

COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 5 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series
November 26, 2020

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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

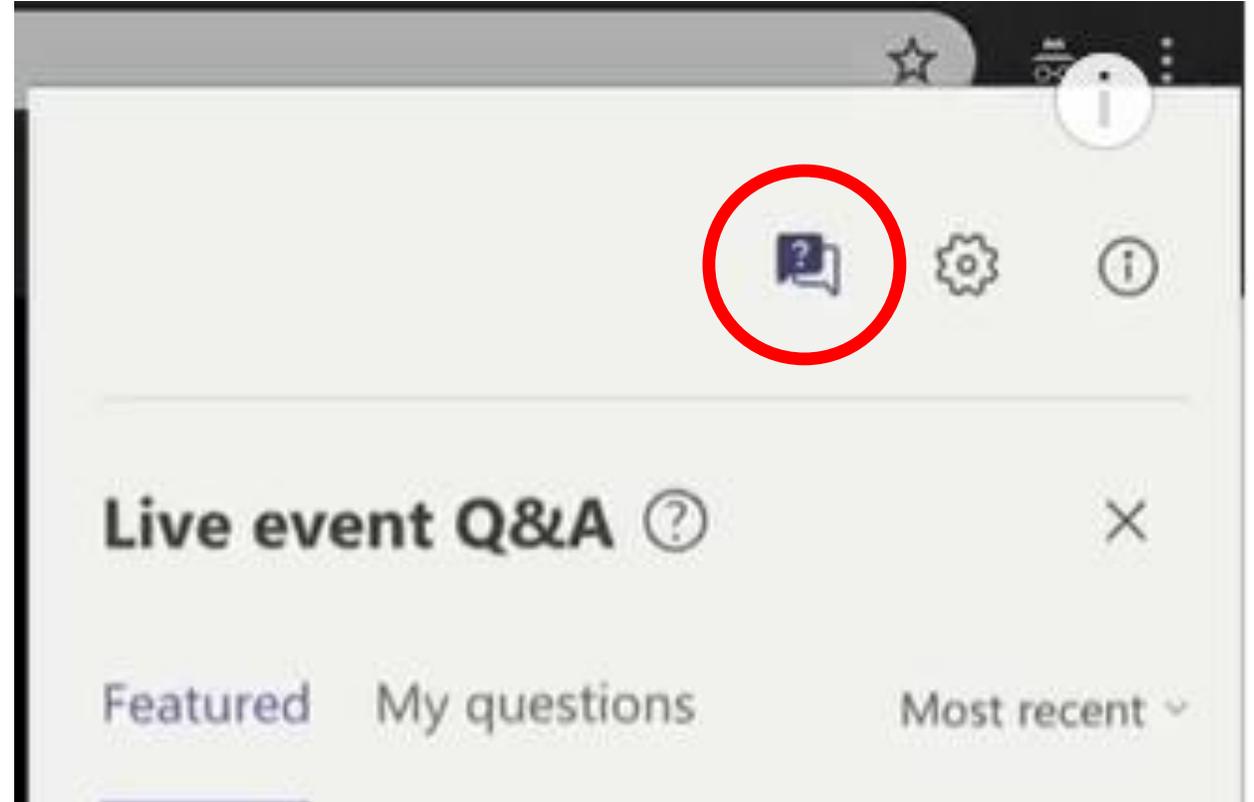
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

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.



Please follow the link in the Q&A box to complete our feedback survey

CONTENT

1. COVID-19 Epidemiological Updates for York Region
2. What's New from the Province?
3. Rapid Testing
4. COVID-19 Vaccine
5. Flu Update

