

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



COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 9 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series
June 9, 2021 5:00-5:45pm

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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

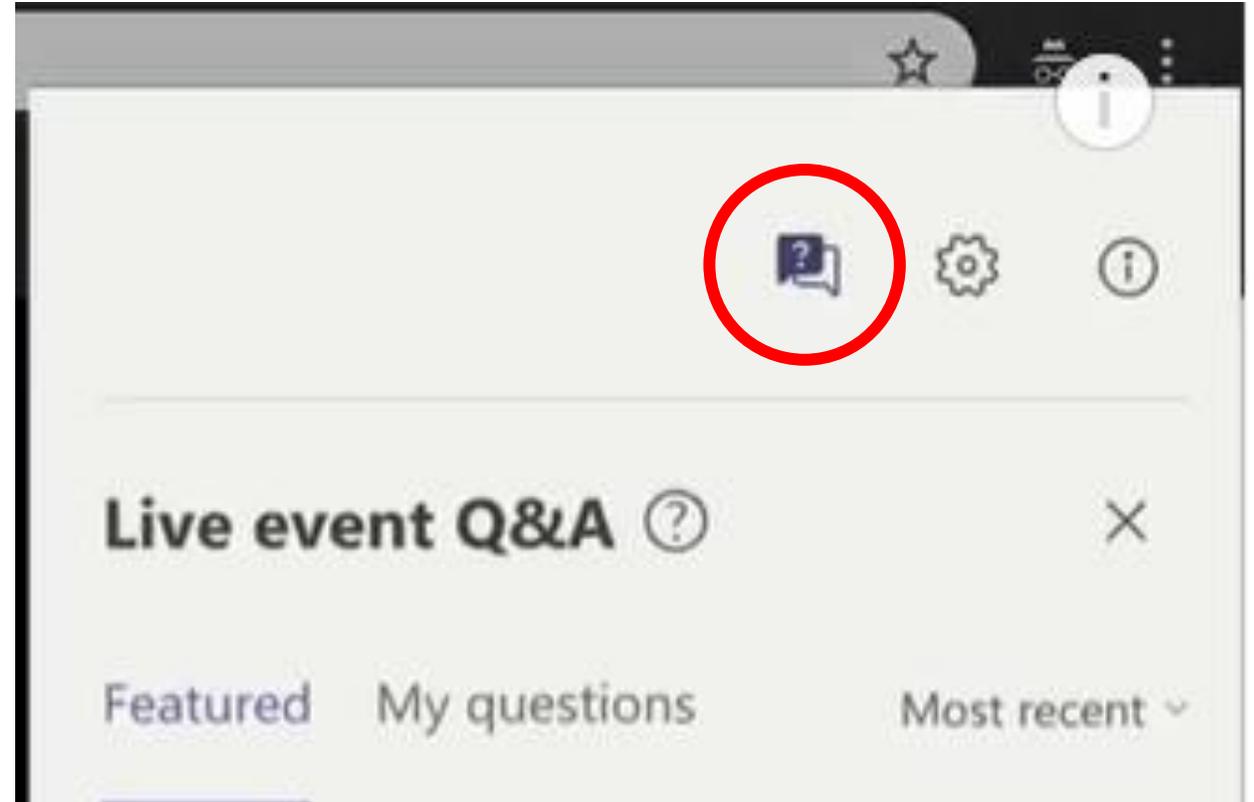
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

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.



CONTENTS

1. Epi Updates

- Case counts, outbreaks, VOCs
- Delta variant

2. Provincial Guidance Updates

- Re-opening plan
- Directive/guidance changes

3. Vaccine Updates

- Vaccine coverage, eligibility
- Shortened dose interval
- Vaccine interchangeability, AZ updates
- Vaccination in children, myocarditis/pericarditis
- NACI updates
- Roll out in primary care
- Improving vaccine uptake among healthcare workers
- Tips for having vaccine related conversations

