

Back to School Webinar for Youth Serving Organizations

August 26, 2021



Dr. Vinita Dubey

Associate Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health

Nicole Welch

Director & Chief Nursing Officer
Toronto Public Health



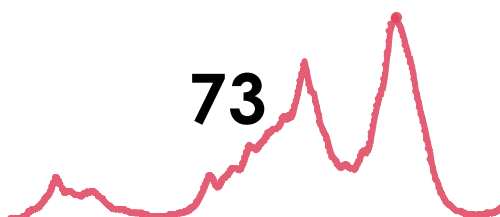
***To in-person learning and the
start of a new school year***

Key metrics support the beginning of Wave 4

Virus Spread and Containment

New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average¹

73



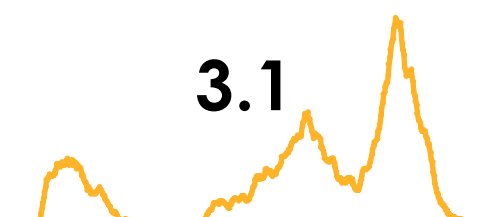
New COVID-19 cases, weekly incidence rate¹

16.1
per 100,000



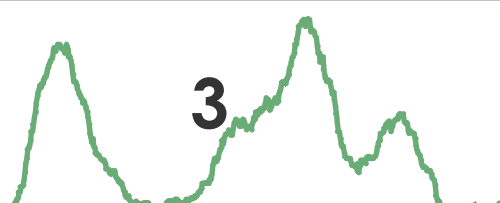
New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average¹

3.1



Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks
in institutions¹

3



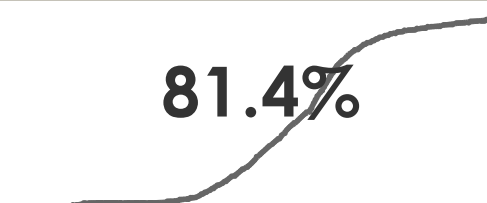
Effective reproductive number,
COVID-19 cases²

$R_t = 1.49$
(90% CI 1.21 to 1.82)



Vaccination coverage 18+
(at least one dose)⁵

81.4%



COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Percent Positivity,
previous week average³

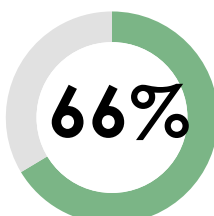
1.6%



Health System Capacity

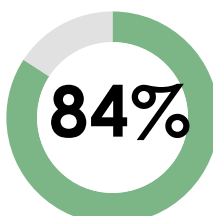
ICU bed
occupancy rate⁴

66%



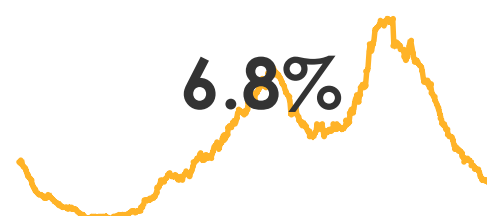
Acute bed
occupancy rate⁴

84%



COVID-19 related critical illness (ICU)
occupancy rate⁴

6.8%



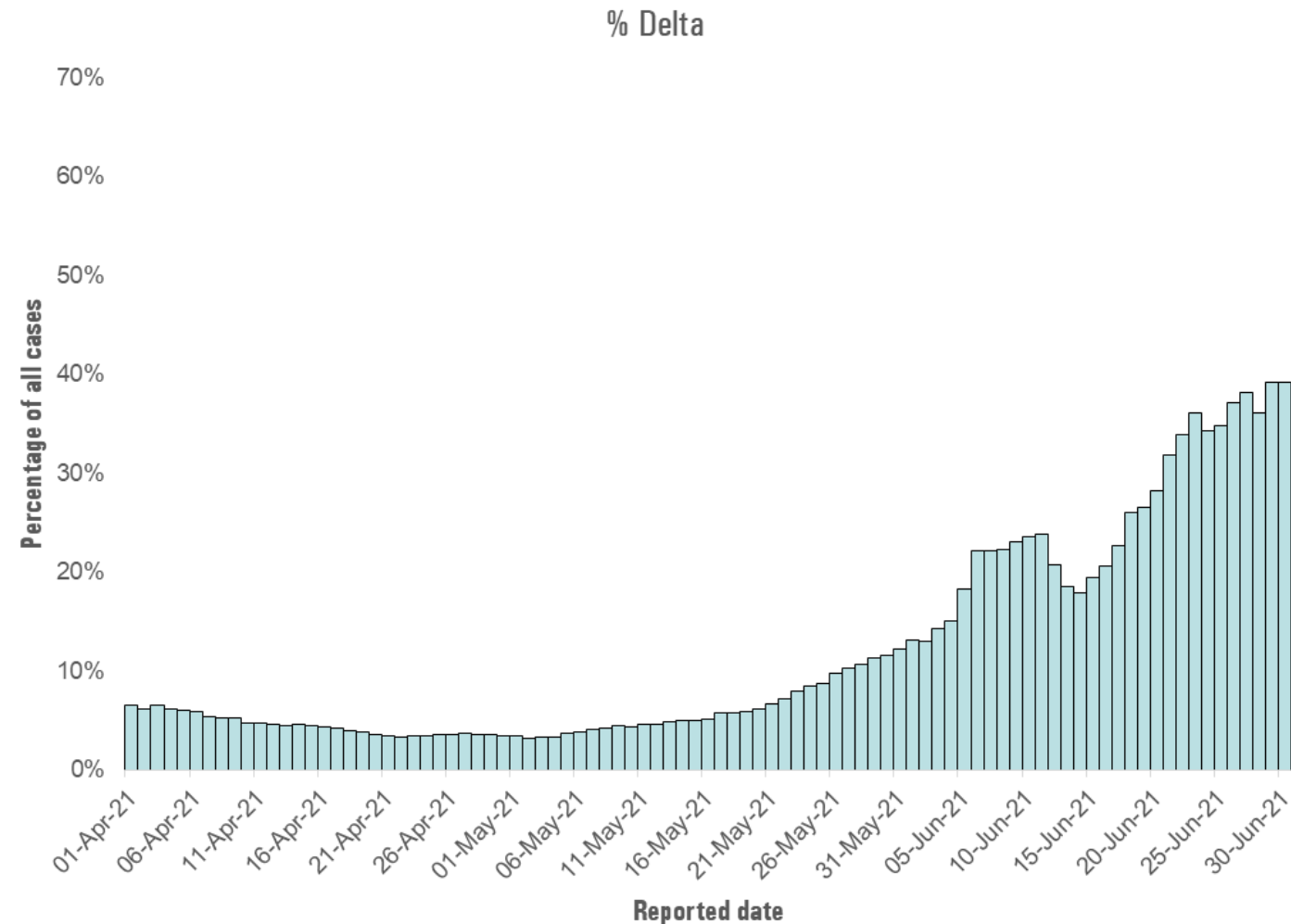
Notes: 1) Data as of: August 10, 2021 2) R_t calculated by date of infection using confirmed case data from August 1, 2020 to August 8, 2021

