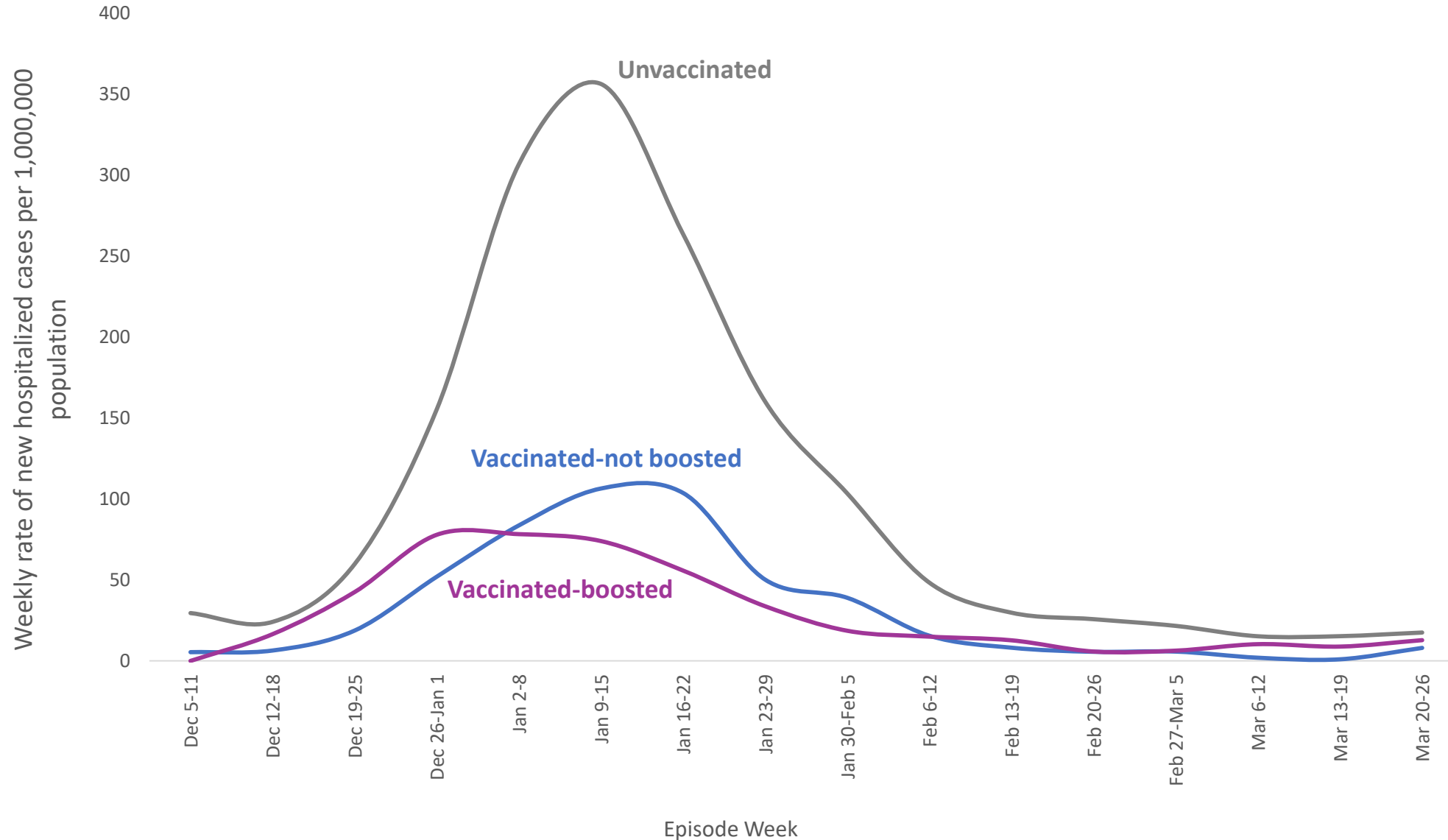
- Share of Toronto residents aged 12+ vaccinated:
 - Dose 1: 91.6%
 - Dose 2: 89.0%
 - Dose 3: 55.7%
- Vaccination rates among Toronto residents aged 5-11 continue to increase:
 - 58% have one dose
 - 42% have two doses
- Over 69% of individuals aged 60+ have received a third dose

Toronto is a leader in vaccine coverage among major cities



*Vaccination coverage among all residents, as of March 31, 2022

Unvaccinated individuals had the highest rates of hospitalizations during the omicron wave