EPI UPDATES

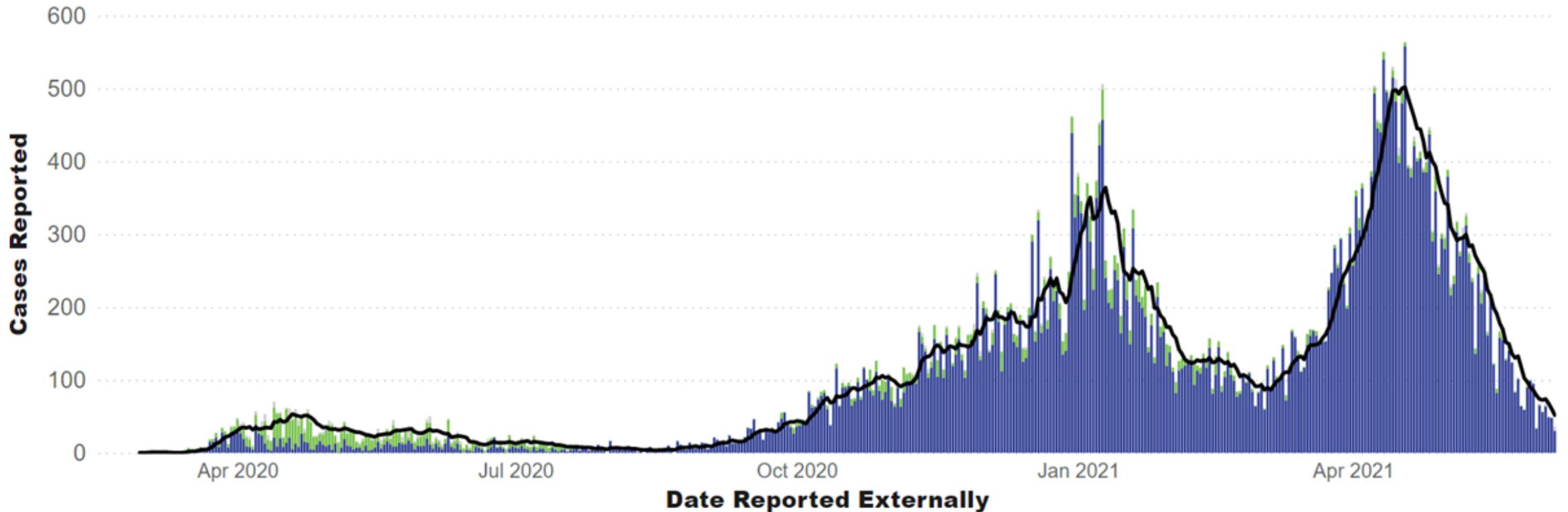
YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- CASE COUNTS



Epidemic Curve of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in York Region

As of 5:00pm
June 6, 2021

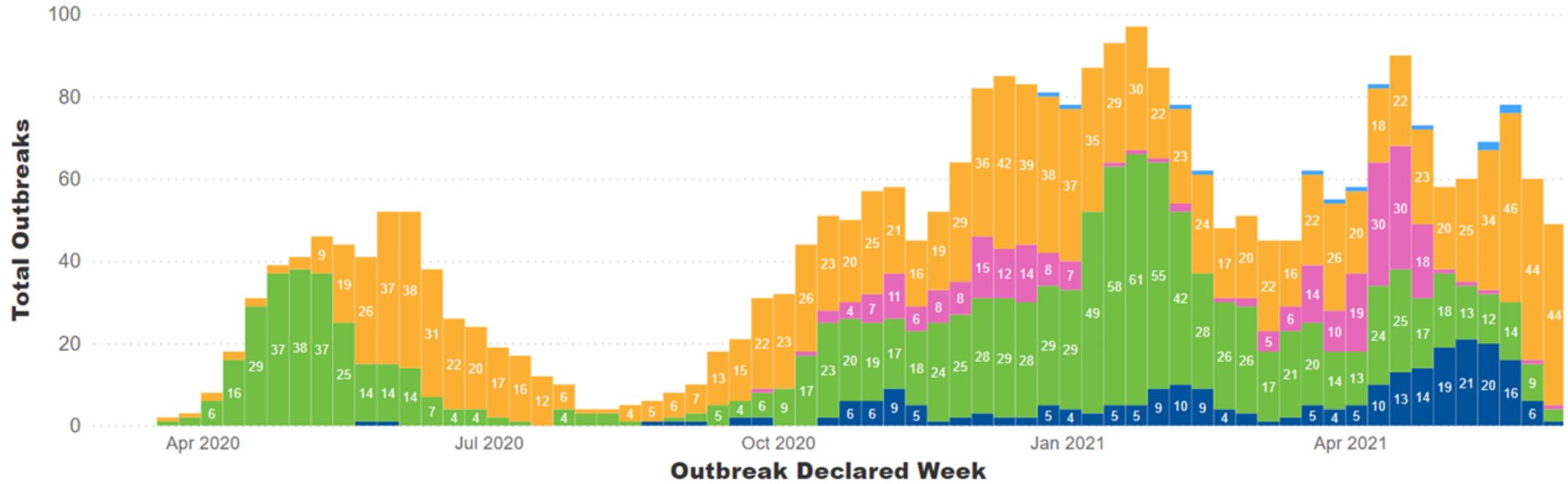
● Community Acquisition ● Institutional Acquisition ● Under Investigation ● 7 Day Moving Average