3) Data as of: Week ending August 7, 2021 4) Data as of August 8, 2021 5) Data as of: Aug 9 2021 6) Data for May, 2021

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-latest-city-of-toronto-news/covid-19-pandemic-data/covid-19-monitoring-dashboard-data/>

Delta Variant Continues to Grow and Accounts for Approximately 40% of All Daily Cases

- The Delta variant is currently the dominant variant in Toronto
- Spreads more easily than other variants of concern, including the UK (B.1.17) variant which was the dominant variant of concern in the 3rd wave
- Being **fully vaccinated** (2 weeks after your 2nd dose) is the best protection against the spread of variants and serious illness, including hospitalization or death.



Recent Cases

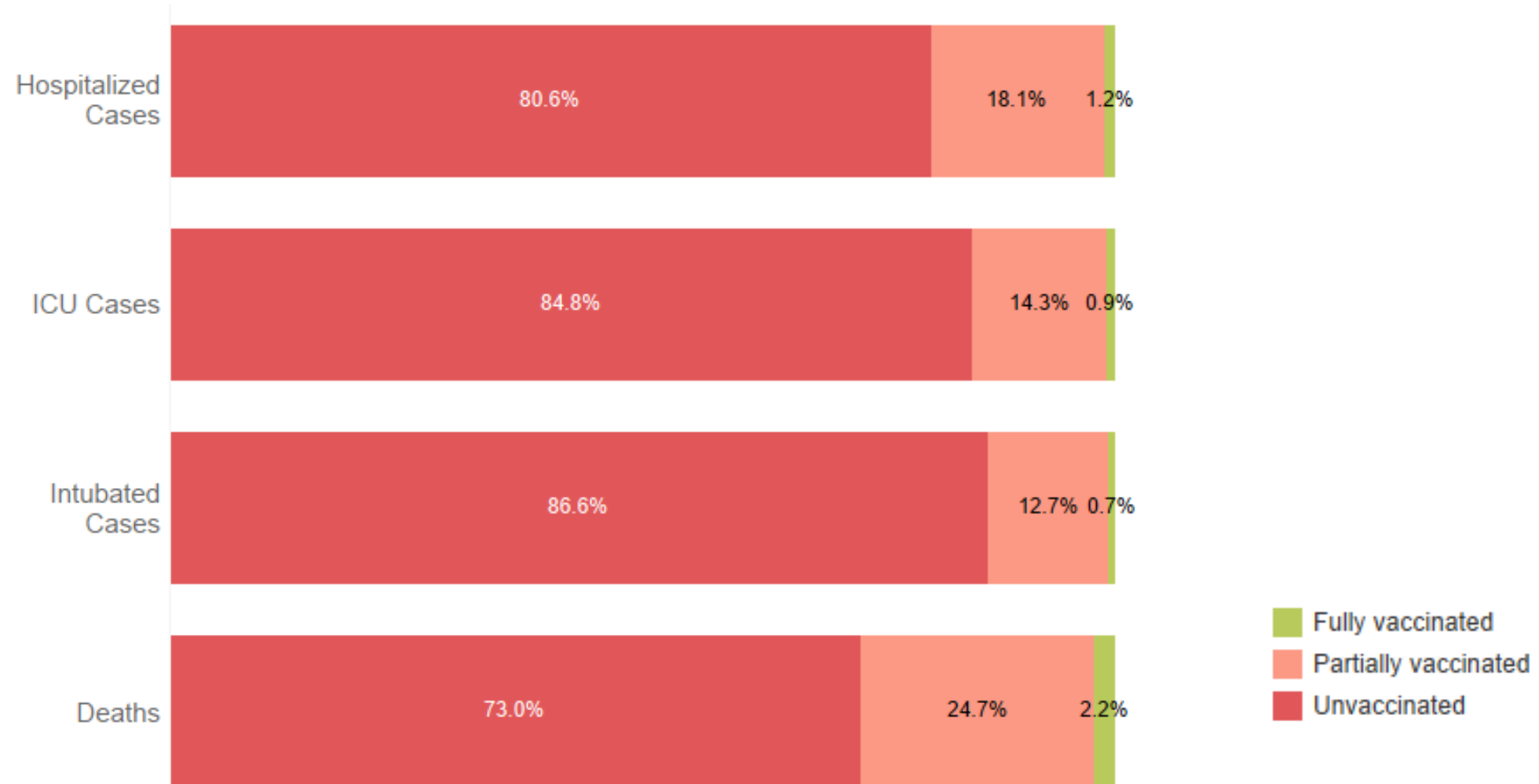
- Over the past four weeks the highest proportion of cases being reported was among individuals in the 20-29 year old age group.
- 84% of recent cases were not fully vaccinated. However, this differs by age.
- Most frequently reported source of infection for partially vaccinated and unvaccinated cases is community followed by household contact.
- For fully-vaccinated cases the most frequently reported source of infection is travel.

