

COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 8 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series
March 29, 2021 5-6pm

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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

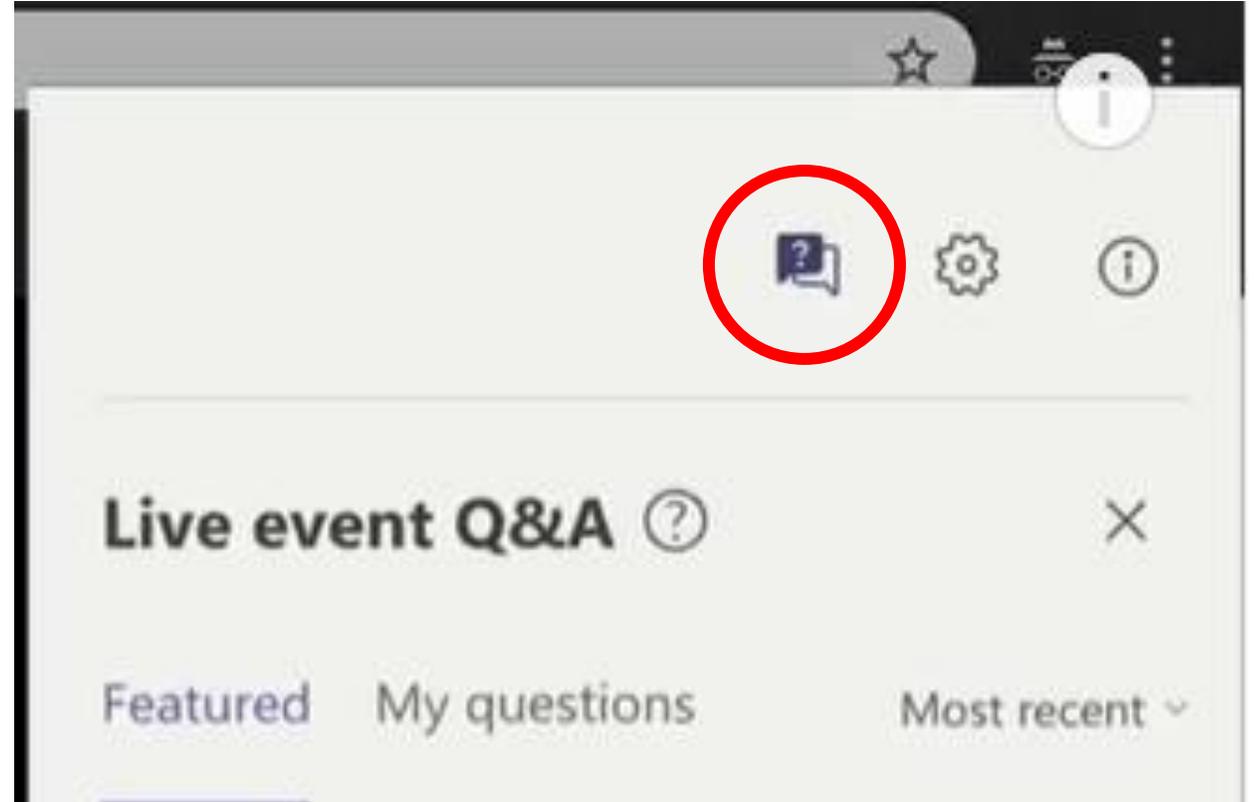
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

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.



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 - Key Messages from Red Control Zone
 - Guidance Post Immunization
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 - Extension on the Second Dose Interval
 - Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) & AstraZeneca Vaccines
3. Provincial Updates
 - Updated Guidance Documents
 - Interpretation of Rapid Tests
4. What Else is New
 - Mental Health
 - Health Equity
5. Q&A Period

