

**Welcome. The COVID-19 Briefing Webinar  
will begin shortly.**



# COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 11 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series  
August 23, 2021 - 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.

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# THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED

**Please note this meeting will be recorded.**

- During this meeting, you will have the opportunity to contribute or ask questions
- Questions will be gathered and sorted to avoid duplication and ensure the best response
- Although your name will not appear on the screen to attendees, producers and presenters may have access to that information
- If you have questions about the recording of this webinar, please contact [HEOCLiaison@york.ca](mailto:HEOCLiaison@york.ca)

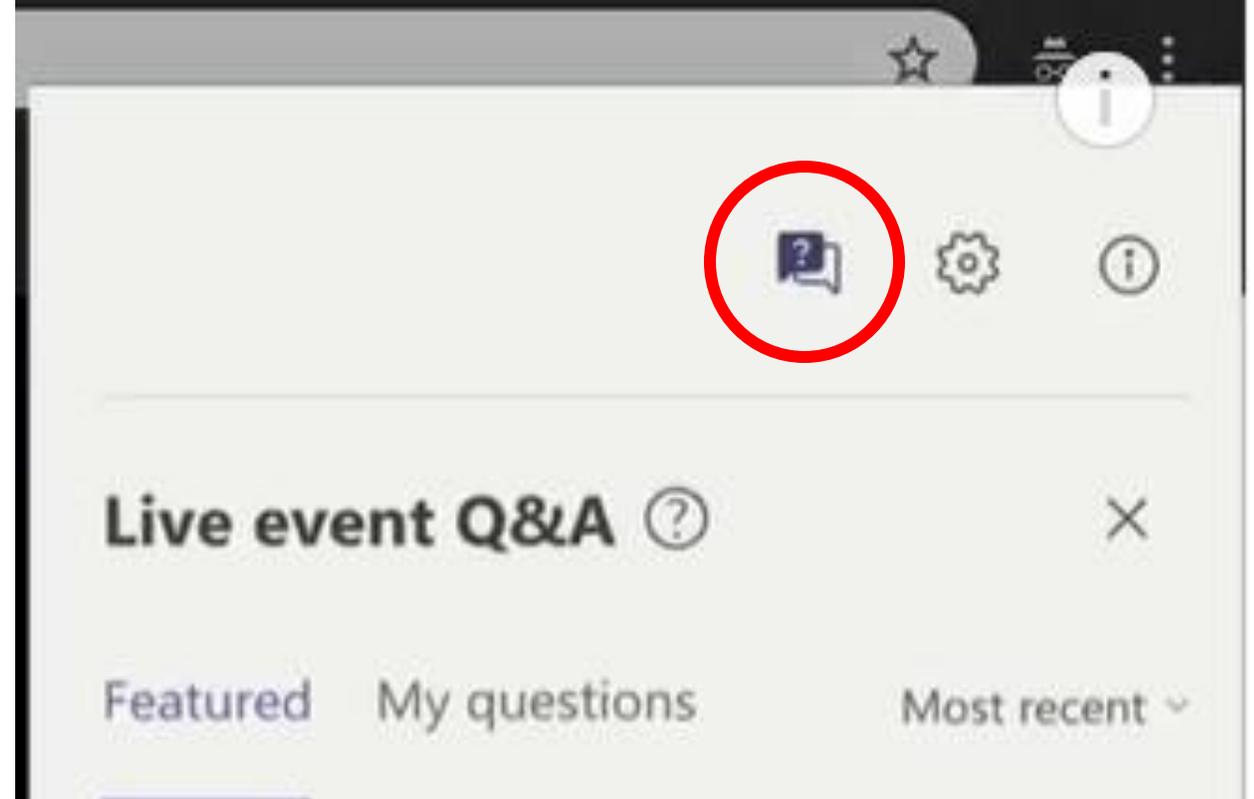
# DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

## To ask a question:

Select **Q&A** on the right side of the screen.

Type your question in the compose box, and then select **Send**.

Questions will be screened by the moderator and posed to the presenters.