Severe Outcomes

- Of the hospitalized cases reported between May 1, 2021 and August 7, 2021 with known vaccination status, 98.7% were not fully vaccinated.
- Fatal cases reported between May 1, 2021 and August 7, 2021 with known vaccination status, showed 97.7% were not fully vaccinated.

Of recent cases hospitalized, 98.7% were not fully vaccinated

Proportion of COVID-19 cases with known vaccination status reported as of May 1, 2021 that required medical intervention by vaccination status



Vaccinations

- 81.4% of eligible Toronto residents (12+ yrs) have initiated vaccination and 73.5% have completed vaccination.
- In the past two weeks 27,357 1st doses were given out to Toronto residents. The largest numbers were among younger people and in the North West part of the City.

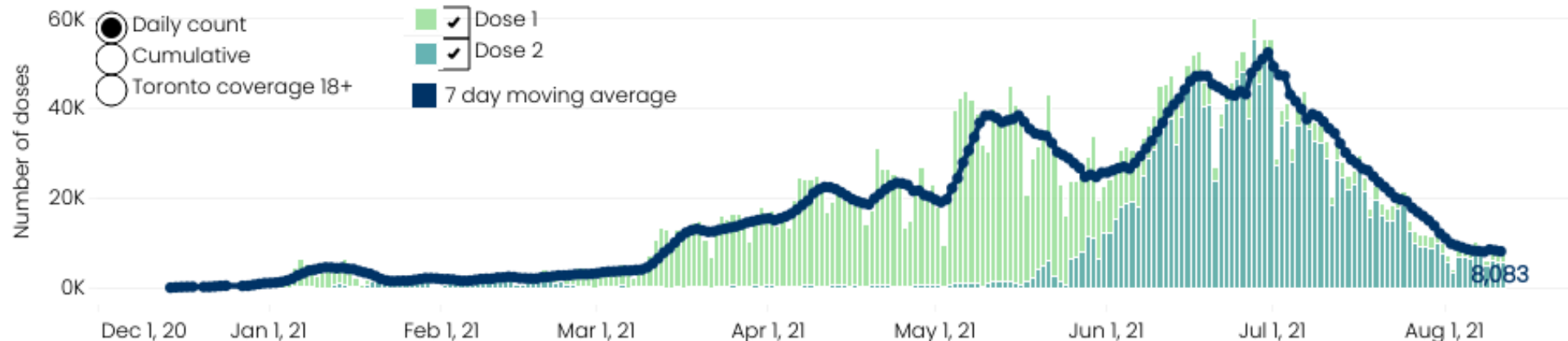
73.5% of eligible Toronto residents are fully vaccinated

Total doses administered (includes first and second dose)	Number of people who have received at least one dose	Number of people who have completed vaccination	Doses administered in the past 7 days (Aug 5 to Aug 11, 2021)
4,187,846 +23,717 newly reported since August 9	2,200,616 +6,282 newly reported since August 9	1,987,230 +17,435 newly reported since August 9	56,583

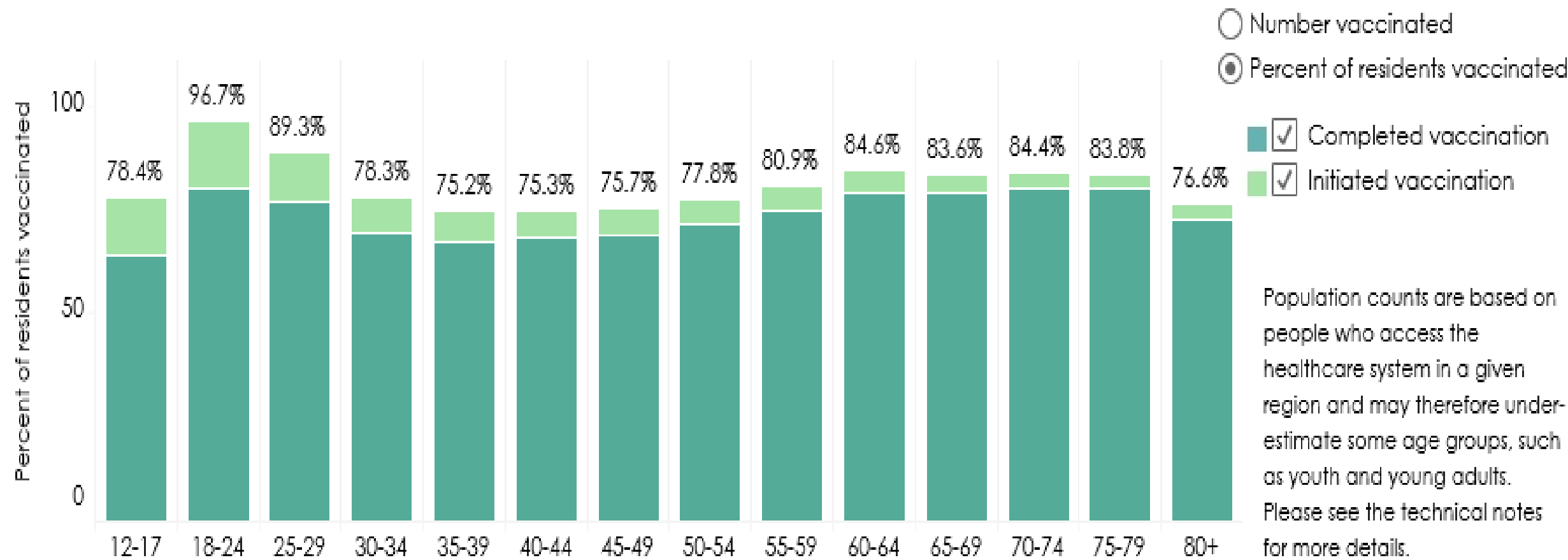
Vaccine Uptake (filters do not apply to this) Data as of Aug 12 2021 8:00 am

Share of Toronto residents vaccinated	Share of Toronto residents 12+ vaccinated	Share of Toronto residents 18+ vaccinated
72.3% initiated vaccination* 65.3% completed vaccination	81.4% initiated vaccination* 73.5% completed vaccination	81.6% initiated vaccination* 74.1% completed vaccination

