

Update on COVID-19
Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health
May 5, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.
Metro Hall
214 Wellington Street W.

- Thank you Mayor Tory, and good morning everyone.
- So as you've just heard, seven million COVID-19 doses administered in a city of 3 million people - this is an absolutely *incredible* accomplishment. I simply cannot say it strongly enough.
- One year ago, if you had told me that we would reach this milestone in Toronto, I don't think I would have believed it.
- Last year at this time in fact, only 40 per cent of Ontarians had received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. And if you remember, at that time, we were just beginning to receive large shipments of vaccine.
- We were rolling out doses according to age and in neighbourhoods that had experienced high rates of COVID-19 infection.
- I remember at that time well as, while we were in the middle of that first leg of an extraordinary vaccine campaign, that I too received my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. In fact, it was exactly almost one year to the date - May 6, 2021 at Cloverdale immunization clinic, along with thousands of other Torontonians.
- What a long way we have come together.
- Fast forward 12 months later and almost 92 per cent of Torontonians over the age of 12 have two doses on-board, and 57 per cent of city residents have received three doses of vaccine.

- Toronto Public Health and our Team Toronto partners have worked flat-out to ensure that Toronto residents have access to their next COVID-19 vaccine dose. Thank you to each and every one of them – for their hard work, dedication and their sacrifices to get Toronto vaccinated.
- And now, here we are May 2022, we have a better understanding of the COVID-19 virus, and we have better treatment, and we have better protection options available.
- And we continue to have the protective benefit of vaccine. And we know, the more vaccinated you are, the better your protection from hospitalization, from ICU admission or death should you become infected with COVID-19.
- In fact, according to Public Health Ontario, across the province, an estimated 6,000 hospitalizations were averted during the Omicron wave because of the high rate of third dose uptake across the province.
- And the protective benefit of vaccine is also seen right here in Toronto, where our local data show that between December 2021 and April 2022, the risk of hospitalization amongst unvaccinated individuals was about double that for those with three doses.
- That's why we at Toronto Public Health continues to host COVID vaccine clinics - like the one we're in today – all over the city, making it as easy as possible for people to access the protective benefit of vaccine.
- My message today to Toronto residents today is simply this: Please -- get your next dose. Your next dose is the best thing that you can do to protect yourself, to protect your family and ultimately to protect our community.