Toronto Public Health

2023-2024 Respiratory Season Update

Presented to the Board of Health

January 15, 2024

Respiratory virus activity is high in Toronto, but influenza levels are decreasing

TORONTO Public Health

Week of December 31, 2023 - January 6, 2024

Weekly Respiratory Activity

Overall Influenza Assessment

Influenza Percent Positivity

Overall COVID-19 Assessment

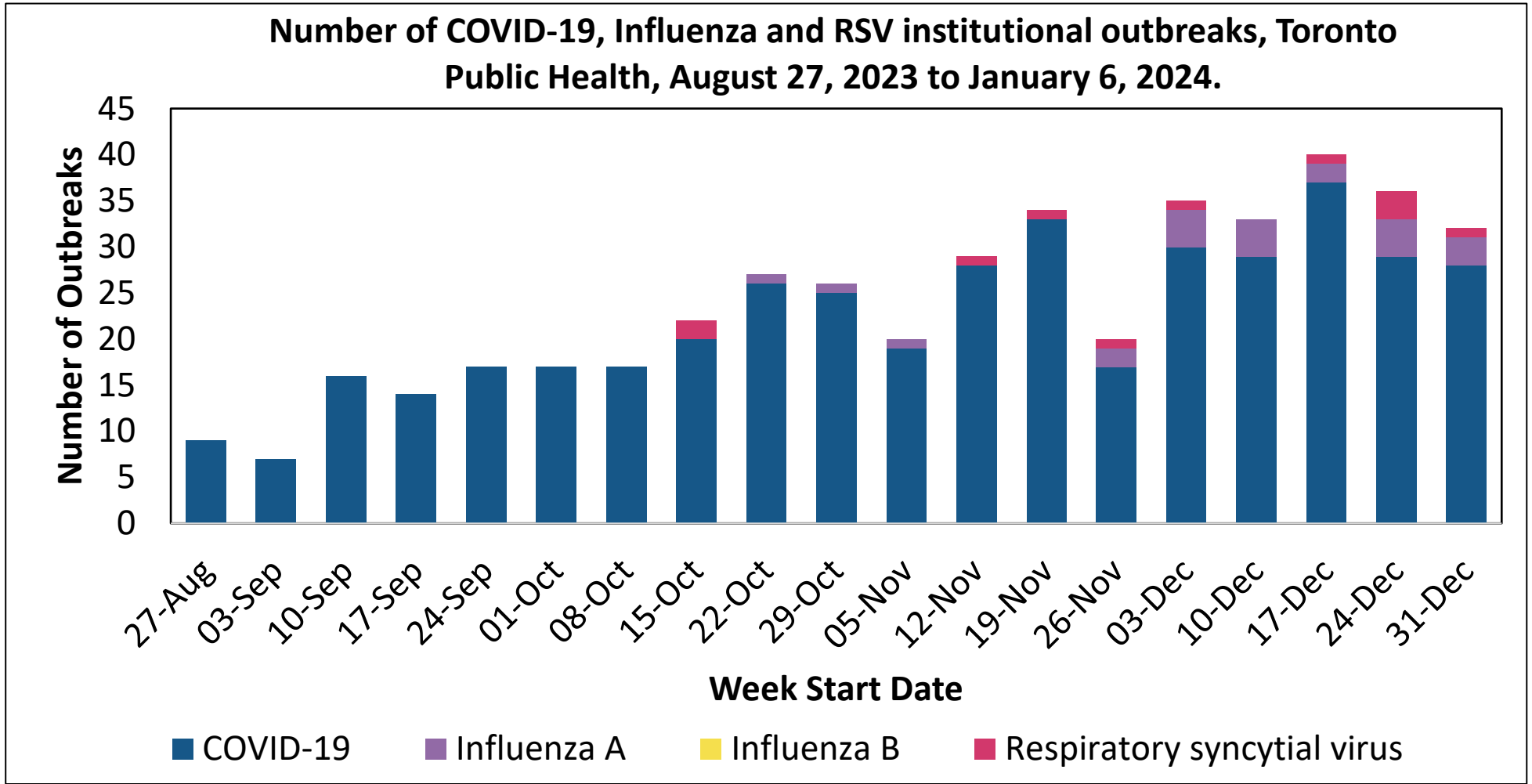
COVID-19 Percent Positivity

Source: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool and Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS).