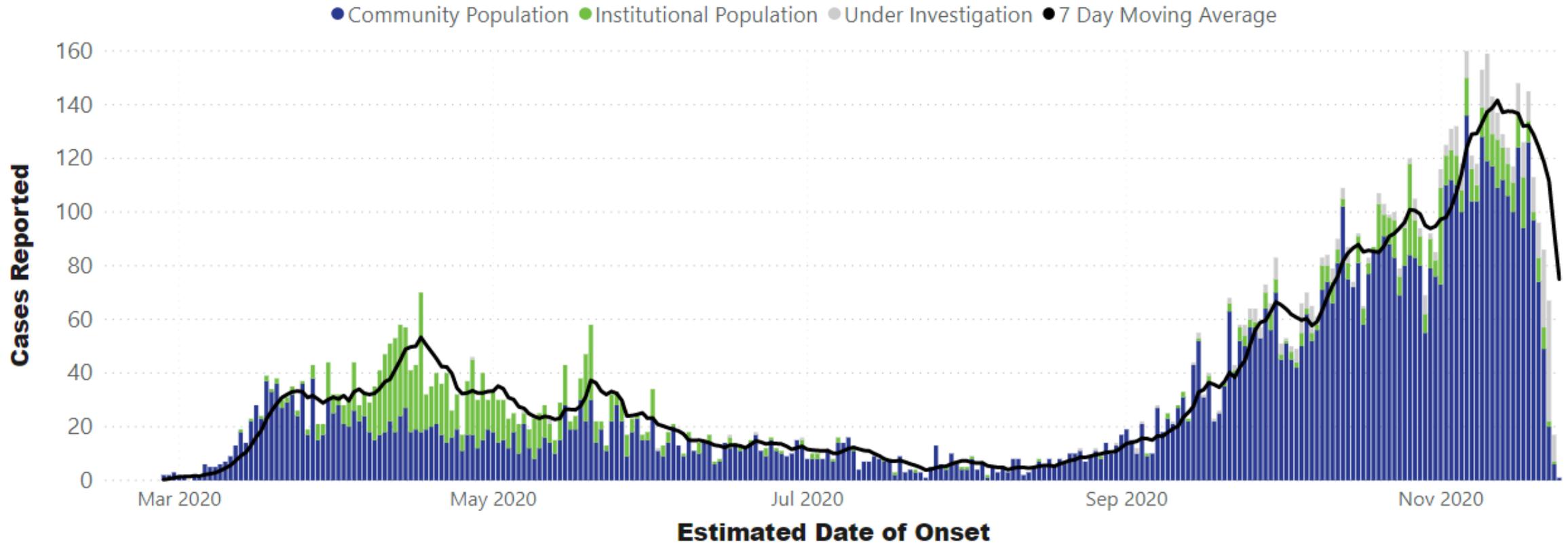
COVID-19 EPI UPDATES FOR YORK REGION

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COVID-19 IN YORK REGION



Epidemic Curve of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in York Region