EPI UPDATES

YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY

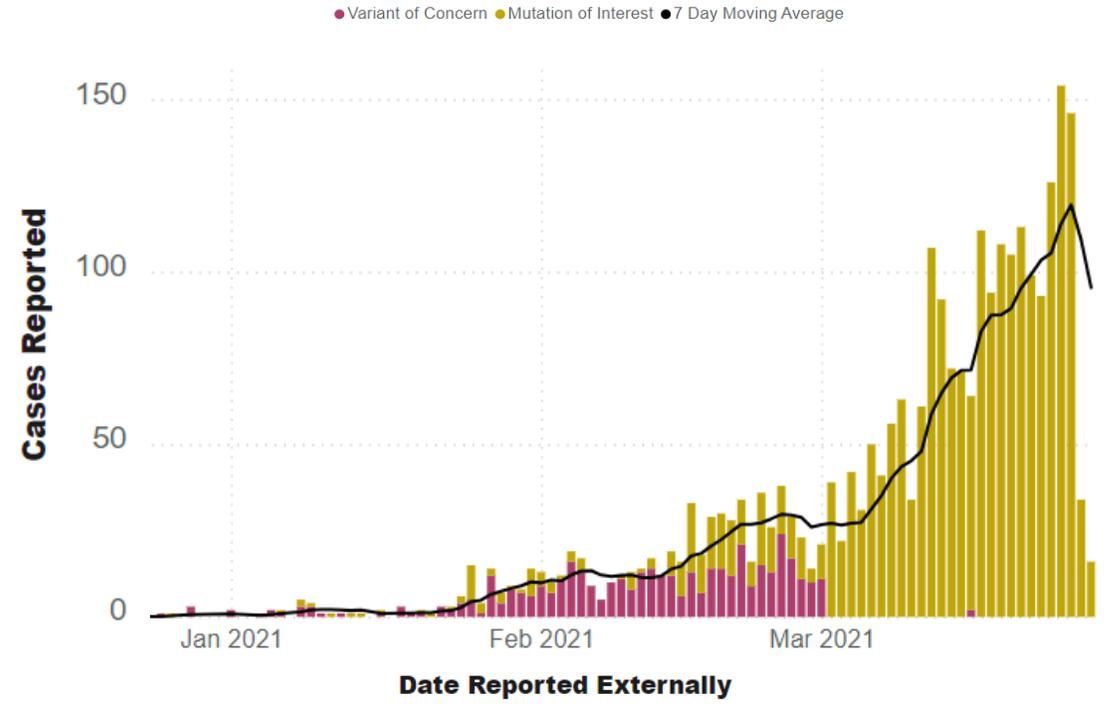
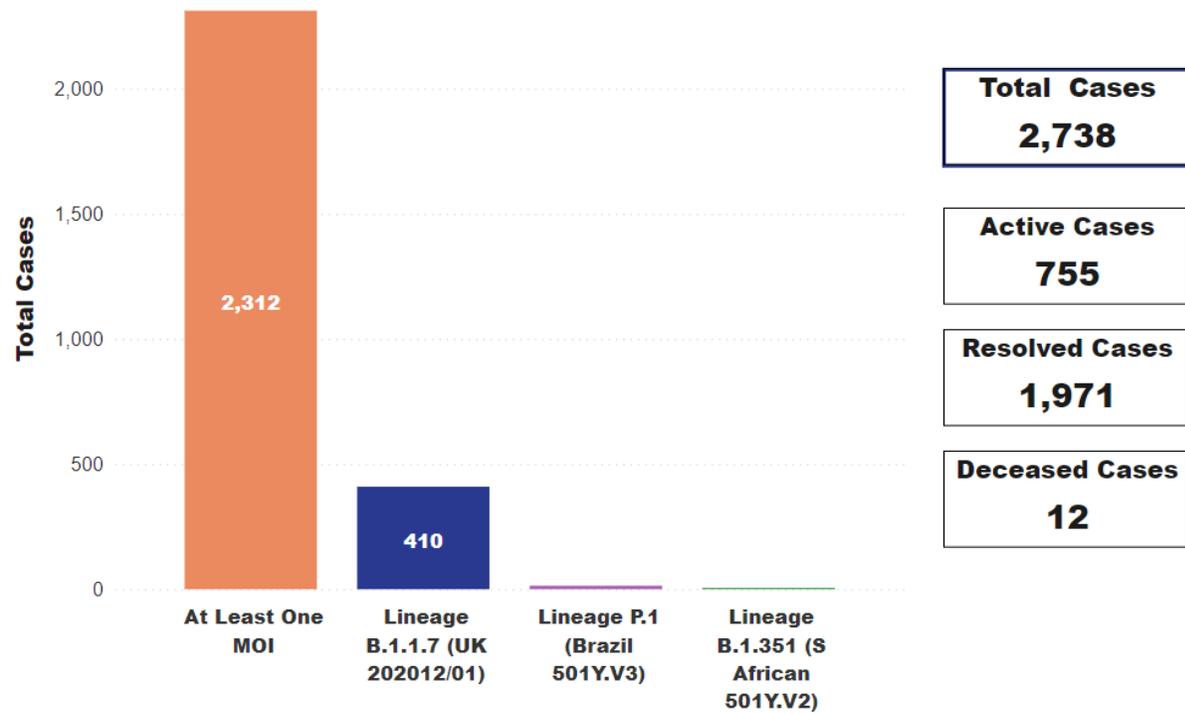


Epidemic Curve of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in York Region

As of 5:00pm
March 28, 2021



VARIANTS OF CONCERN- YORK REGION CONTEXT



Key Messages From Red-Control Zone

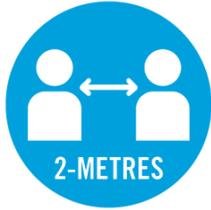
- All residents living in the Red-Control Zone are encouraged to stay home except for essential reasons (work, school, groceries, medical appointments, exercise) and to not visit any other households or allow visitors to your home.
- Limits for public events and social gatherings:
 - 5 people indoors
 - 25 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services (apply regardless of the venue where held):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors
 - 100 people outdoors
- Limits for restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments:
 - 50 people, or the lesser of approximately 50% of indoor dining area
 - Outdoor dining limited to allow physical distancing of 2 metres to be maintained
- For more information visit Ontario's [COVID-19 response framework](#)

GUIDANCE POST IMMUNIZATION

- CDC has released new relaxed safety measures once fully immunized
 - If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected.
- In York Region, everyone who receives the vaccine will still need to follow public health guidance.