High respiratory viral circulation involves outbreaks

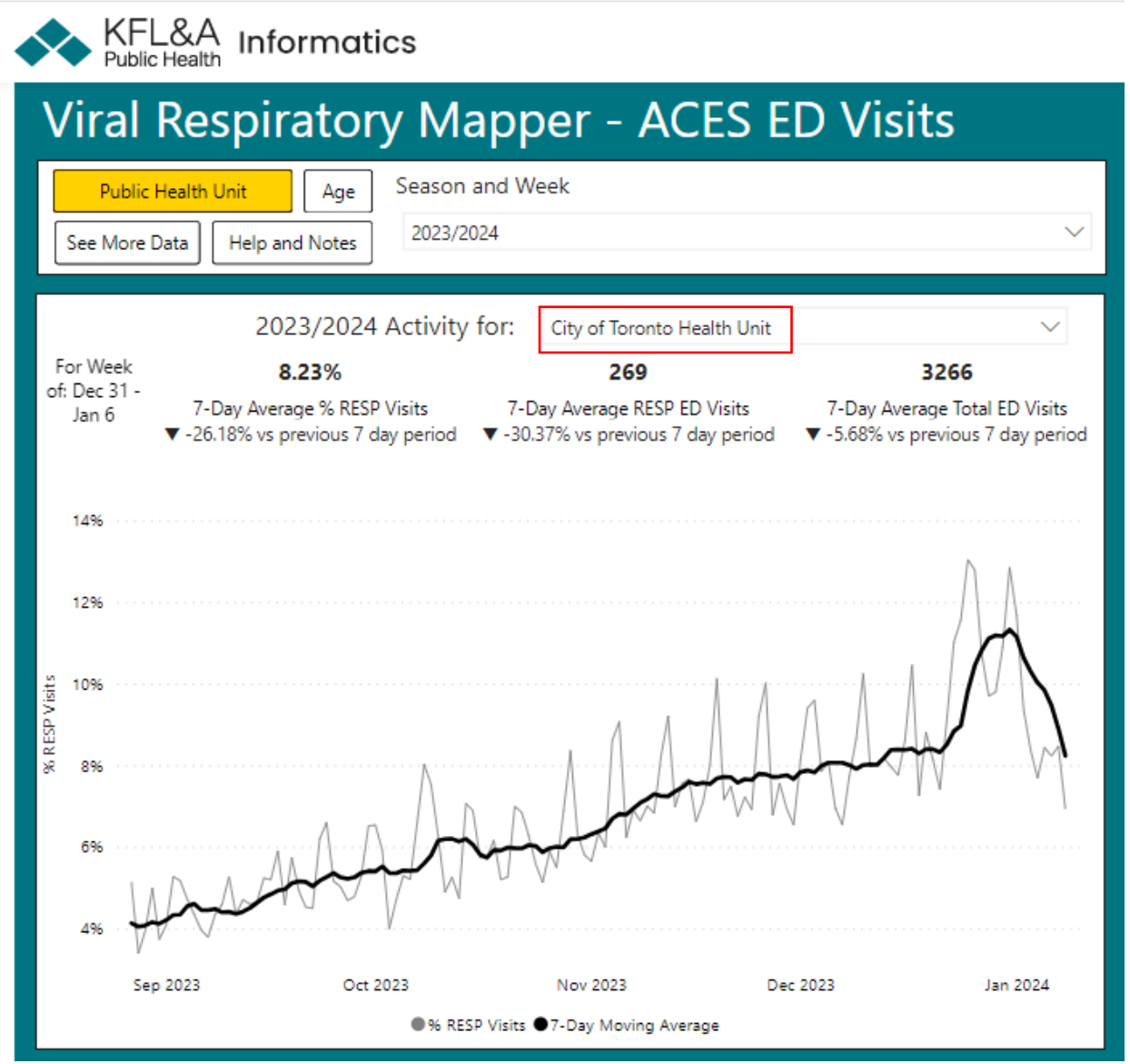
Toronto Public Health

As of January 12, 2024, there were 72 COVID-19, 15 influenza, and 9 RSV active outbreaks in healthcare institutions in Toronto



Toronto emergency department visits for respiratory disease are decreasing after a late December peak

- Emergency room visits for respiratory illness decreased for the week of December 31 - January 6
- Respiratory-related emergency room visits are still at moderate to elevated levels