# AGENDA

## 1. Epidemiological Updates

- Case counts, outbreaks, VOCs
- Provincial Guidance Updates

## 2. Vaccine Updates

- Vaccine coverage
- Mass vaccination clinic closures and next steps
- Updates on vaccine availability to younger age groups
- Vaccine confidence and reaching unvaccinated patients
- New vaccination policies
- Booster doses
- Reporting adverse events following immunization

## 3. Back to school updates

## 4. Other updates

- Influenza and other respiratory diseases

# EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

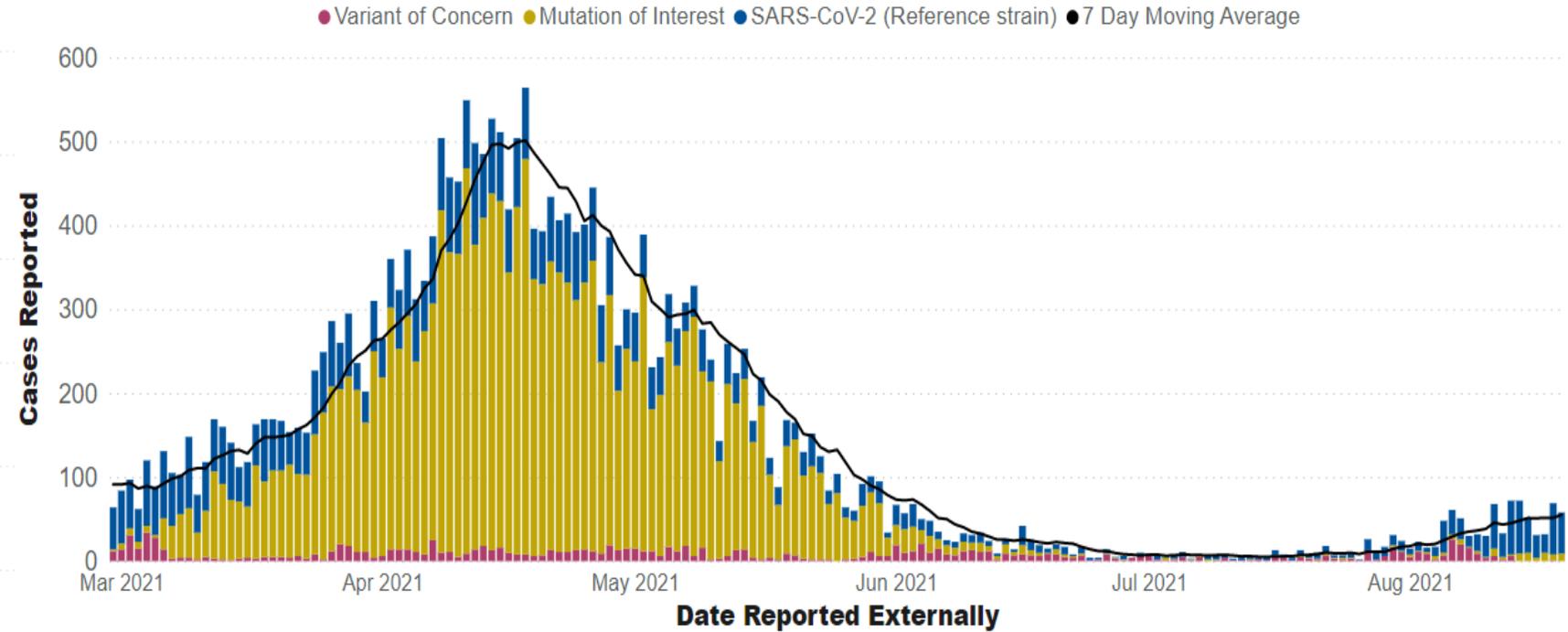
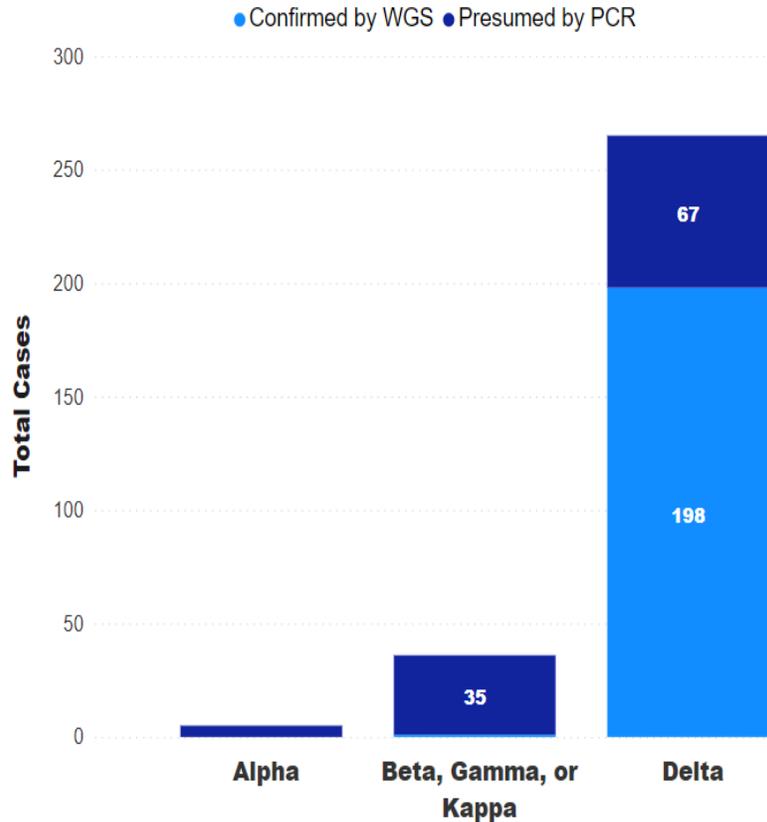