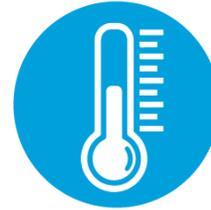
**WEAR A MASK OR
FACE COVERING**



**MAINTAIN A
PHYSICAL DISTANCE**



**WASH
YOUR HANDS**



**MONITOR
YOUR HEALTH**

- There are several reasons this is important:
 - It takes about 2 weeks for your body to build immunity
 - The vaccine won't protect everyone
 - Still lack of evidence for how the vaccines protect against VOC

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

COVID-19 Vaccinations of York Region Residents

Age	Number of doses administered	Proportion of age group
All ages	127, 407	10.5%
80+	38, 211	78%
75-79	20, 810	61.2%
70-74	12, 322	23.2%

PROGRESS ON PHASE 1 & UPDATE ON PHASE 2

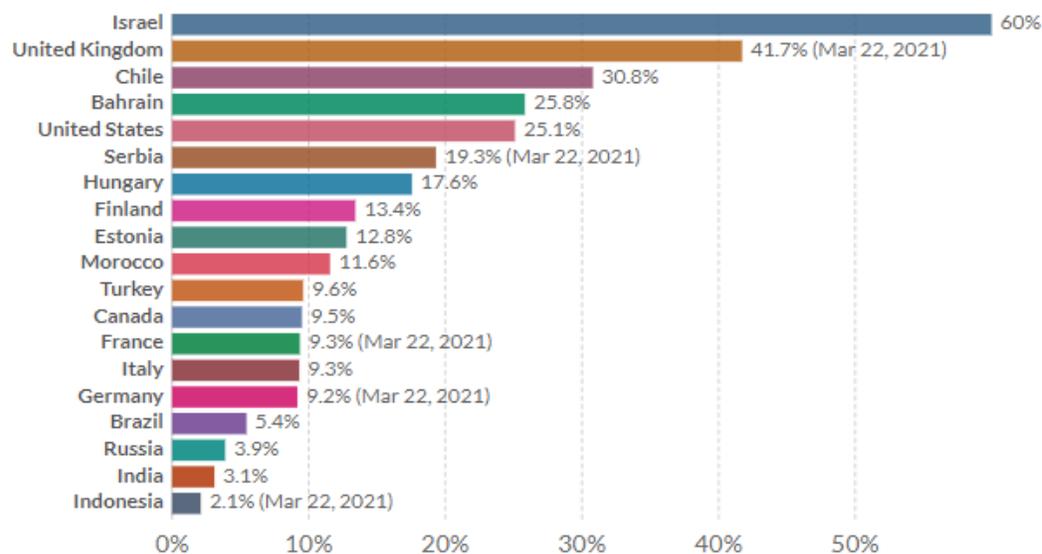
- 1,980,000 doses administered in Ontario
- 75% of Health Care Workers and 78% of those 80+ in York Region have received their first dose
- Vaccination appointments available to 70+ age group
- Culturally sensitive vaccination clinics for York Region Indigenous population held on March 29 and 30
- Mobile teams vaccinating homebound individuals starting March 22
- Drive through vaccination clinic opening at Canada's Wonderland March 29

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, Mar 23, 2021

Our World
in Data

Share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated if the vaccine requires two doses.

+ Add country



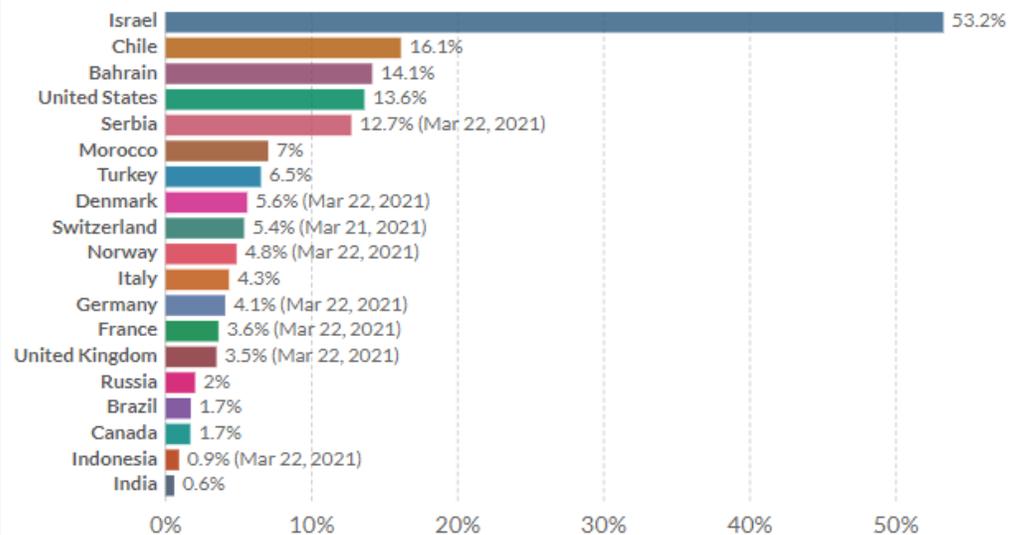
Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 24 March, 09:20 (London time)
OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Mar 23, 2021

Our World
in Data

Share of the total population that have received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol. This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses.