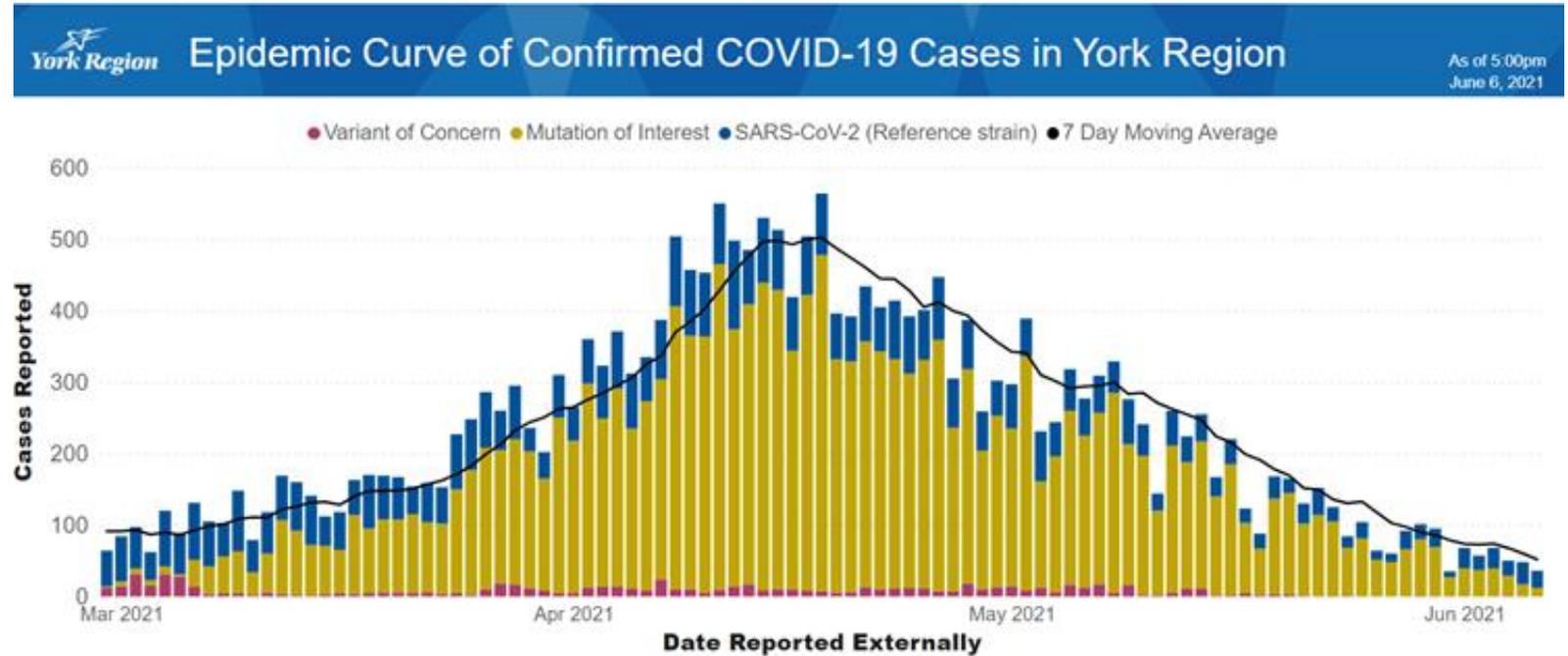
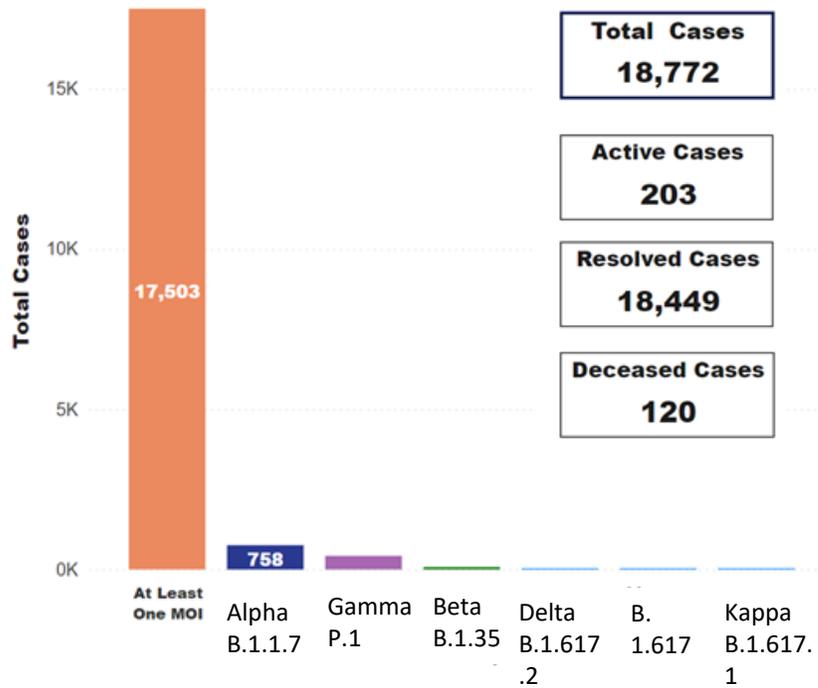
YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- Confirmed Outbreaks