Doses administered over time: Daily count Data as of: Aug 12 2021 8:00 am



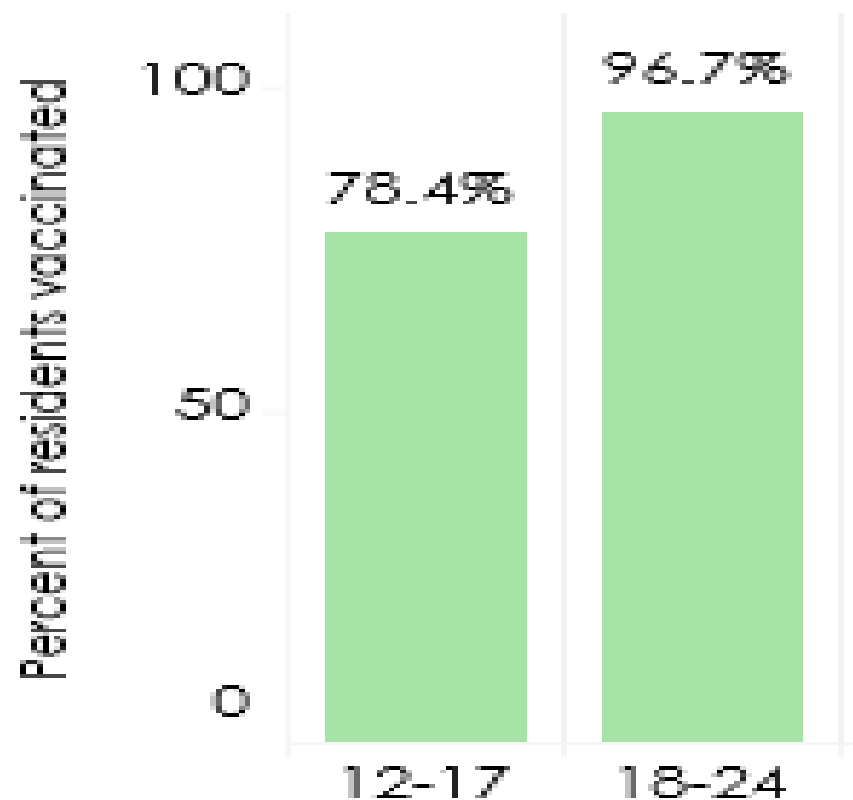
Vaccination by age group Data as of: Aug 12 2021 8:00 am



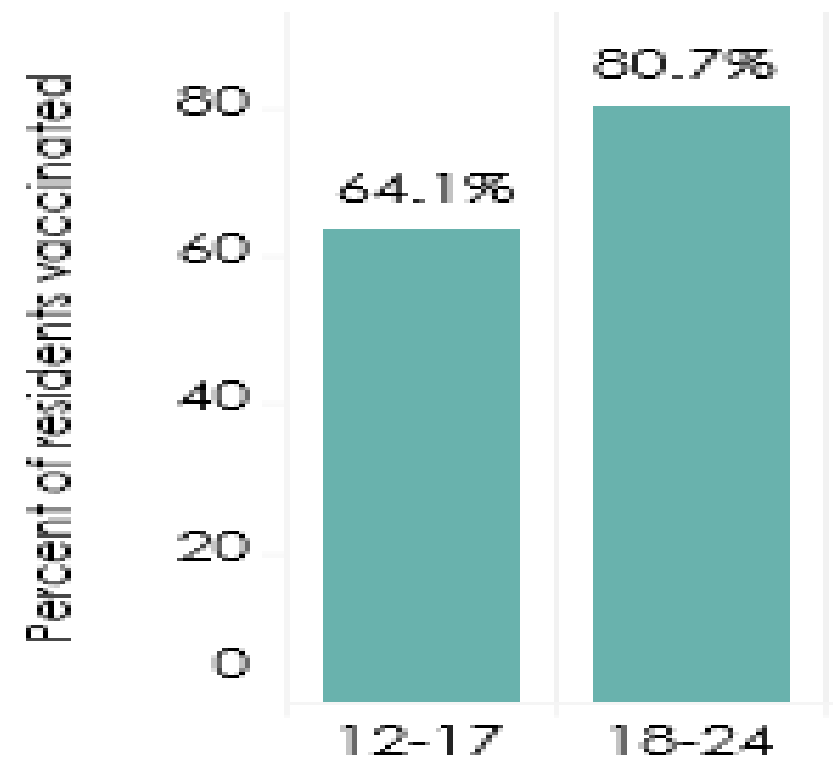
YOUTH

Toronto Data- COVID-19- Vaccine Data [on TPH WEB](#)