+ Add country



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 24 March, 09:20 (London time)
OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

COVID-19 WINTER 2021 SURVEY ADVANCED RESULTS

COVID-19 WINTER SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



38% - Believe we are in the 'worst period' of the crisis



60% - Are personally 'concerned' about themselves or their household contracting COVID-19



65% - Are 'concerned' about family/friends, outside their household, contracting COVID-19



85% - Believe that vaccines and immunizations are 'important' | **69%** - COVID-19 vaccines are 'safe'



88% - Are willing to get the COVID-19 vaccine 'as soon as possible or eventually'



76% - Are 'comfortable' receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://covid19resources.ca/public/discussions/>

VACCINE CLINIC APPOINTMENTS

- Offering static sites, drive through clinics and mobile clinics
- Please remind patients to:
 - show up only 10 minutes ahead of appointment
 - wear a mask
 - bring their health card and a support person if needed
 - bring proof of employment if the patient is a health care provider (photo ID or letter from employer).
- Complete an attestation form for patient to bring to appointment if patient:
 - Is pregnant, breastfeeding/chestfeeding
 - has a weak immune system from an illness or therapy or an autoimmune condition
 - has a blood disorder

City of Markham - Aaniin Community Centre



City of Vaughan - Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital



City of Vaughan - Maple Community Centre



City of Markham - Cornell Community Centre



Town of Georgina - Georgina Ice Palace



Town of Newmarket - Ray Twinney Recreation Complex



City of Richmond Hill - Richmond Green Sports Centre



Appointments should only be booked for **FIRST DOSES**. Appointments can be booked at york.ca/covid19vaccine

HOMEBOUND PATIENTS

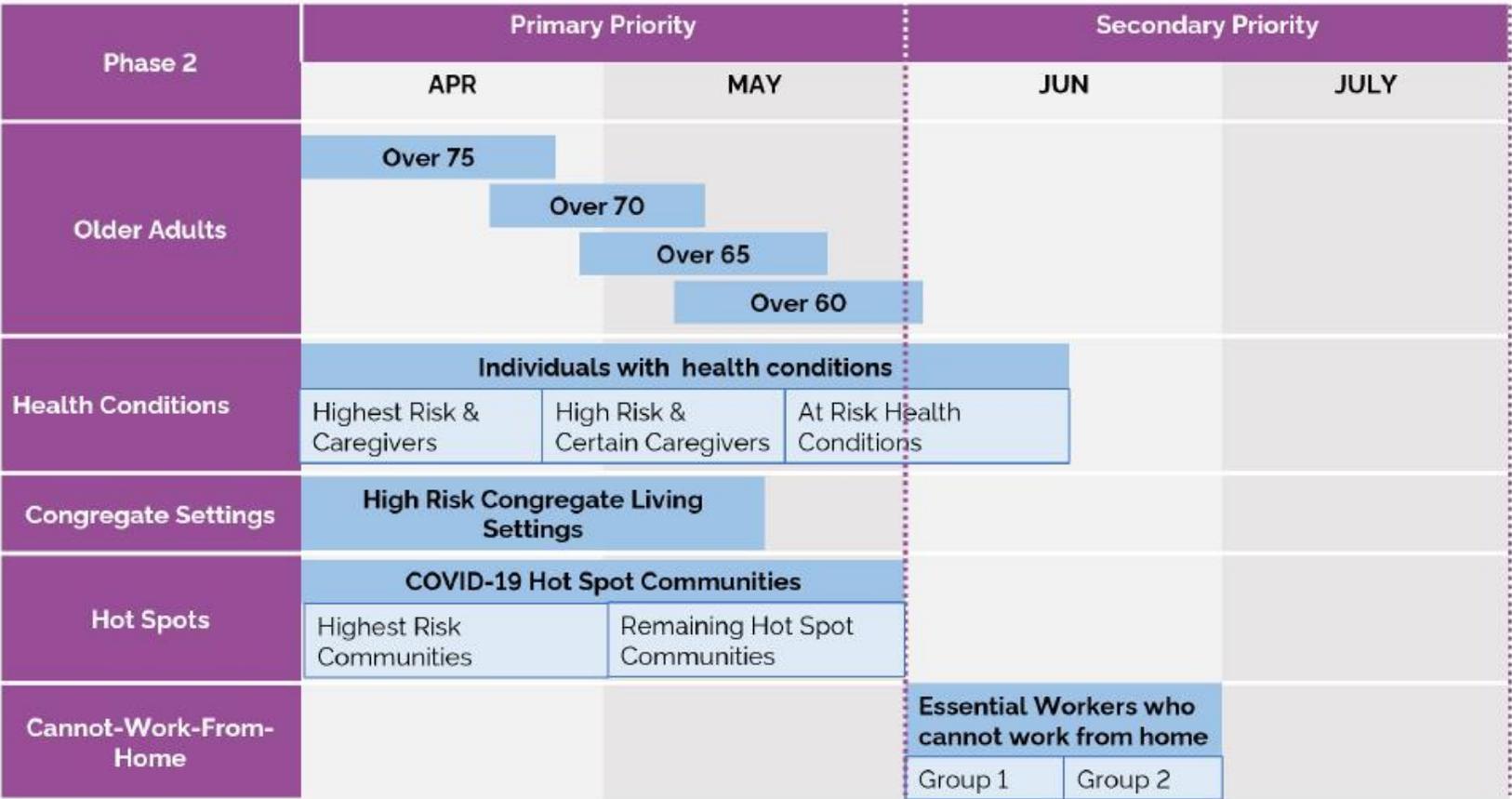
- For patients with mobility issues, the **fastest** way to access the vaccine is by attending a vaccination clinic with transportation support or by attending the Canada's Wonderland Drive Through Clinic
- For patients who meet the definition of homebound and receive home care through the LHIN, a hospital or home care agency, we have their information and will reach them through a mobile team
- For patients who meet the definition of homebound but **do not** receive home care, they can call Access York at 1-877-464-9675 to be added to a list of homebound patients or your office can fax a list of homebound patients (name, phone number, address) who do not receive home care to 905-895-5860
- It will take some time to reach all homebound patients, they should not expect to receive a call right away

