

Toronto Public Health

Update on COVID-19 and key priorities

November 8, 2022



- Onset of respiratory season begins with increased COVID-19, influenza, and RSV activity
- Vaccine key to low COVID-19 illness severity
- Small number of new COVID-19 Omicron sub-variants detected in Ontario. Likely contributing to increased cases
- Seasonal response will build on successful COVID-19 partnerships and learning

1,000⁺ Days of Toronto Public Health's COVID-19 Response



370,000+

Total reported confirmed cases.



4,500+

Outbreaks managed.



2,100+

Clients served at the Toronto Voluntary Isolation Centre.



532,000+

Calls and emails answered at the TPH Hotline.



50,000+

People in our community reached at **1,200+** information sessions.



200+

Media briefings held and **4,700+** media inquiries answered.

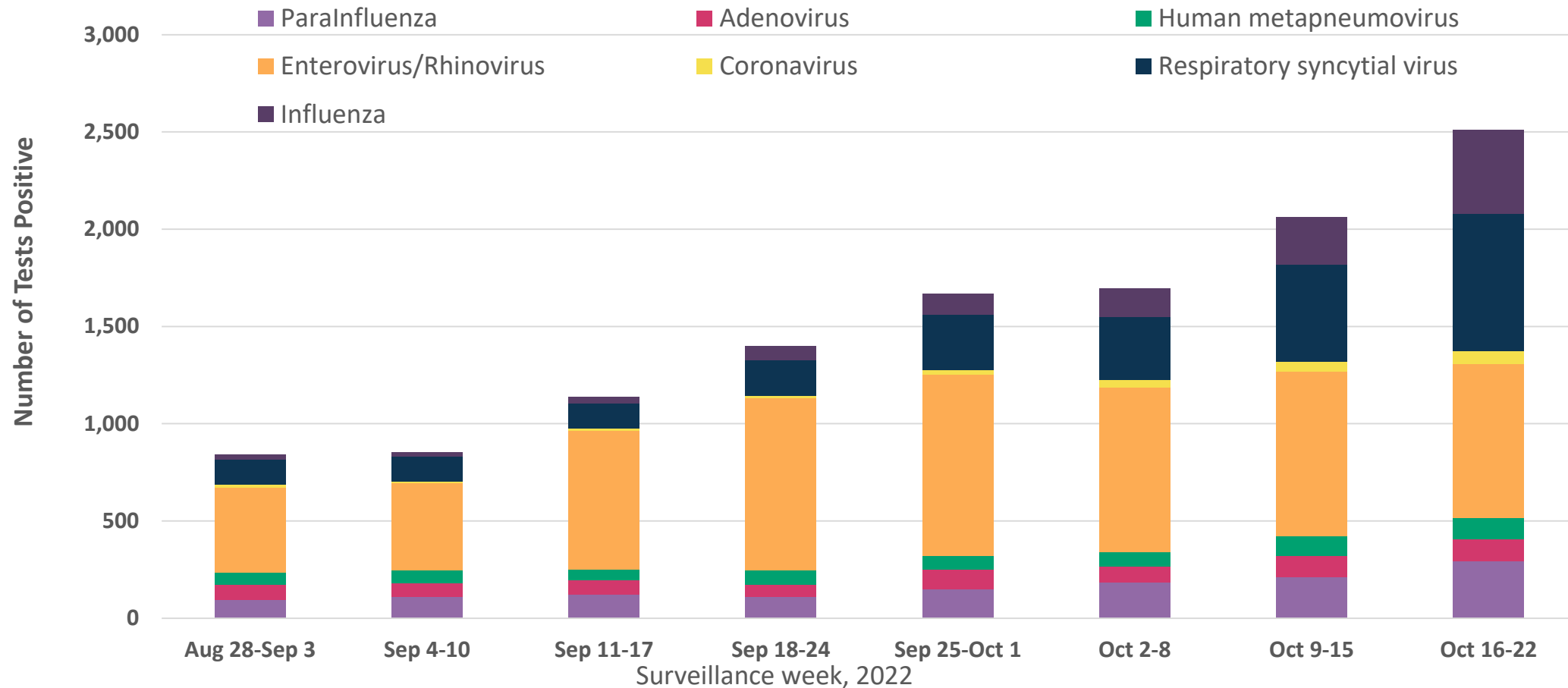


7,544,000+

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered by Team Toronto.