Toronto Data- Youth COVID-19 Vaccination



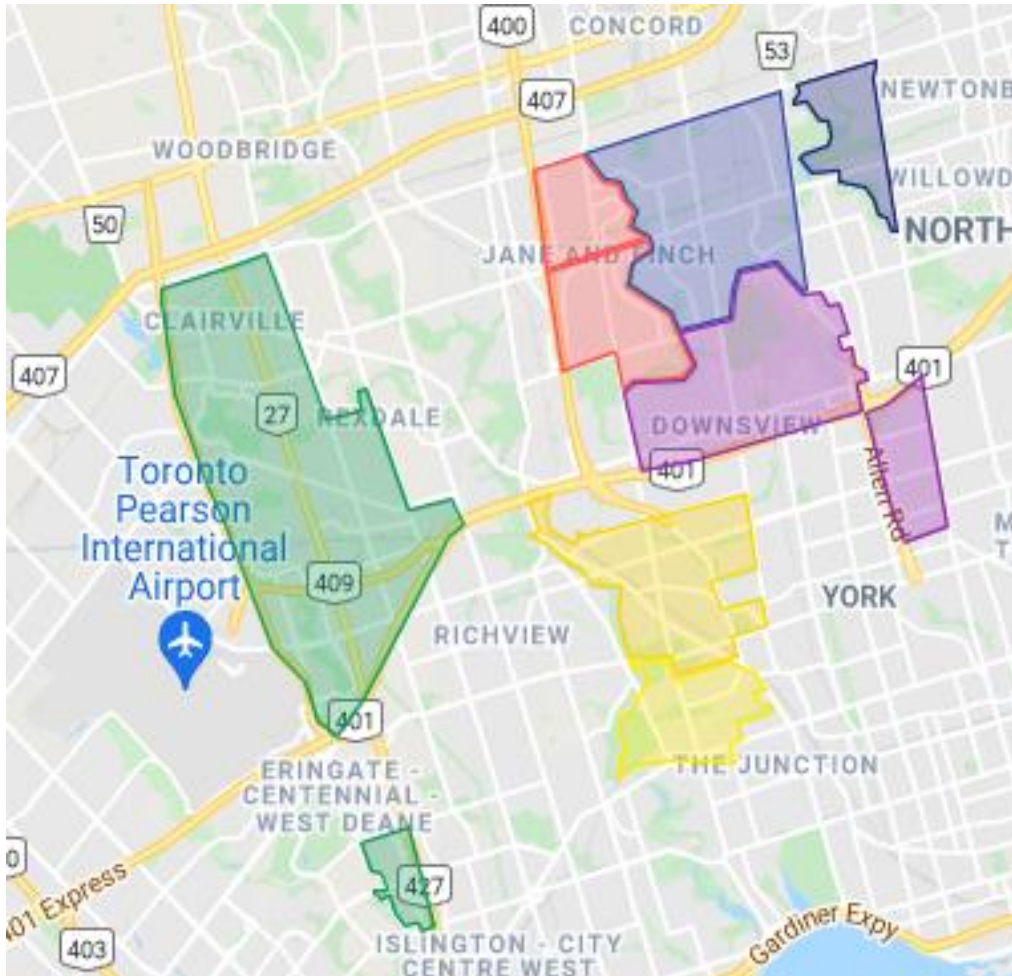
Toronto Youth
Initiated COVID-19
Vaccination



Toronto Youth
Completed COVID-19
Vaccination

Data as of Aug 12, 2021

Youth Mobile COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Priority Neighbourhoods



- Targeting 10 priority neighbourhoods where vaccine uptake has been low for youth aged 12-17
- Clinics have been planned up to September 3rd (including weekends)
- Clinics are taking place in schools, malls, and community centres

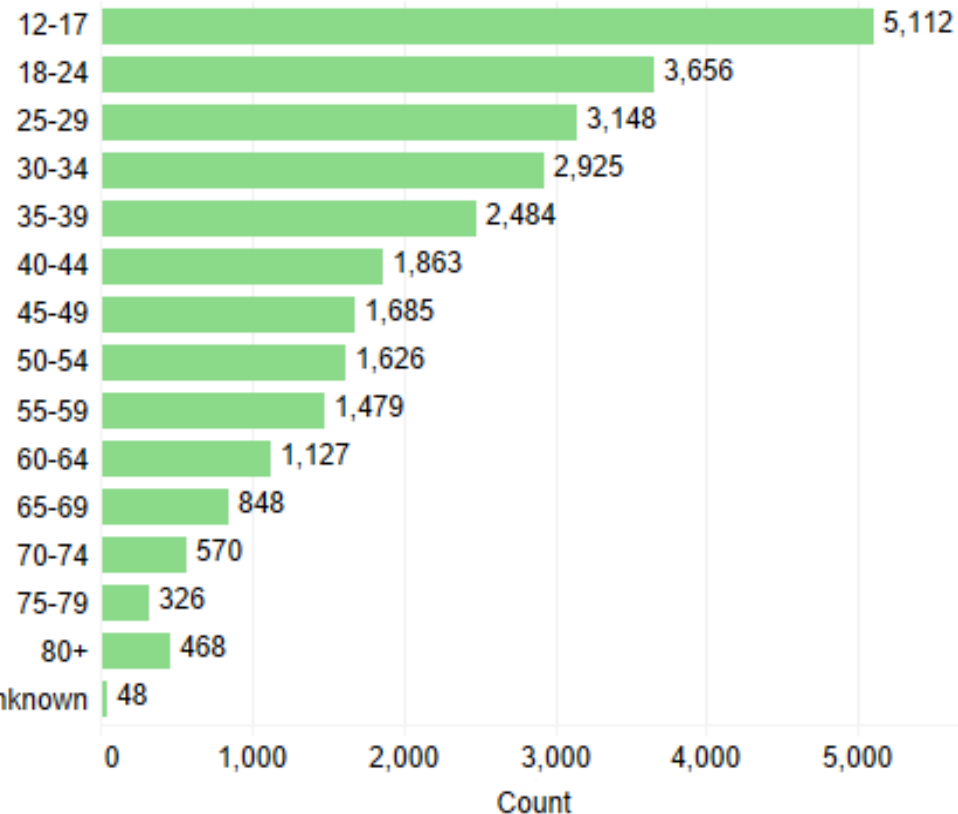
Highest numbers of recent vaccinations recorded in younger residents and those in NW of the City

