

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
February 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good morning.
- Over the past week, we have seen more evidence that the Omicron wave is subsiding in Toronto.
- Over the weekend, Toronto averaged 417 daily cases, which is down from 686 the weekend before. The percent positivity of COVID-19 tests has also decreased week over week from 16.6 per cent to 12.3 per cent, as of the end of last week.
- Other indicators confirm this trend too. The number of active outbreaks continues to decline in settings all across the city, and levels of COVID-19 as measured in Toronto's wastewater continue to hold across the city.
- While the spread of Omicron may be waning, there is still significant risk to those who are unvaccinated or those who are under-vaccinated.
- Thanks to the data we have collected in recent weeks, we now have a clearer picture of how Omicron is affecting Torontonians, and further confirmation that the COVID-19 vaccines continue to offer strong protection against severe outcomes from this variant.
- Breakthrough infections – or infections after vaccination – continue to be relatively rare. The most current data shows that only 2.4 per cent of individuals who had *at least* two doses of COVID-19 vaccine became infected with COVID-19.
- And this most recent report shows that there is even greater protection provided with three doses of COVID-19 vaccine on board.
- Torontonians with three doses had the lowest rates of hospitalization, ICU admission, and death compared to any other level of vaccination.

- In fact, the older and more under-vaccinated an individual is, the more likely they are to require hospitalization.
- According to the most recent data on Toronto residents, unvaccinated individuals 60 years of age or older are at a risk at least *six-times* higher of hospitalization from COVID-19 infection compared to those who had three doses of vaccine.
- Unvaccinated Toronto residents also had at least a *14-times higher risk* of ICU admission from COVID-19 illness compared to those with three doses.
- Team Toronto continues to make every effort as you just heard the Mayor just say to increase uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine through an accelerated, data-driven strategy to create vaccination opportunities across the City, especially in neighbourhoods and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- I remain ever-grateful for the efforts of Toronto Public Health staff and our Team Toronto partners, from events like Vax the East that Mayor Tory just described, to community-based efforts including pop-up clinics in congregate settings, schools, shopping malls and transit stations. Together, we continue to ensure vaccine is accessible where people live, work, study and play.
- In so doing together, we will keep our households safe, keep our communities safe, and ultimately help bring the pandemic to an end.