

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
August 31, 2021 at 10:45 a.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good morning.
- We all share the desire for the pandemic to end.
- If we get vaccination levels as high as we possibly can, we can put the pandemic behind us – at least to the extent that we can move forward with our lives in the expectation COVID-19 will not disrupt our plans, rather than the fear it will.
- To help vaccination levels climb, as you've just heard, the mobile plan led by Toronto Public Health and Toronto health partners provides capacity to host as many as 200 mobile clinics every week.
- Person by person, arm by arm, these mobile clinics will help us move toward the high level of vaccination we know will give maximum protection to all of us – and maximum peace of mind too.
- Yesterday we talked about schools and the importance of doing everything we can to keep schools functioning and stay on top of outbreaks in them.
- An ounce of prevention is always worth a pound of cure – so the most effective thing we can do in support of the school year is to get vaccinated.
- Infections have to come from someone.
- The more people who are vaccinated the harder it is for COVID-19 to infect anyone else.
- We're doing well – but best protection is measured by delivering two doses of vaccine to all those who are eligible.



Public Health

- We're getting there every day, but we have a ways to go from where we are to where we want and where we need to be.
- Narrowing the gap between the two makes a vital difference to our ability to bring COVID-19 under control.
- Every person in Toronto – every person everywhere – is reliant on everyone else to get vaccinated in order to protect us, to protect our health, to protect our economy and to protect our day to day lives.

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Media contact: tphmedia@toronto.ca