Who has been vaccinated? July 29 to Aug 11, 2021

Number of people who have initiated vaccination by age group

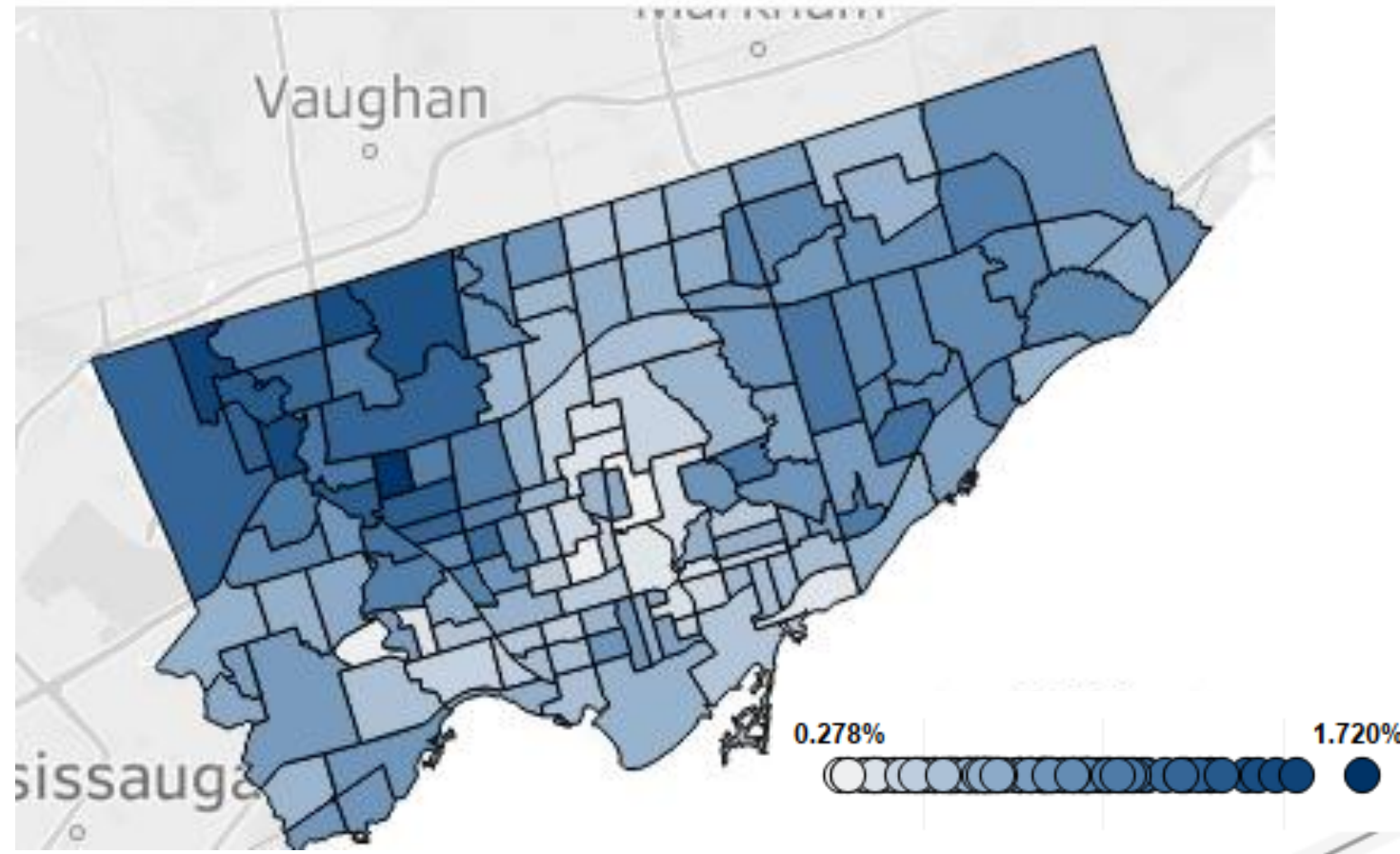
● Count
○ Coverage (%)

Dose 1



Data as of Aug 12, 2021

Percent of Toronto residents who have initiated vaccine, in the last two weeks, by neighbourhood