# A PRECARIOUS PLACE - YORK REGION CASE COUNTS LAST MONTH

## Cases in York Region Jul 1 to Aug 19



# DELTA IS PREDOMINANT STRAIN IN ONTARIO AND YORK REGION



Reported cases between July 19 to August 19, 2021 in York Region

# PROVINCIAL UPDATES

# PROVINCE REOPENING

As of July 16:

- Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings cannot always be worn
- In response to evolving data around the Delta variant and based on the recent experiences of other jurisdictions, the government, in consultation with Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, is pausing the exit from the Roadmap to Reopen

COVID-19 Roadmap to Reopen – Step 3

Ontario enters **Step 3** on July 16

Vaccination Progress	Expanding outdoor activities	Expanding indoor gatherings and services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>70% - 80% of adults have one dose</li><li>Over 25% are fully vaccinated</li><li>✓ 78% of adults have received one dose and 52% are fully vaccinated (as of July 9)</li><li>✓ Declining hospitalizations</li><li>✓ Declining ICU admissions</li><li>✓ Declining weekly cases rate</li><li>✓ Declining per cent positivity</li></ul> <p>Continuing improvements in key public health and health care indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events for up to 100 people</li><li>Museums, zoos and amusement parks with capacity limits</li><li>Fairs and rural exhibitions, festivals and cultural attractions with capacity limits</li><li>Cinemas, concert, theatres, and other performing arts venues with capacity limits</li><li>And more...</li></ul> <p>Larger outdoor gatherings, events and attractions, with restrictions in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indoor social gatherings and organized public events for up to 25 people</li><li>Indoor dining with no limits to the number of patrons per table</li><li>Retail with capacity limited to ensure physical distancing</li><li>Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities with capacity limits</li><li>Personal care services with capacity limited to ensure physical distancing</li><li>Indoor religious services, rites or ceremony gatherings with physical distancing</li><li>Museums, casinos and bingo halls with capacity limits</li><li>Cinemas, concert, theatres, and other performing arts venues with capacity limits</li><li>And more...</li></ul> <p>Additional indoor services with larger numbers of people and restrictions in place</p>

For the full plan, visit [ontario.ca/reopen](https://ontario.ca/reopen)



For up-to-date information, visit [York Region's Public Health Safety Measures Page](#).

# PROVINCIAL GUIDANCE UPDATES AND RESOURCES

- [Directive 3 + Guidance for LTCs and Retirement Homes](#)
  - Outlines policies surrounding COVID-19 protocols in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes
- [Schools Operational Guidance](#)
- [School Case, Contact & Outbreak Management](#)
  - Establishes how schools will operate upon reopening and how COVID-19 protocols will be applied
- [Management of Cases & Contacts \(Version 13\)](#)
- [Management of Fully Immunized or Previously Positive Individuals](#)
- [Quick Reference Guidance on Testing & Clearance](#)
  - An update to the case and contact management policy, taking variants and vaccination levels into account
- [Directive 6](#)
  - Describes the official vaccination policy in Health Settings

# Guidance for Primary Care providers in Community Settings

- Updated 'In-Person Care' and 'Virtual Care' sections
- Updated 'Screening' section, including use of the online [Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- New section on COVID-19 vaccination, speaking to recommendations for Primary Care providers to counsel patients about COVID-19 vaccinations
- Updated 'Case Management' for information on fully vaccinated individuals
- Updates to the Occupational Health and Safety section including PPE requirements to wear eye protection, updates to cleaning guidelines, and self isolation requirements after travel or exposure to a case
- Minor updates to 'Testing' section and new bullet clarifying that antigen point of care testing should not be used for diagnosis of COVID-19

# DOCUMENTATION FOR VACCINATIONS RECEIVED OUTSIDE OF ONTARIO AND CANADA

- Please encourage your patients who received a vaccination outside of Ontario or Canada to submit their vaccination records online at [york.ca/covid19vaccine](https://york.ca/covid19vaccine)