Homebound Definition

- A normal inability to leave home must exist (e.g., the patient is not leaving their home environment on their own or with support to access medical services, public services or social services). In addition, leaving home must require a considerable and taxing effort.
- Patient considerations:
 - Safety risk: high risk of falls, unable to physically transport to medical appointment
 - Transfer: 2 person or requires mechanical lift
 - Mobility: non-ambulatory and not mobile
 - Advanced cognitive impairment: dependent on others for safety, unable to navigate community safely

PHASE TWO SEQUENCING

Figure 1: Projected Timing of Phase 2 Sequence



All timelines subject to vaccine supply availability

HIGH RISK CHRONIC CONDITIONS ELIGIBLE FOR PHASE 2

Highest Risk Health Conditions	High Risk Health Condition	At Risk Health Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organ Transplant Recipients • Hematopoietic Stem cell transplant recipients • Neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis) • Haematological malignancy diagnosed <1 year • Kidney Disease eGFR <30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity (BMI >40) • Other treatments causing immunosuppression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications) • Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down syndrome) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune deficiencies/autoimmune disorders • Stroke/cerebrovascular disease • Dementia • Diabetes • Liver disease • All other cancers • Respiratory Diseases • Spleen problems (e.g., asplenia) • Heart Disease • Hypertension with end organ damage • Diagnosis of mental disorder • Substance use disorders • Sickle cell disease • Thalassemia • Pregnancy • Immunocompromising health conditions • Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community

ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHO CANNOT WORK FROM HOME ELIGIBLE FOR PHASE 2

Group One

- Elementary/secondary school workers
- Workers responding to critical events
- Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles
- Individuals working in childcare
- Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
- Food manufacturing and distribution workers
- Agriculture and farm workers
- Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers

Group Two

- Essential and critical retail workers
- Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID19 response, construction including infrastructure, and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread.
- Social workers and other social services staff providing in-person client services
- Courts and justice system workers
- Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers
- Electricity
- Communications infrastructure workers
- Water and wastewater management workers
- Financial services workers
- Veterinarians and veterinary teams
- Waste management workers
- Oil and petroleum workers
- Natural gas and propane gas workers
- Mine workers
- Uranium processing workers

EXTENSION OF THE SECOND DOSE INTERVAL

- Ministry of Health to follow NACI recommendations
- Increase the interval for all approved COVID-19 vaccines to up to 16 weeks (~4 months)
- Rapidly accelerate our vaccine rollout to maximize the number of people receiving their first vaccine
- One dose provides good protection
- Plan to protect high risk individuals
- Plan to continually monitor and evaluate



KEY RESOURCES — SECOND DOSE INTERVAL EXTENSION

1. Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada: [COVID-19 vaccination: why extend the interval between doses?](#)
2. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): [NACI rapid response: Extended dose intervals for COVID-19 vaccines to optimize early vaccine rollout and population protection in Canada](#)
3. Halton Public Health FAQs: [Why is the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine being delayed up to 16 weeks \(4 months\)?](#)