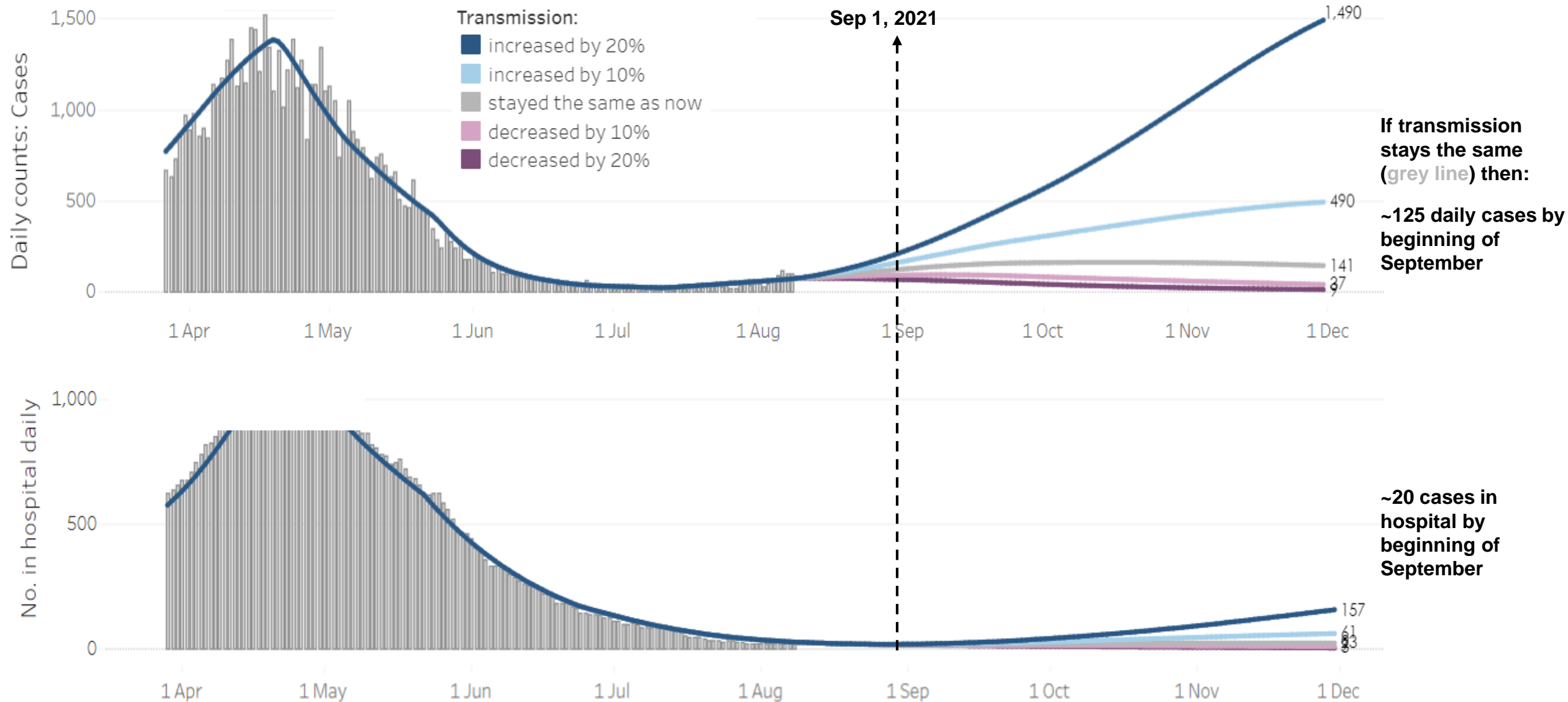


Projections

- With the Toronto R_t being substantially above 1 and at the highest level since wave 1, transmission is increasing rapidly.
- Despite projected increases in case counts, it appears that vaccination efforts can keep severe outcomes at bay until winter.
- Magnitude of cases and severe outcomes (hospitalizations) differs dramatically depending on waning immunity.

Longer-term projections show low numbers of severity, assuming **no waning immunity**

Data up to Aug 8, 2021 (Aug 9, 2021 line list data, with an additional one-week lag for VOC calibration)



Goal for 2021-22 school year – no school interruptions



SCHOOL CLOSURES AND COVID-19: Impacts on children

In an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, policy makers across Canada have employed remote learning approaches and closed schools. There can be unintended consequences associated with these measures, which may particularly affect the **5.7 million** children and youth who attend primary or secondary school in Canada (2018/19).



Vulnerable groups

- Families without adequate internet access or devices
- Families where no one can support home learning
- Children with learning disabilities

8% of children and youth aged 5-17 have a diagnosed learning disability (2019)

58% of households with children do not have enough devices to support all members working or studying from home at the same time (2018)

- The pandemic has disrupted two school years
- School supports for children may be less accessible
- Internet access and devices become critical

ACADEMIC IMPACTS

64% of youth aged 15 to 24 reported a decrease in their mental health during the pandemic (2020)

- Children feel isolated without peers
- With reduced day-to-day interactions, in-school support for mental health may be less available

MENTAL IMPACTS

Vulnerable groups

- Children experiencing mental health challenges before the pandemic
- Families who were experiencing mental or financial stress pre-pandemic

5% of children and youth aged 5-17 reported having a diagnosed anxiety disorder (2019)

Vulnerable groups

- Children living in low income
- Children experiencing food insecurity

11% of children and youth aged 0-17 live in low income (2018)

44% percent increase in the number of employed mothers who were working less than half their usual hours in January 2021 compared with January 2020 (with a child under 13)

- Parents may have to reduce work hours to support at-home learning
- Possible lack of access to school meal programs

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- School as a safe space is no longer available
- No access to structured physical activities offered in school
- Increased screen time

PHYSICAL IMPACTS

61% of children and youth aged 5-17 did not meet the physical activity guidelines (2016/17)

Vulnerable groups

- Children who mostly relied on school for physical activity
- Children at risk of family violence

22,299 children and youth aged 17 and younger were victimized by a family member; a parent (60%) was the most common perpetrator (2019)

Equity and diversity:

Some populations or groups may be overrepresented among the most vulnerable

- Province of Ontario has released

[COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools \(2021-2022\)](#)



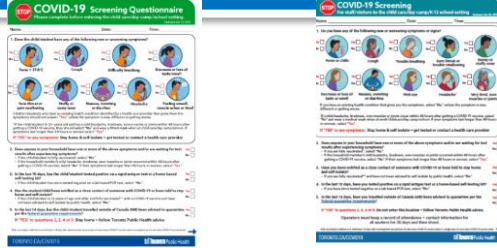
COVID-19:

Health, safety and
operational guidance
for schools (2021-2022)

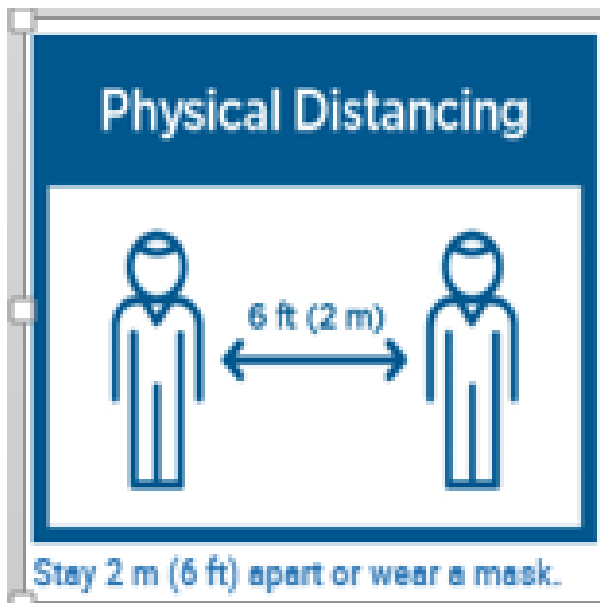
Version 1 (Released August 3, 2021)

Layering of Public Health Measures in Schools

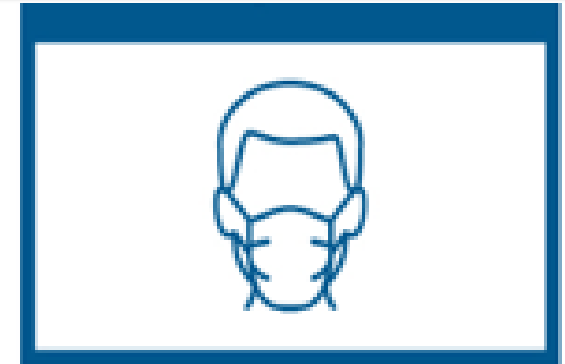
**Screening – staff,
students, visitors**