COVID-19 Outbreaks in York Region
As of 5:00pm
June 6, 2021

Confirmed Open Outbreaks Today



YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- VOC SITUATION



DELTA VARIANT (B.1.617.2)

- B.1617: VOC lineage with three sublineages
 - B.1617.2: Delta variant
- A number of mutations of concern (e.g. L452R, E484Q)
- More transmissible
- Vaccines effective after two doses, less after one dose
- Higher vaccine effectiveness expected against severe outcome
- Situation being monitored closely
- Compliance with public health measures and vaccination are important

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

PROVINCIAL RE-OPENING FRAMEWORK

COVID-19 Roadmap to Reopen – Key Highlights



* **Key health indicators** include declining hospitalization, ICU, cases rate and % positivity

Based on current trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, Ontario expects to enter Step One of the roadmap around June 14, 2021.

PROVINCE REOPENING

As of May 22:

- Some outdoor recreational amenities were reopened with restrictions in place
- Outdoor limits for social gatherings and organized public events increased to five people
- Other public health measures under the emergency brake remains in effect until step 1 begins.

Ontario enters **Step 1** on June 11th



More than 60% of adults have one dose

- ✓ 72% of adults have received at least one dose (as of June 6)
- ✓ Declining hospitalizations
- ✓ Declining ICU admissions
- ✓ Declining case rate
- ✓ Declining per cent positivity

Continuing improvements in key public health and health care indicators



Outdoor spaces begin reopening

- Gatherings for 10 people
- Patio dining for 4 people
- Outdoor attractions
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks
- Outdoor sports and fitness classes
- Day camps for children

With restrictions for smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of transmission is minimized



Limited indoor settings with restrictions

- Essential retail permitted at 25% capacity
- Non-essential retail permitted at 15% capacity
- And more...