JANSSEN (Johnson & Johnson) & ASTRAZENECA

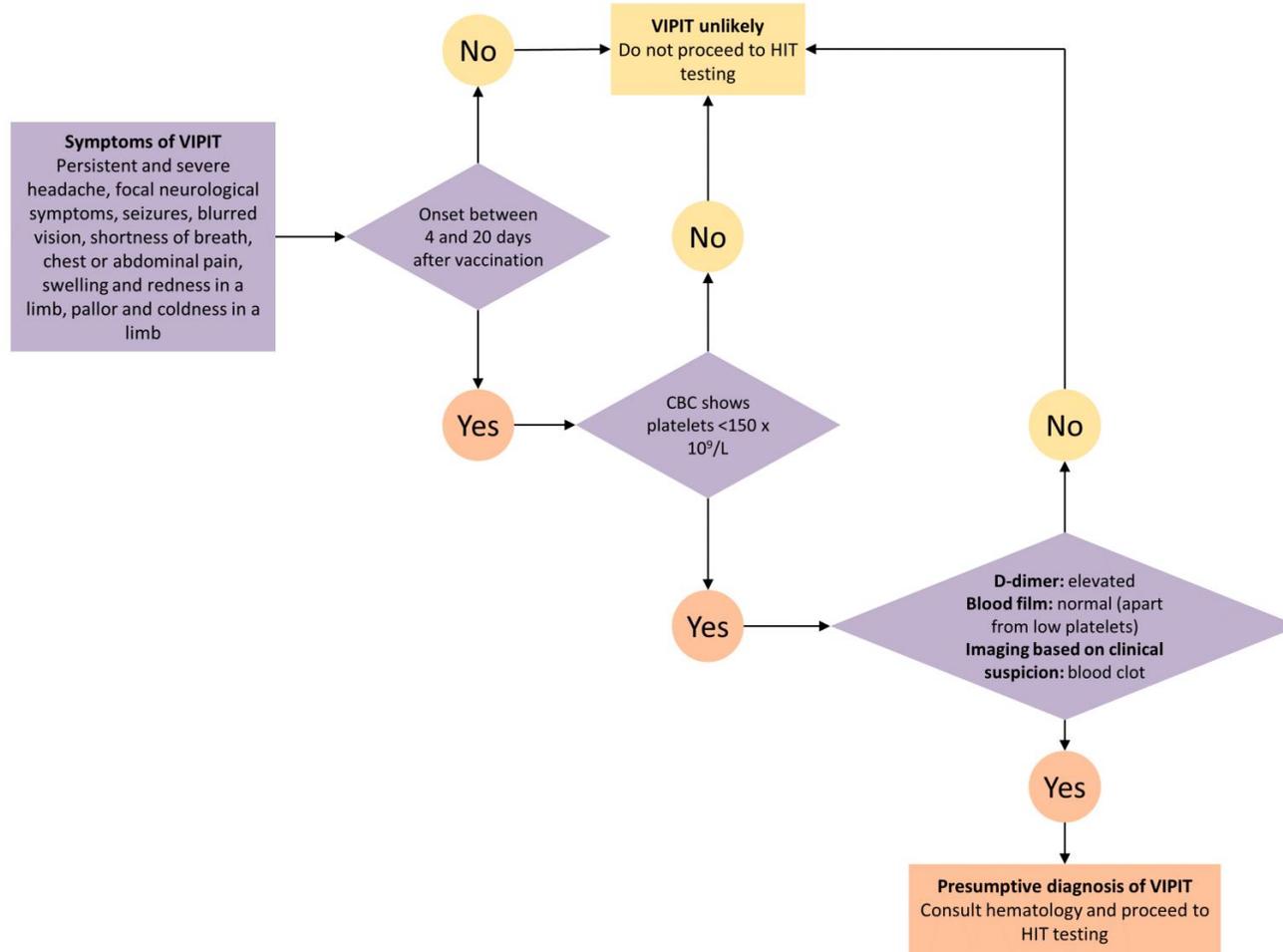
	Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)	AstraZeneca
Type of Vaccine	Viral Vector based Vaccine	Viral Vector based Vaccine
Age Indications	18 years of age and older	18 years of age and older
Dosing Interval	Single Dose	2 Doses, with the second dose administered between 4 and 12 weeks after the first dose
Storage	Stored and/or transported at 2°C to 8°C until expiry date Stable at room temperature for up to 12 hours	Unopened vials stored at 2-8°C Stable at room temperature for up to 6 hours
Efficacy	66.9% 14 days after vaccination and 66.1% 28 days after vaccination	62.1% 15 days post second dose, updated data from December 2020 demonstrated 59.5% with the second dose administered 4-12 weeks after the first dose.
Common Adverse Reactions	Injection site pain, Injection site erythema, Injection site swelling, Headache, Fatigue, Myalgia, Nausea, Fever	Injection site tenderness, Injection site pain, Fatigue, Headache, Myalgia, Malaise, Fever, Chills, Nausea

ASTRAZENECA AND THROMBOSIS

- Health Canada is aware of reports in Europe of adverse events following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. A combination of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia, in some cases accompanied by bleeding, has been observed very rarely following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine.
- To date, only the Serum Institute of India (SII) version of the AstraZeneca vaccine has been received and used in Canada. These batches have not been associated with an increase in the overall risk of thrombosis. The version of the AstraZeneca vaccine used in Europe was produced in Europe, and none of those vaccine batches have been received or used in Canada.
- Health Canada worked with the manufacturers of AstraZeneca COVID19 Vaccine and COVISHIELD to update the Product Monographs for these products to include this new safety information. Healthcare professionals should be alert to the signs and symptoms of thromboembolism and or thrombocytopenia.

