



TO Supports: **COVID-19 Equity Action Plan**

April 2022 Status Update



Summary

COVID-19 Equity Measures

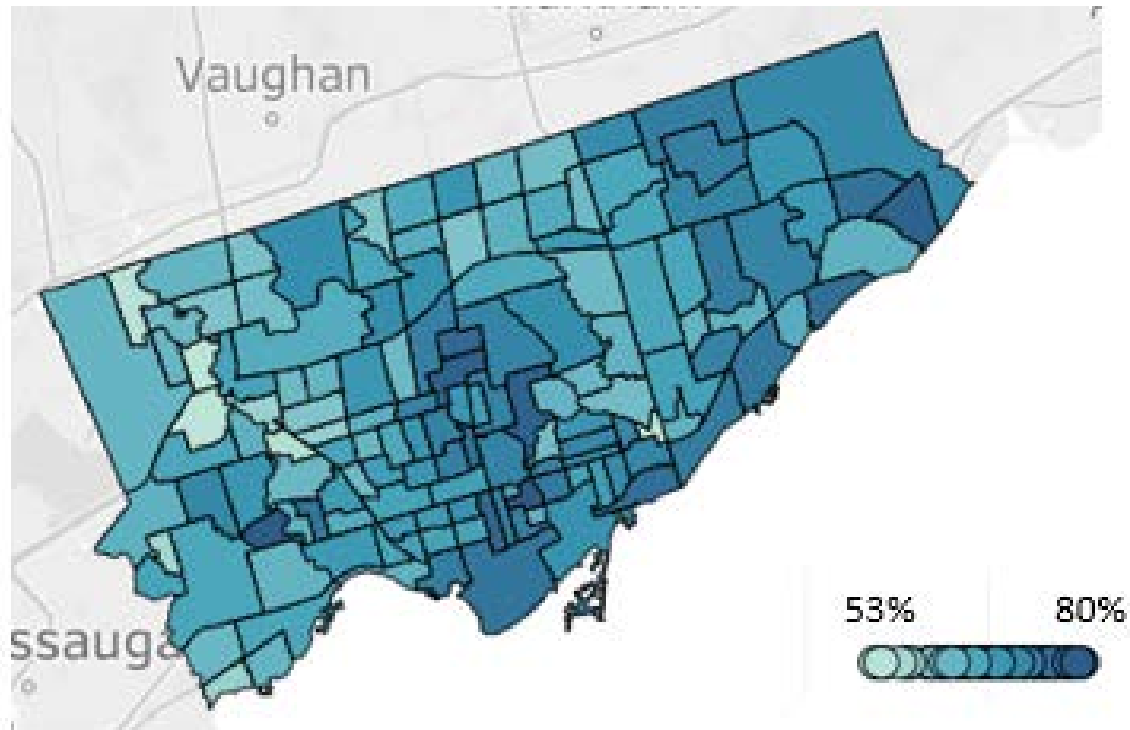
- COVID-19 has exacerbated long-standing systemic social and health inequities
- The City of Toronto has implemented strategies, including TO Supports and the Vaccine Engagement Teams, that respond to these inequities and support Torontonians disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- Pandemic recovery actions must respond to the health needs of equity-deserving populations
- Recovery plans will need to adapt to potential changes in public health conditions such as future variants and vaccine developments



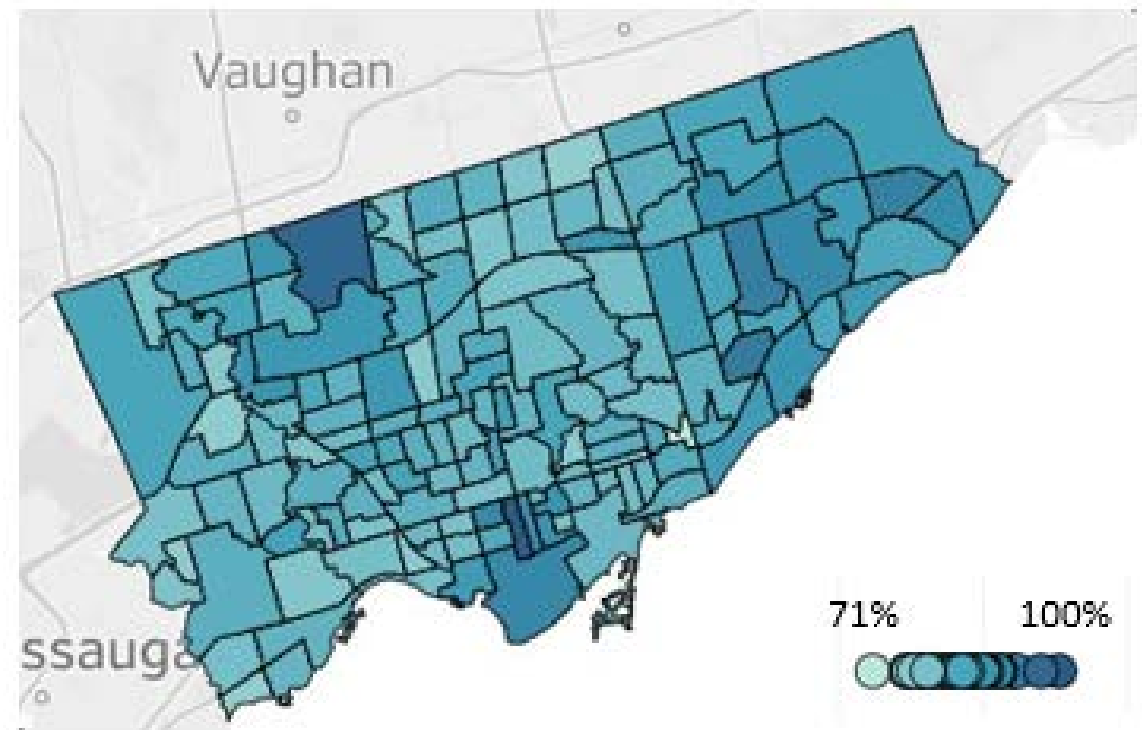
First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Toronto Residents 12+ by Neighbourhood