**Keeping students
in cohorts**



**Student/Staff/Visitor
Face Mask Use**



Cleaning and Disinfection

**Frequent cleaning
of surfaces**

**HAND HYGIENE
& Respiratory Etiquette**



**COVID-19
Vaccinations-
including policies**



**Ventilation
in schools/ classrooms**

TPH continues to recommend

- Masks for students
 - Required for Grade 1 to 12 indoors
 - Strongly recommend in JK/SK
- Medical/surgical masks for Staff/Visitors
- Provisions for medical exceptions-TPH does not see this to include masking exemptions for those who have had COVID-19 vaccinations
- Mask Breaks
- Masks are not required outdoors/ while eating, vigorous cardio activity

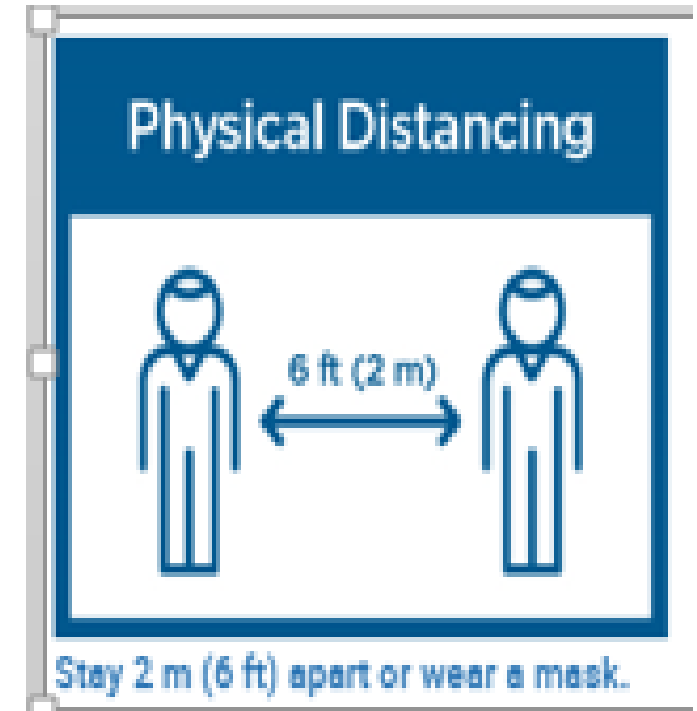


TPH recommends

- Schools and School boards have vaccination policies
 - To recommend vaccinations for staff and students
 - Vaccine disclosure policy – to assist with timely contact tracing – to only exclude those who are unvaccinated if exposed to someone who is contagious at school or in the cohort.

Physical Distance Plexiglass

- Physical Distance of 2 meters, 6 feet encouraged between cohorts and as much distance as possible within cohorts.
- Plexiglass can be used as a physical barrier (i.e. office counters) but may not be feasible or encouraged in the classroom.



- Province wide ventilation improvements which include recommendations for enhancements
- School boards are expected to continue to optimize air quality in classrooms through improving ventilation and/or filtration
- For those with mechanical ventilation - follow requirements
- For those without mechanical ventilation- use of HEPA filters in all classrooms, sized for classrooms
- Support outdoor education where possible
- Open windows to augment ventilation.

Other Recommendations:

- **Extra-curricular activities will be allowed** with some modifications
- **Students can share materials and spaces** with appropriate physical distancing and hand hygiene.
- **Shared spaces will be allowed**, for example homerooms, libraries, tech labs and cafeterias, with public health measures in place.

COVID-19 Testing- Will Continue

Types of Tests

- **PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Tests**

Samples can be collected in different ways, including:

- **Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab**: inserted deep into the nasal cavity
- **Mouth/nose swab**: inside of the mouth and front of nose
- **Saliva test**: bottle is used to collect saliva. Used for children or when the other collection type is not possible or tolerated. Only available at some testing centres.

- **Rapid Tests (Point of Care Testing)**

- **Antigen**- for screening only, any positive results should be confirmed with a subsequent PCR test
- **Molecular**- diagnostic and screening purposes. A confirmatory test is not required

**COVID-19
TESTING
IS FREE**
No OHIP card
or identification
is needed.



Planning additional testing initiatives for the new school year (eg. take home kits)

Youth Vaccination

✓ Minimum time between Pfizer doses is 21 days

✓ 1st dose now for full vaccination (2 doses) before returning to school

COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR YOUTH AGED 12+



Health Canada has approved the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine for youth 12 to 17 years old



Vaccinating youth protects them from getting sick and reduces virus spread within the household



Vaccinations for youth are safe and they work



Vaccinating more people will allow us to get back to normal sooner

Acknowledging History & Hesitancy

- Historical and recent experiences of discrimination within healthcare, and other government regulated systems, has contributed to hesitancy and a lack of confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Particular consideration is to be made for Indigenous, Black and People of Colour populations.
- Hesitancy is complex, extremely personal and contextual.
- Conflicting and unreliable sources are circulating myths and misinformation, mainly on social media, regarding COVID-19 and/or the vaccines.

Addressing COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy

- Listen to concerns and questions without judgement or assumptions.
- Don't try to dispute misinformation or dispel myths.
- Do emphasize facts and current data/information from credible sources.
- Be open to sharing positive personal experiences and stories.
- Be available to address follow up questions and concerns. It may take several conversations to develop trust.
- It's ok to not have the answer(s). Refer client to primary care provider or local public health unit at any time.

COVID-19 Vaccine City Run Clinics

- On August 22 (end of day), City-operated clinics at the **following locations will close:**

- Carmine Stefano Community Centre
- Malvern Community Recreation Centre
- North Toronto Memorial Community Centre
- Toronto Congress Centre



- City-operated COVID-19 vaccine clinics that **will remain open** after the 22nd :

- **Cloverdale Mall,**
- **the Hangar,**
- **Metro Toronto Convention Centre**
- **Mitchell Field**
- **Scarborough Town Centre**

- ❖ Walk in Appointment from Tuesday to Saturday, from 1pm to 7pm for first or second doses
- ❖ Appointments can still be booked through the [provincial system](#)



- Virtual clinic at Scarborough Health network
- <https://www.shn.ca/vaxfacts/>

Call Toronto Public Health

416-338-7600

8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

7 days a week

Visit: toronto.ca/covid19

Questions

Thank you