Source: https://www.kflaphi.ca/viral-respiratory-mapper-visits/ accessed January 9, 2024

Public Health Actions

Informing and encouraging Torontonians to protect themselves and others

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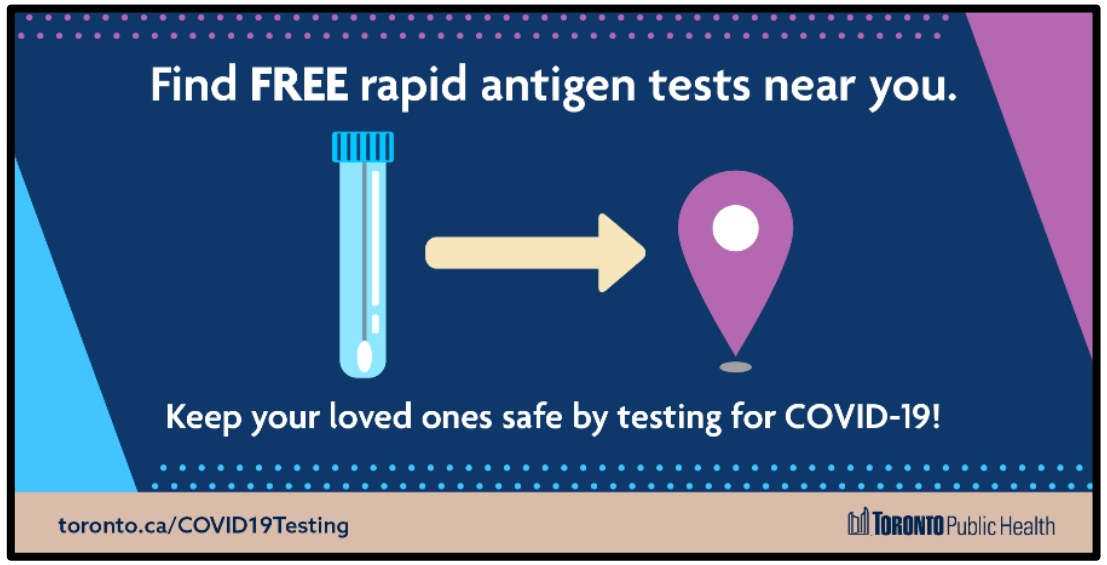

TPH works with the health system to optimize outbreak preparedness and response

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TPH supports outbreak responses in long-term care, shelters and health care settings by:

Distributing outbreak preparedness tool kits, vaccines and Ministry guidance

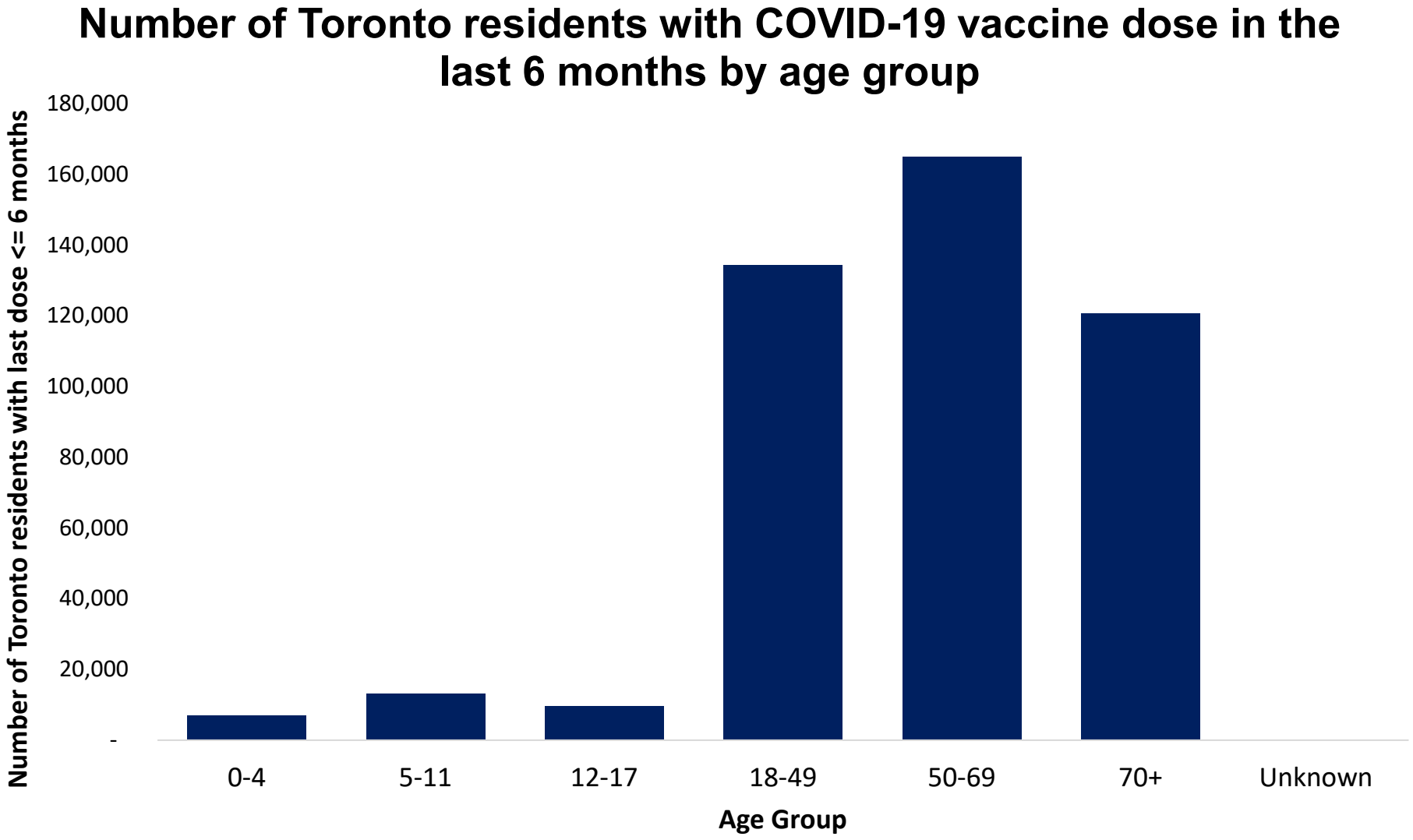
Supporting adherence to best practices in settings like long-term care and group homes

Supporting and providing guidance for outbreak management

Providing health care professionals with information to protect themselves and their patients

Higher risk age groups received a large share of recently administered COVID-19 doses in Toronto

TORONTO Public Health



New vaccine products and actions

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Novavax vaccine

- Health Canada approved this non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on December 5, 2023

RSV vaccine

- The Ministry of Health expanded RSV vaccine eligibility on December 7, 2023

Thank you

Toronto Public Health
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