National respiratory activity is increasing involving many viruses

Positive respiratory virus tests by pathogen, Canada, August 28-October 22, 2022



Data Source:

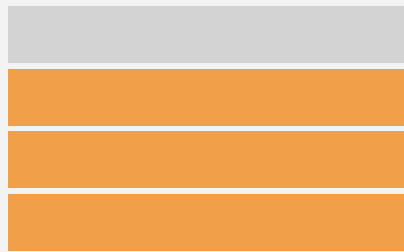
Public Health Agency of Canada, Respiratory Virus Detections in Canada, accessed November 3, 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/surveillance/respiratory-virus-detections-canada/2022-2023/week-42-ending-october-22-2022.html>

Ontario Current Respiratory Disease Activity

COVID-19

Percent positivity:

High



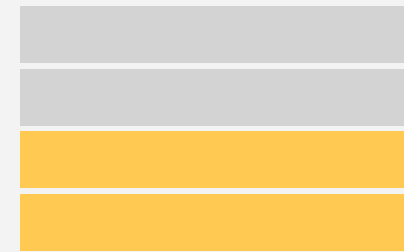
Weekly indicator
change:
Similar



Influenza

Percent positivity:

Moderate



Weekly indicator
change:
Higher



Percent positivity:



Percent positivity:



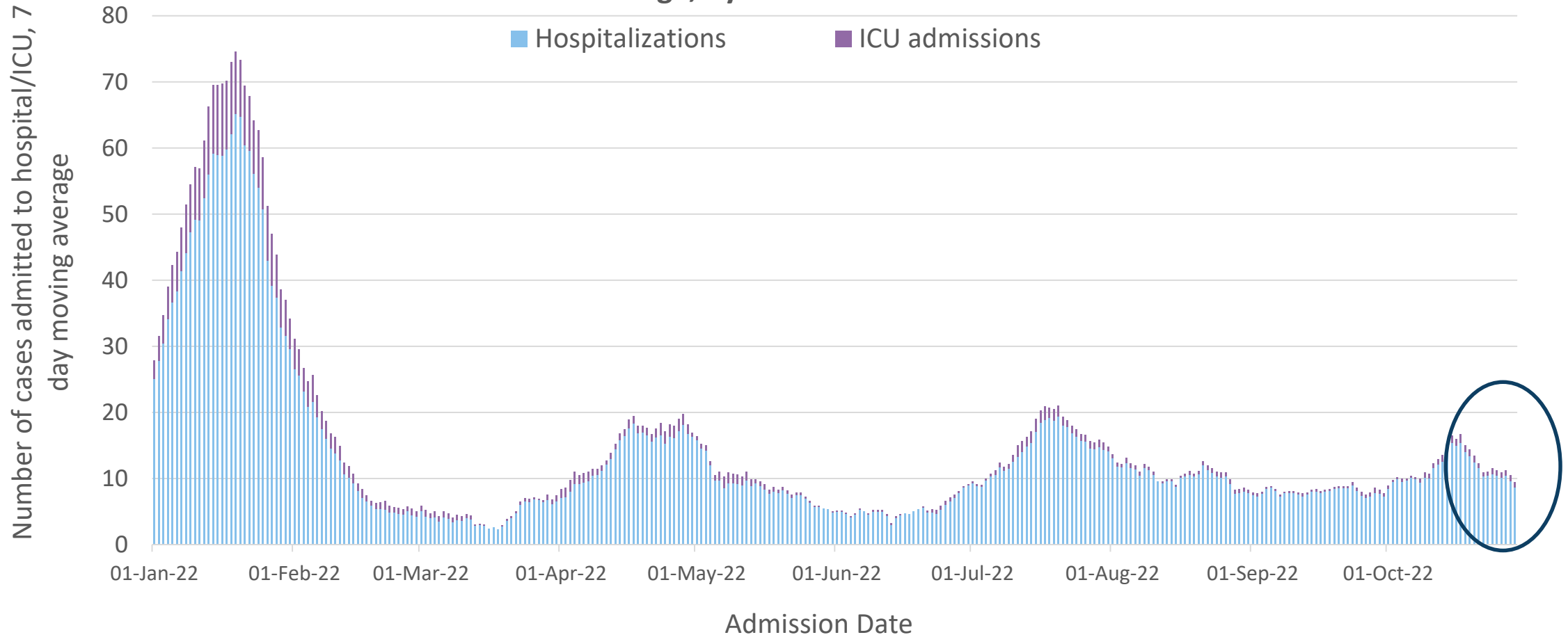


Update on COVID-19

- Two Omicron sub-variants under monitoring: XBB, BQ.1
- Public Health Ontario is continuing to evaluate new sub-variants by assessing:
 - Transmissibility
 - Severity
 - Immune escape (both natural and vaccine)

New COVID-19 hospital and ICU admissions decrease after a mid-October peak

Hospitalizations and ICU Admissions among Toronto COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average, by admission date

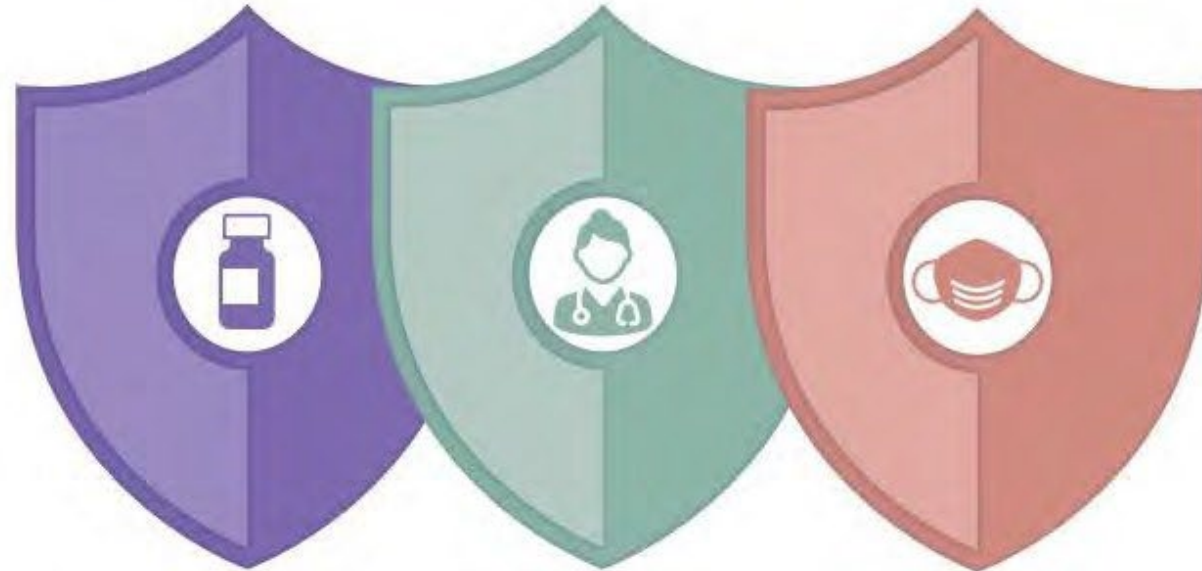


Data Source:

Toronto case hospital and ICU admission data: Ontario Ministry of Health, Case and Contact Management (CCM) as of November 1, 2022

LAYERS OF PROTECTION WORK

to keep you, your family,
& your community safe
from COVID-19



VACCINES:

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines, including booster dose(s) when eligible

TREATMENT:

Find out if you are eligible for antiviral medication, get tested if you have symptoms & talk to your doctor

PREVENTION:

Continue to wear your masks indoors, in crowded spaces, & enjoy your social interaction outside when possible