Those vaccinated should be instructed to seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain 4-20 days following vaccination.

Additionally, anyone with neurological symptoms including severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision after vaccination, or who experiences skin bruising (petechia) beyond the site of vaccination after a few days, should seek prompt medical attention.



To report an AEFI:

- Complete an [adverse event form](#), or [download the form](#) and complete, then fax the completed form to York Region Public Health at 905-898-5213, or
- Call our Line at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 73452

Useful references on Astra Zeneca & VIPIT

1. Government of Canada Letter: [AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Letter to Health Care Providers](#)
2. Science Table: COVID-19 Advisory for Ontario: [Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia \(VIPIT\) Following AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
3. Health Canada News: [Health Canada issues label change and guidance on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#)
4. Health Canada Statement March 18: [**Health Canada confirms that the benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine continue to outweigh the risks for use in Canada**](#)
5. Science Article: [A rare clotting disorder may cloud the world's hopes for AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine](#)
6. WHO Statement: [Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety \(GACVS\) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Which vaccine is best for my patient?

The first one they are offered.

- Everyone who can be vaccinated should be vaccinated as soon as possible
- Comparing efficacy in a clinical trial is not an accurate representation of effectiveness in the real world
- All vaccines approved by Health Canada are safe and effective

FRAUD VACCINE ALERT

The Ministry of Health has been made aware of recent claims of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine being offered by non-government/private entities.

Should you encounter any offers of sale, please contact the Ministry of Health at eocooperations.moh@ontario.ca



PROVINCIAL UPDATES

PROVINCIAL TESTING UPDATED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

New guidance for workers exposed to symptomatic household members

- Asymptomatic workers (both HCW and non-HCWs) exposed to a symptomatic household member should isolate until the symptomatic individual has received a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider. If testing is not conducted, then the worker should self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure.

Reduced requirements on individuals conducting Point-Of-Care Testing (POCT)

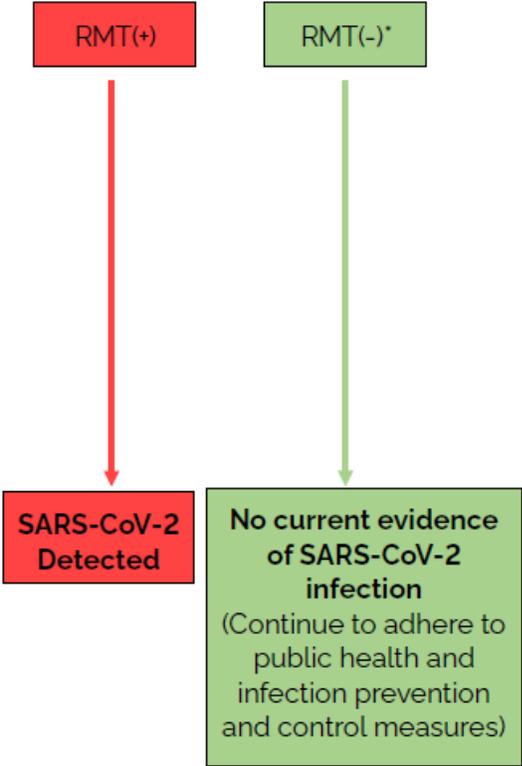
- COVID-19 tests that are approved by Health Canada, for point-of-care use, do not need to be conducted by an individual licensed under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act (LSCCLA). Anyone who is appropriately trained, through the Ministry's training portal, can perform the tests, enabling greater flexibility for implementation.

Changes to POCT accessibility

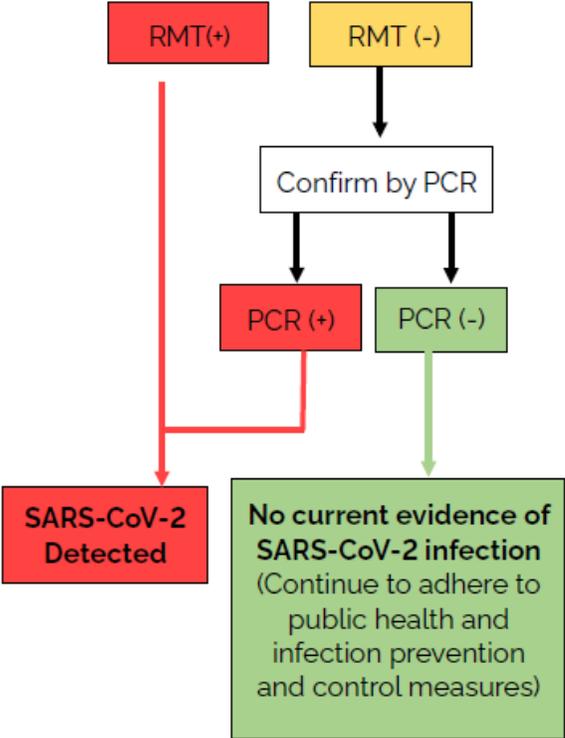
- Antigen POCT remains only appropriate for use in asymptomatic individuals. While POCTs will continue to be deployed and publicly-funded by the province, Health Canada approved POCTs may also be available for direct purchase in Ontario.