## Select a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Walk-in Clinics - First or Second Dose



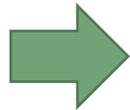
Book An Appointment - First or Second Dose



Register a Record of COVID-19 Vaccination Received Outside of Ontario



COVID-19 Vaccination Wait List



# COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

# YORK REGION DOING GREAT – BUT LEAST VACCINATED ARE <35



## Coverage of Doses Administered to York Region Residents

As of 8:00am  
August 23, 2021

Age Group	People Who Have Had at Least One Dose		People Who Have Had Two Doses	
	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion
80+	47,724	96.9%	46,061	93.5%
75 - 79	33,201	93.0%	32,330	90.6%
70 - 74	48,594	88.0%	47,232	85.5%
65 - 69	57,450	88.2%	55,592	85.3%
60 - 64	67,634	84.2%	64,942	80.8%
55 - 59	77,120	84.3%	73,546	80.4%
50 - 54	77,207	85.4%	73,068	80.9%
45 - 49	72,642	86.4%	68,287	81.2%
40 - 44	65,961	88.3%	61,465	82.3%
35 - 39	61,415	84.0%	56,457	77.2%
30 - 34	55,971	75.3%	50,644	68.1%
25 - 29	56,514	71.7%	50,605	64.2%
20 - 24	59,145	76.2%	53,030	68.3%
18 - 19	24,970	76.0%	22,381	68.1%
12 - 17	67,664	75.4%	56,332	62.8%
<b>Eligible (12+)</b>	<b>873,212</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>811,972</b>	<b>77.1%</b>

# PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (PCPs) INTEGRAL TO VACCINATION EFFORTS AS MASS VACCINATION CLINICS CLOSE

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- Need for large scale COVID-19 vaccination clinics is decreasing
- Transitioning to smaller mobile and pop-up clinic models
- Targeting areas where vaccination rates may be lower
- YRPH is supporting PCPs to vaccinate their patients



# CHILDREN BORN IN 2009 NOW ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATION; YOUNGER AGE GROUPS MAY BE ELIGIBLE IN FALL

## **Children born in 2009 now eligible:**

- All children who are turning 12 years old before the end of 2021 are eligible to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- Alberta and British Columbia have offered the Pfizer vaccine to youth born in 2009 for several months with no risks identified

## **Children ages 5-11 may be eligible in Fall at earliest:**

- Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna started trials of their COVID-19 vaccines for children under the age 12 years in March 2021
- Results are expected in the fall

# BOOSTER DOSES WILL BE ROLLED OUT FOR HIGHEST-RISK

Province will begin offering **third doses** of the COVID-19 vaccine to those at highest-risk:

- **Transplants recipients** (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Individuals **receiving treatment with an anti-CD20 agent** (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab), commonly used for conditions such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, leukemias/lymphoma etc.
- Individuals **receiving active treatment** (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) **for malignant hematologic disorders** (e.g. Acute myeloid leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia)

Should be offered **at least two months after the second dose** for the above groups, and exact **timing should be decided with the treating provider** in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series and minimize delays in management of their underlying condition

More details on who is eligible in the Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#)

# VACCINATION POLICIES MANDATED FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

- Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a directive **mandating hospitals and home and community care service providers** to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers
- The vaccination policy must be **effective no later than September 7, 2021**, and **at a minimum** will require these individuals to provide proof of one of three things:
  - Full vaccination against COVID-19;
  - A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
  - Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session
- Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 will be required to undertake regular antigen testing
- Covered organizations must collect, maintain and disclose statistical (non-identifiable information) to the Ministry of Health

More information in [Directive 6](#) from the Chief Medical Officer of Health

# VACCINE CONFIDENCE

Healthcare professionals are patients' most-trusted source of information on vaccines. Conversations with hesitant patients and families can influence their willingness to consider vaccination.

## Resources to Support Vaccine Confidence

- [CEP: PrOTCT Framework for Vaccination Discussion](#)
- [Public Health Ontario: Building Confidence in Vaccines](#)
- [CDC: How to Talk to Your Patients about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Halton Region: COVID-19 Vaccines Myths vs Facts](#)
- [Ministry of Health: Child and Youth COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)
- [Canadian Medical Protective Association: How to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal by Patients or their Legal Guardians](#)
- [York Region COVID-19 Information for Health Providers](#)