With restrictions for smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of transmission is minimized

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

DIRECTIVE/GUIDANCE CHANGES

Memorandum to Directive 2 (May 19 2021)

- Gradual Resumption of non-urgent & non-emergent surgeries and procedures

Directive 3 (June 4 2021)

- Loosening of visitor restrictions for long-term care homes and retirement homes
- Gradual resumption of non-essential absences for long-term care homes and retirement homes

Case Definition (May 21 2021)

- Rapid antigen test positive individual is no longer deemed a probable case directly

Provincial Testing Guidance (May 26 2021)

- Antigen POCT should not be used for diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in symptomatic individuals, individuals with known contact with a positive COVID-19 case or in settings in outbreak

CASE, CONTACT, and OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

- People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series
- Not applicable to individuals with immunocompromising conditions
- Follow Public Health advice

New Guidance (released June 4):
[COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada](#)

Scenario	Population	Initial Contact Recommendations	Public Health Unit Follow-Up Responsibilities
Individuals who are fully vaccinated and symptomatic .	All individuals	Self-isolate and get tested	These individuals should be managed in accordance with the standard Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario and Quick Reference Guidance on Clearance and Testing .
Individuals who are fully vaccinated and test positive for SARS-CoV-2.	All individuals	Self-isolate	These individuals should be managed in accordance with the standard Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario guidance.
Individuals who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic with a high-risk exposure to a case of SARS-CoV-2	Residents of high risk congregate living settings/ Inpatients	Self-isolate and get tested	These individuals should be managed in accordance with the standard Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario guidance.
	Healthcare Workers	Not required to self-isolate. Get tested.	These individuals must report exposure to employer and/or Occupational Health Department and follow any work restriction requirements.
	All other individuals	Not required to self-isolate. Get tested.	These individuals must report exposure to employer and/or Occupational Health Department and follow any work restriction requirements.

Table 1: At a Glance: Contact Management for Fully Vaccinated Individuals without Immunocompromise

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

VACCINE COVERAGE



Coverage of Doses Administered to York Region Residents

As of 8:00am
June 7, 2021

Age Group	People Who Have Had At Least One Dose		People Who Have Had Two Doses	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
80+	45,816	93.0%	27,623	56.1%
75 to 79	31,790	89.1%	7,914	22.2%
70 to 74	46,356	83.9%	11,744	21.3%
65 to 69	54,465	83.6%	5,956	9.1%
60 to 64	63,757	79.3%	9,865	12.3%
55 to 59	71,800	78.5%	7,292	8.0%
50 to 54	70,916	78.5%	7,230	8.0%
45 to 49	65,872	78.3%	6,109	7.3%
40 to 44	58,381	78.1%	5,005	6.7%
35 to 39	52,555	71.9%	4,599	6.3%
30 to 34	46,452	62.5%	4,062	5.5%
25 to 29	47,466	60.3%	4,475	5.7%
20 to 24	50,643	65.2%	3,367	4.3%
18 to 19	20,935	63.7%	676	2.1%
12 to 17	43,059	48.0%	151	0.2%
Eligible (12+)	770,263	73.2%	106,068	10.1%

CURRENT VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

First Dose

- Individuals 12 years of age and older who live, work or go to school in York Region

Earlier Second Dose

- Anyone who lives, works or attends school in York Region that received their first dose on or before April 18, 2021
- York Region residents 70 years of age and older (born in 1941 or earlier)
- Individuals with Highest Risk Health conditions and Indigenous individuals
- Certain high-risk health care workers as defined by the Province
- The Ministry of Health has provided a [COVID-19 Vaccine Series Second Dose Eligibility Quick Reference \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

SHORTENED DOSE INTERVALS

- The province recently announced that they are accelerating second doses for all Ontarians
- The following is an anticipated schedule for second dose eligibility:
 - **Week of May 31** – Individuals 80 years of age and older *currently eligible
 - **Week of June 7**– Individuals 70 years of age and older *currently eligible
 - **Week of June 7**– Individuals who received their first dose on or before April 18; this includes individuals with the highest-risk health conditions and special education workers *currently eligible
 - **Week of July 19** – Individuals who received their first dose on or before May 9; this includes individuals 50 years of age or older and individuals with the high-risk health conditions
 - **Week of August 2** – Individuals who received their first dose on or before May 30; this includes individuals who cannot work from home and individuals who have at-risk health conditions
 - **Week of August 9 to 16** – Individuals aged 12 to 25
 - **Week of August 9** – individuals who received their first dose from the week of May 31 onwards, respecting recommended intervals

HOW TO BOOK A SHORTENED DOSE APPOINTMENT

- Eligible residents now have the option to re-book an earlier second dose appointment. New appointments can be booked online by visiting york.ca/COVID19Vaccine or by phone at 1-877-464-9675,
- Previously booked second-dose appointments will be honoured and will not be cancelled unless a new and earlier appointment is confirmed

UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE INTERCHANGEABILITY

- On June 1, NACI released guidance on mixed vaccine schedules
- NACI recommends that:
 - Persons who received a first dose of the Astra Zeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may receive either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for their second dose, unless contraindicated
 - Persons who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the vaccine series
- Effective June 4, the [Ministry of Health updated guidance](#) to align with NACI recommendation on vaccine interchangeability

ASTRAZENECA UPDATES

Pause on first doses

- Due to an observed increase of a rare blood clotting condition, Vaccine Induced Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT)

Second doses

- Starting June 4, individuals have an option to receive an AstraZeneca vaccine or an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine, at the recommended 12 week interval
- Evidence shows the risk of developing VITT after a second dose of AstraZeneca is much lower than after the first dose



https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronaviruses/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_info_AZ_2nd_dose.pdf

COVID-19 VACCINE AND CHILDREN

- Currently, Pfizer is the only vaccine authorized by the Government of Canada for those age 12 and older. Individuals must be 12 years old as of the date of their appointment
- At York Region clinics, individuals 13 years of age and under require a parent or legal guardian to provide consent at the time of the vaccination
 - If a parent or legal guardian is unable to accompany their 12 and/or 13-year-old child to the appointment they can complete and sign a [consent form](#) and send it with the child to the appointment
- Youth vaccination appointments can be booked at york.ca/covid19vaccine

Resources:

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet: For Youth \(age 12-17\);](#)

[What youth need to know about their COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#)

MYOCARDITIS AND PERICARDITIS FOLLOWING COVID-19 mRNA VACCINATION

- **PHAC Communique to Health Practitioners**

- Reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have recently emerged
 - There has been no clear association established between myocarditis/pericarditis and mRNA vaccines, and information to date is based on passive surveillance
 - PHAC and Health Canada are monitoring very closely
 - Should consider myocarditis and pericarditis in evaluation of acute chest pain or pressure, arrhythmias, shortness of breath or other clinically compatible symptoms after vaccination. You may consider further workup in consultation with the appropriate specialists, including ruling out other potential causes
- All cases of myocarditis and pericarditis are required to be reported as an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) to York Region Public Health:
 - Complete an [adverse event form](#), or [download the form](#) and complete, and fax the form to York Region Public Health at 905-898-5213, or call our Nurses Line at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73452

UPDATED NACI RECOMMENDATIONS (May 28) FOR IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, AUTOIMMUNE CONDITION OR PREGNANT/BREASTFEEDING

- NACI recommendations for those who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, are pregnant or are breastfeeding are now the **same** as the recommendations for the general adult population.
- NACI preferentially recommends that a complete two-dose vaccine series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) should be offered to those who are immunosuppressed, have an autoimmune condition, are pregnant or are breastfeeding
 - Individuals who are immunosuppressed from disease or treatment should be informed that they may have a reduced immune response to any authorized COVID-19 vaccine series

ROLLOUT OF VACCINES IN PRIMARY CARE

- Moderna is now available to be distributed through primary care offices to anyone 18+
- 70 primary care offices in York Region are administering Moderna
- If you did not fill out the Primary Care Readiness Survey but wish to administer Moderna to your patients, please email heocliaison@york.ca

ONLINE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION RECORDS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- If you are an authorized Ontario health care provider with access to one of the provincial clinical viewers ([ConnectingOntario ClinicalViewer](#), [ClinicalConnect™](#)) you can now view your patients' COVID-19 vaccination information through the Digital Health Drug Repository (DHDR)

For more information visit: [eHealth Ontario](#)

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE VACCINE UPTAKE AMONG HCW

Engage Vaccine
Champions

Educate staff through
group discussions
and having one on
one conversations

Make vaccine uptake
visible

Communicate
consistent key
messages across
multiple channels

Partner with others
as channels of
influence

Work towards racial
equity

Support HCWs in
getting the vaccine

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

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/HEALTHPROFESSIONALS

- 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.

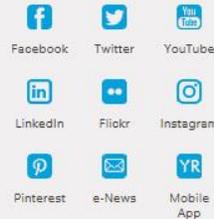


Early Years Support Services Registry

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

Remember to sign up to [Public Health Matters](#) for:

- Today's slides
- Follow up Q&As and
- Future webinar information