Priority neighbourhoods had an average increase of 19% from June 2021 to April 2022 for dose 1 coverage (66% to 85%), all other neighbourhoods had a percent change of 13% (72% to 85%).

June 2021



April 2022



TO Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan

Overview & Status



TO Supports is the guiding framework of equity measures developed and implemented since March 2020 to support Torontonians disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

- **TO Supports Investment Fund:** \$9.7 million distributed in 2020 to support vulnerable individuals
- **Mental Health Support Strategy:** Streamlined access to mental health services supporting over 253,700 people free of charge
- **Emergency Food Response:** 46,000 individuals served at 12 emergency food banks, \$4.5M distributed, and over 730,000 prepared meals distributed
- **Community Coordination Plan:** Collective impact and service integration of more than 400 health and community service agencies supporting vulnerable individuals
- **Equity Action Plan:** Multi-dimensional emergency response with \$8.27M distributed and over 543,000 vulnerable community members supported



Vaccine Engagement Teams

An Effective Equity-Focused, Hyper-Local Model

Vaccine Engagement Teams build on the City's TO Supports equity measures by leveraging community expertise and partnerships to facilitate and promote vaccine uptake.

- \$9.5 million distributed to Vaccine Engagement Teams in 2021
- \$1 million provided to Indigenous organizations to self-determine culturally-appropriate engagement strategies
- Over 1.5 million Torontonians engaged in 2021
- Over 600 Community Ambassadors mobilized to provide outreach across communities, door-to-door in buildings, and public spaces

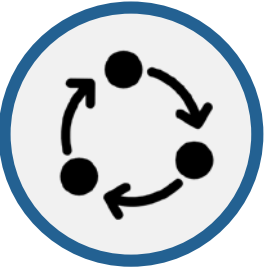


Community Ambassadors

An Effective Peer Engagement Approach

Community Ambassadors spent over 46,000 hours conducting vaccine outreach and sharing information in over 43 different languages.

- 4,900 engagements that supported individuals in navigating the COVID-19 vaccine registration system and finding a vaccine clinic in their neighbourhood
- 2,295 referrals to COVID-19 testing sites
- 2,300 public setting engagement sessions in parks, lobbies, or shopping centres
- 2,000 referrals to local community or health services
- 1,300 door-to-door outreach shifts in both market and social housing communities
- 790 support sessions at local vaccine clinics for on-site registration and coordination of community members



Monitoring & Evaluating Impact Vaccine Engagement Teams

- Regular monitoring and reporting on Vaccine Engagement Teams has helped the City and community agencies respond to ongoing trends, identified gaps, and emerging issues
- Staff shared findings from an interim evaluation of the Vaccine Engagement teams at the December 2021 Board of Health meeting
- Interim findings indicated that Vaccine Engagement Teams are an effective model for place-based strategic planning, hyper-local engagement, and collaboration
- A final external evaluation of Vaccine Engagement Teams is nearly complete. Complete findings will be available in May 2022



Vaccine Engagement Teams and COVID-19 Recovery

- Vaccine Engagement Teams continue to be needed for ongoing, critical outreach to vulnerable groups in high-priority neighbourhoods
- Vaccine engagement infrastructure can respond to potential changes in vaccine recommendations for doses or specific populations, and support enhanced responses to emerging uptick
- Vaccine Engagement Teams can be explored as a mechanism to address health and social inequities during pandemic recovery efforts
- Vaccine Engagement Teams are currently funded to operate until July 1, 2022