HOW TO INTERPRET RESULTS OF RAPID TESTS

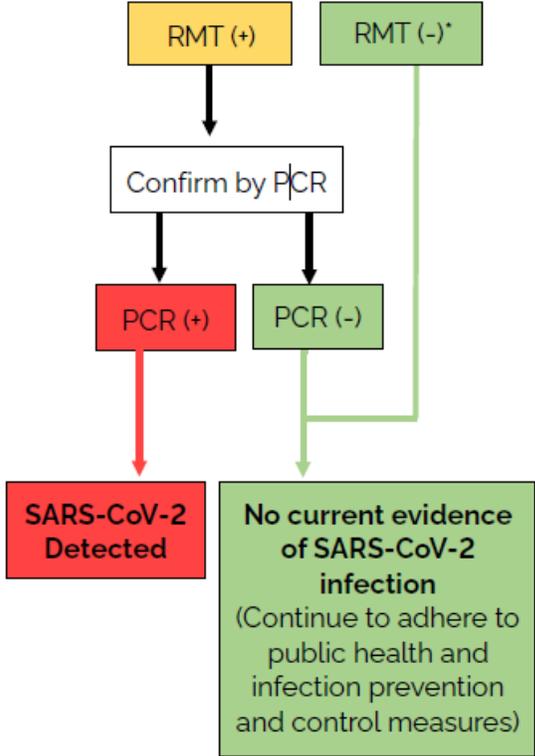
Symptomatic individual without known contact with a positive COVID-19 case
(Includes school-aged children with 1 or more symptom)



Any individual (symptomatic or asymptomatic) with known contact with a positive COVID-19 case



Asymptomatic individual without known contact with a positive COVID-19 case.



WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING RESOURCES ON YORK.CA

- Integral to the work of York Region Public Health from service delivery right through to early identification and referral
- Many resources available on our [health professionals](#) web page:

York Region Mental Health Resources and Referral Pathways	▼
Mental Health and the Social Determinants of Health	▼
Mental Health and Wellness in Pregnancy and Parenthood	▼
Healthy Aging and Mental Health	▼
Tobacco Use and Exposure Effects on Mental Health	▼
Mental Health and Substance Use	▼
Mental Health and Sexual Health	▼
External Links	▼

HEALTH EQUITY in the COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Not everyone is affected equally by COVID-19
- Here in YR, our trends are similar to the province, and neighbouring jurisdictions (e.g. Peel, Toronto)
 - Data limitations
 - may be a disproportionate representation of COVID-19 cases among racialized groups
- We are taking an equity-based approach to our response in YR
 - Collection of qualitative and quantitative data
 - Tailored messaging; language supports; working with partners
 - Vaccine planning
- High Priority Community Strategy launched at the start of this year

Resources/Supports to be aware of

- Visit the COVID-19 [Community Supports webpage](#)
- Call Access York: -877-464-9675 TTY: 1-866-512-6228 (for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Street Outreach Van: 1-866-553-4053
- Financial supports: [york.ca/financialassistance](#)
- Voluntary Isolation Centre: [york.ca/IsolationCentre](#)
- Homeless populations
 - Those seeking shelter are asked to contact the Transitional Shelter Intake Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76140
 - Families with children are asked to contact the Family Shelter at Leeder Place at 1-888-554-5525.

Useful Tool for your patients; social care in COVID-19

Ask your patients/clients ⊖

Suggested script

 *"COVID-19 is impacting some people more than others. We are checking in on many of our patients/clients about issues that are important for health and well-being, so we can help people get the assistance they need."*

 **Will you or your household find it hard to pay for basic expenses in the next 4 weeks?**
Families with children face specific challenges and have access to specific benefits during COVID-19.

 **Is there a risk you or your household won't have food or be able to pay for food in the next 4 weeks?**

 **Are you currently homeless or at risk of losing your housing in the next 4 weeks?**

 **Are you alone, and do not have family/friends who can help you during this time?**

Q&A PERIOD

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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.

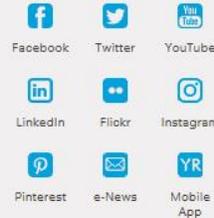


Early Years Support Services Registry

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

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](#) - all provincial COVID-19 guidance

THANK YOU

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

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