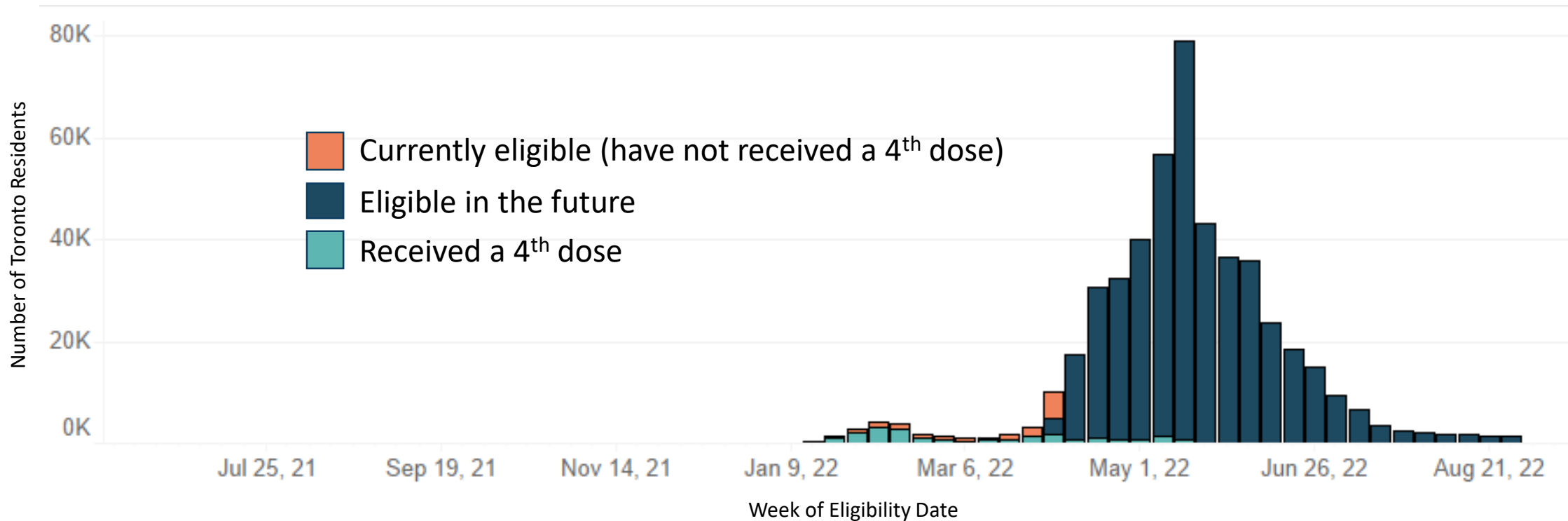
- Toronto Public Health has launched the Third Dose Drive to help as many residents as possible get their third COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- This campaign aims to reach eligible residents through multiple channels, including:
 - pharmacies
 - primary care settings
 - hyper-local mobile clinics
 - 76 Vax And Ride clinics in TTC stations across the city
- These efforts are supported by VaxTO outreach to 40,000 people in 13 neighbourhoods with low third dose rates.

Expanded eligibility for fourth doses

- The Province of Ontario has expanded eligibility for fourth doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 60 and older.
- The Province recommends an interval of five months between the third and fourth doses, but has allowed for an interval as short as three months.
- First Nation, Inuit, and Métis individuals and their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and older are also eligible.

The majority of Toronto residents aged 60+ will become eligible for a fourth dose in the coming weeks

Residents aged 60 and older, eligible for fourth doses (five month interval)





Recommendations

Providing COVID-19 guidance and support in the long-term

- At this point in the pandemic, further guidance and resources are needed to support our community and individuals in assessing their risk from COVID-19 and making decisions to protect themselves.

Recommendation 1: The Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health and the Province of Ontario to provide additional focused guidance to help the public discern how best to employ layers of protection against COVID-19 and to provide support to those at greatest risk for severe outcomes from COVID-19, including priority access to testing, personal protective equipment, and other resources to support safer public interactions.

Recommendation 2: The Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to explore innovative and accessible ways to use data to communicate with the public to enable informed decisions about how best to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

Providing COVID-19 guidance and support in the long-term

- **Recommendation 3:** The Board of Health request that the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health work with Toronto Public Health, primary care, pharmacies, other health care practitioners, and any other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate access to and increase appropriate uptake of COVID-19 treatments, incorporating core elements such as:
 - an information campaign to raise awareness among health care providers and the public of the availability of this effective treatment,
 - resources to support health care providers and the public to use available COVID-19 treatments, and
 - a strategy to leverage existing community vaccine distribution infrastructure to ensure effective, equitable access to COVID-19 treatment.

Advocating for expanded sociodemographic data collection

- Toronto Public Health has been a leader in the collection of sociodemographic data throughout the pandemic. Previously-available testing data are no longer available at this stage of the pandemic.
- Toronto Public Health is calling on the Ministry of Health to explore with stakeholders and communities methods to more systematically collect socio-demographic data including race, within the provincial health services.

Recommendation 4: The Board of Health request the Province of Ontario to work with relevant stakeholders and communities to expand the collection of sociodemographic data in the health system (which may include, for example, optimizing the linkage of existing Census data with health data) to ensure that resources are deployed to the populations with the greatest need and to ensure equitable and culturally-safe access to health and social services

Recommendation 5: The Board of Health forward the Medical Officer of Health's recommendation concerning the collection of sociodemographic data to all boards of health in Ontario and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.



Recognizing our Public Health Workforce

Recognizing Canadian Public Health Week

- The inaugural Canadian Public Health Week was celebrated last week.
- Toronto Public Health recognizes the incredible efforts that staff have made in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic for over two years.