Vaccination

Eight Concurrent Vaccination Campaigns

COVID-19

COVID-19:
0-4 pediatric

COVID-19:
5-17 booster

COVID-19:
Bivalent

Routine

Influenza

Student
Immunization
Program

Childhood
Vaccine
Assessment

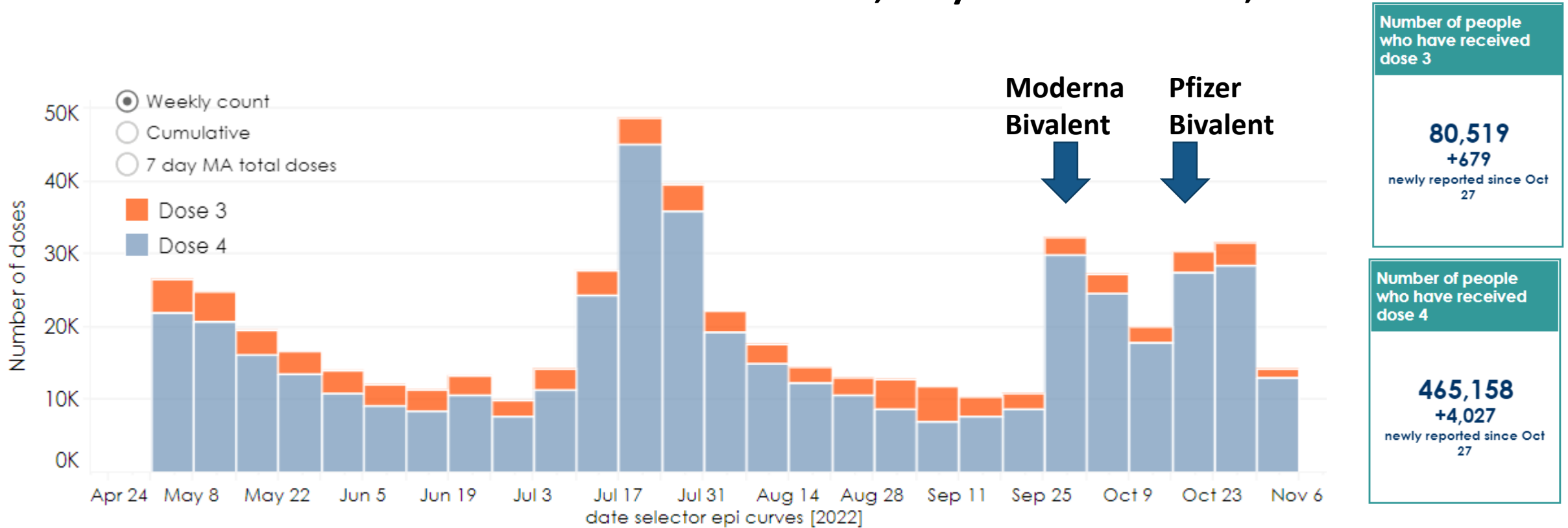
Outbreak response

Monkeypox

Meningococcal C

Third and Fourth Doses Administered Increased After Bivalent Vaccine Availability

COVID-19 vaccine doses administered over time, May 1 – November 2, 2022



- Free influenza (flu) vaccine now available for everyone six months of age and older
- Flu vaccine can be taken at the same time as bivalent COVID-19 booster





Childhood Immunization Assessment

- To attend elementary and secondary school, Toronto students must submit their vaccine records or a valid exemption to TPH under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* for:
 - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal Disease, Pertussis (whooping cough) and Varicella (chickenpox)
- This fall TPH is sending letters to parents to:
 - inform on potentially missing doses;
 - prompt on how to access missing doses; and
 - remind for the need to submit records.