# REPORT AEFIS AS PART OF RIGOROUS SAFETY MONITORING

- Adverse event following immunization (AEFI) = an event or reaction that occurs following immunization that **may or may not be caused** by the vaccine
- Use the [Public Health Ontario AEFI reporting form](#) and fax the completed form to York Region Public Health at 905-898-5213 or call the Vaccine Information Line at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73452
- Consult the [Public Health Ontario Health Care Provider Fact sheet](#) on reporting AEFIs
- **Do not need to report common or mild events**
  - Injection site soreness, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, fatigue and/or fever that is not accompanied by any other reportable symptom
  - Injection site reactions lasting less than 4 days
  - Events that are clearly attributed to other causes or previously diagnosed medical conditions
  - Vasovagal syncope without injury



# OTHER UPDATES



# BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATES

- On August 3, 2021, the province released [COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021/2022\)](#)
- York Region Public Health works closely with our school board partners on reopening plans and will continue to provide support and information on health and safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year
- Working with our school board partners to promote the benefits of vaccination and to offer easily accessible in-school mobile clinics

# PREPARE FOR NON-COVID-19 RESPIRATORY DISEASES ALONGSIDE COVID-19

- Circulation of respiratory viruses like influenza and RSV was disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic and immunity levels may be low
- Australia and, more recently, the United States have seen a resurgence of cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection and other respiratory viruses in parallel with reduced pandemic-related physical distancing measures
- **Key points for clinicians:**
  - Circulation of other respiratory viruses may be higher this Fall
  - Still need to rule out COVID-19 – continue to recommend testing as soon as symptoms start
  - Continue recommending everyday preventive actions, including that your patients stay home until their symptoms have improved
  - Promote and give [the flu shot \(see NACI guidance\)](#) and post-exposure prophylaxis to eligible patients

# LINKS TO BOOKMARK

## Centre for Effective Practice

[COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) - practical evidence for primary care

## York Region

[york.ca/healthprofessionals](#) - health care provider specific page

[york.ca/COVID19](#) - general COVID-19 page

## Public Health Ontario

[Report of Adverse Event Following Vaccination](#) - form

## Ministry of Health

[COVID-19 Guidance for the Health Care Sector](#) - Provincial COVID-19 guidance

[COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources](#) - Provincial vaccination guidance

**Q&A PERIOD**

# YORK.CA/HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- CANCER ▾
- COVID-19 ▾
- DENTAL ▾
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ▾
- FOOD SAFETY ▾
- HEALTH AT WORK ▾
- HEALTH INFORMATION LINE
- HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ▲
- Announcements and Resources
- Cannabis
- Child Growth and Development
- COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals
- Early Years Support Services Registry
- Ebola Virus Disease for Health Professionals
- E-Newsletter for Health Care Professionals
- Health Statistics and Reports
- Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Management
- Information for Dental and Healthcare Providers
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Opioids
- Quitting Smoking
- Tuberculosis
- Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals



### Announcements and Resources

York Region provides important public health updates and offers events and resources, like the Public Health Matters newsletter, to support health care providers



### COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals

York Region Public Health continues to provide support for health professionals related to COVID-19 (formerly referred to as novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV)



### Cannabis

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, weed or pot, can be consumed for medical and non-medical purposes. Find out more about legalization and the health effects of cannabis use in adults and youth.



### Child Growth and Development

Find tools and resources for parents to help children grow and develop. When parents know what to expect at each stage of development, it can be easier to meet their child's needs and understand their behaviour.



### E-Newsletter for Health Care Professionals

Sign up to receive the quarterly Public Health Matters E-Newsletter for health care professionals.

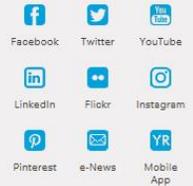


### Early Years Support Services Registry

This is a resource for health, early learning and child care professionals in York Region who wish to refer a young child or their family for support services. It provides information about programs and services available including details regarding eligibility and

## NEWSROOM

### Connect With Us!



### Campaigns & Projects



### Radon: Test Your Home

You can't see, taste or smell radon but it is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Learn more about radon and the York Region study.

[More Campaigns & Projects >>](#)

### Contact Us

### Health Connection

EMAIL

**THANK YOU**



# APPENDIX A: TIPS FOR HAVING VACCINE RELATED CONVERSATIONS

- Be empathetic and respectful
- Address concerns, correct misinformation
- Provide strong recommendation
- Tell stories
- Frame in terms of positive gains, focus on individual and community benefits
- Be honest about side effects, highlight typical experience vs. rare events
- Talk through a specific plan
- Refer to credible sources: e.g. [york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo](https://york.ca/COVID19VaccineInfo)

[COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals;](#)  
[Building Confidence in Vaccines \(PHO\)](#)

# Appendix B: Confirmed Outbreaks



## COVID-19 Outbreaks in York Region

As of 3:00pm  
August 19, 2021

### Confirmed Open Outbreaks Today