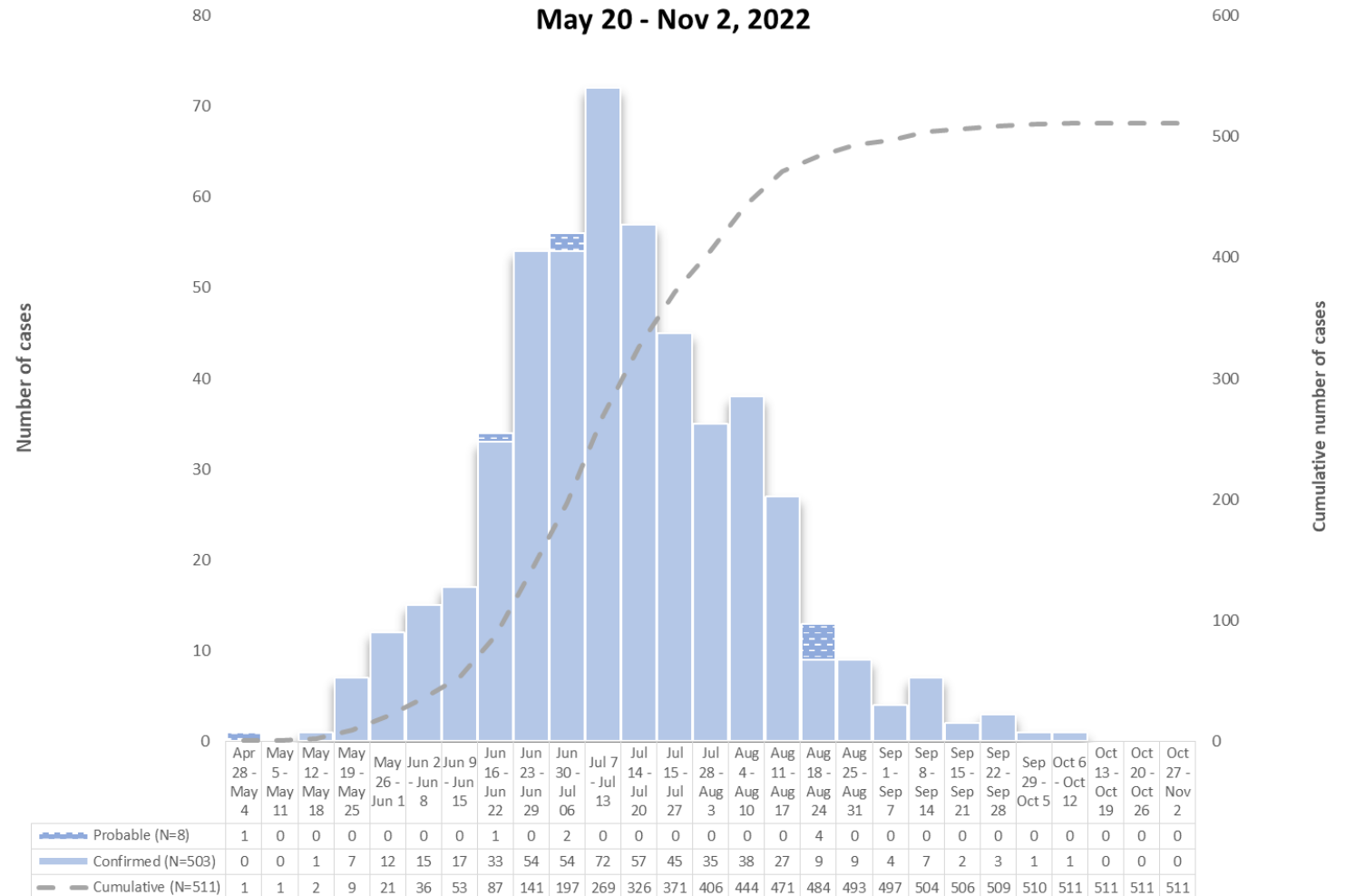
Outbreak Response

- TPH responded quickly to recent outbreaks of Monkeypox and Meningococcal-C
- Key success factors included:
 - Leveraging existing partnerships through previously built trust with key stakeholders
 - new comer community health agencies
 - gbMSM community
 - Learning from COVID-19 experience
 - scaling up disease investigations
 - moving vaccination efforts into community locations where possible

Monkeypox cases in Toronto continue to decline

- MPX cases in Toronto are **continuing to decline** from the mid-July peak, with **no confirmed cases** reported in the last 2 weeks.
- As of Oct 30th, TPH has administered more than **27,000** pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccine doses

Figure 1. MPX Cases, by Case Classification & Episode Week.
May 20 - Nov 2, 2022



Update on Meningococcal Meningitis C (Men C) Outbreak Response

- The public health response in Toronto is ongoing. No additional cases have been detected recently, and the probability of infection to the public is low.
- Individuals involved were born outside of Canada and were not immunized against meningococcal disease
- TPH is encouraging residents between the ages of 20-36 who have not received a dose of meningococcal vaccine be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Publicly-funded meningococcal vaccine is currently available at the City's six fixed-site immunization clinics, and primary care clinics.

- Layers of protection work to prevent illness
- The vaccine works best when you get all your eligible doses on time.
- TPH is responding to other urgent and emerging issues while continuing to scale-up non-COVID-19 related functions

The Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health in the winter of 2023 with an update on the respiratory season in Toronto, including information on COVID-19 and Influenza.