As of 5:00pm
November 24, 2020

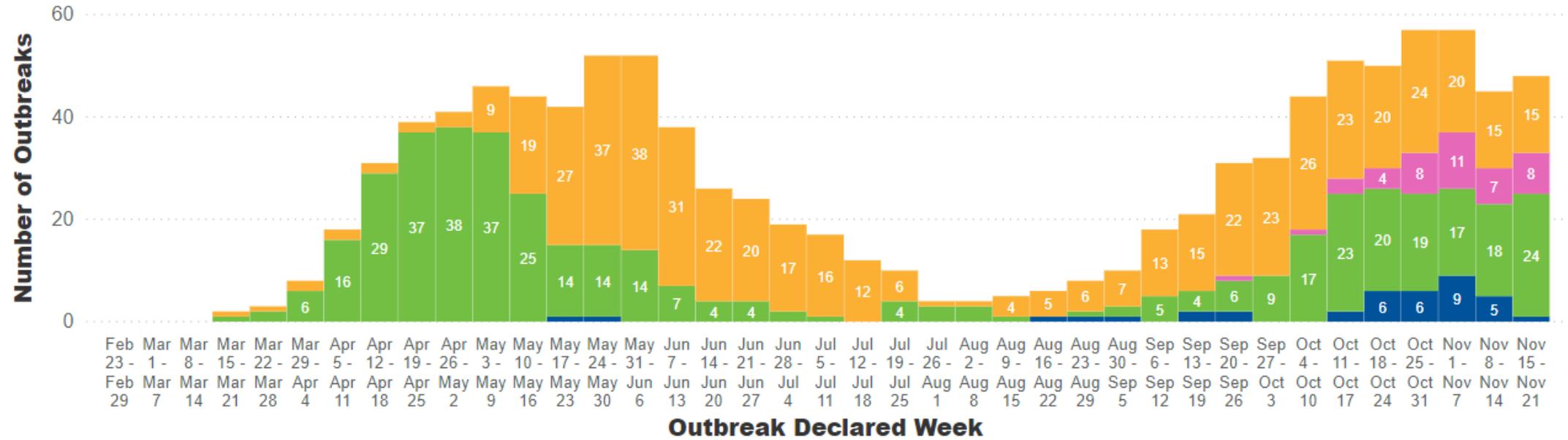


Data current as of November 24 at 5:00pm

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COVID-19 IN YORK REGION


COVID-19 Outbreaks in York Region
As of 6:00 PM
November 24, 2020

Confirmed Open Outbreaks Today



Data current as of November 24 at 6:00pm

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

York Region is in the Red or “Control” zone

- Limits for all organized public events and social gatherings:
 - 5 people indoors, 25 people outdoors
- Religious services, weddings and funerals
 - 30% capacity indoors, 100 people outdoors
- Restaurants maximum of 10 people indoors, limit of 4 people sitting together
- Team sports must not be played (no games or scrimmage)
- Gym and fitness studios maximum of 10 people indoors or 25 outdoors
- [Class Order](#) issued by Dr. Kurji on November 23



Control – red

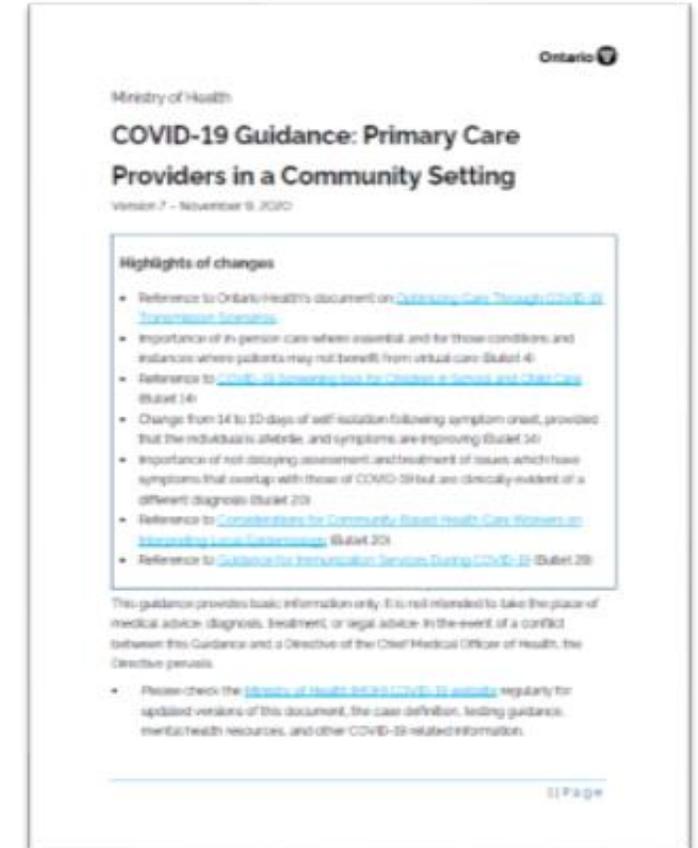
See the [Ontario Framework](#) for the full list of restrictions

UPDATED PROVINCIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

- Updated [COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#)
- Highlights of changes:
 - Importance of in-person care where essential and for those instances when patients may not benefit from virtual care
 - Change from 14 to 10 days of self-isolation following symptom onset (providing patient is afebrile and symptoms are improving)
 - Importance of not delaying assessment and treatment of issues which have symptoms that overlap with COVID-19 but are clinically evident of a different diagnosis

Links to bookmark:

- [Considerations for Community Based Health Care Workers on Interpreting Local Epidemiology](#) (PHO)
- [Optimizing Care Through COVID-19 Transmission Scenarios](#) (Ontario Health)
- [Considerations for Family Physicians: In-Person Visits when Phone/Video Isn't Enough](#) (Ontario College of Family Physicians)
- [Primary Care Paediatric Testing, Isolation and Return to School](#) (Centre for Effective Practice)



WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

Messaging for upcoming holiday season

- The safest way to spend the holidays this year is by **only celebrating in person with the people you live with** and celebrating virtually with everyone else
- If you live alone, consider exclusively celebrating with one additional household
- Individuals living away from home, including those studying at colleges and universities, should consider doing a self-quarantine, or reducing close contact with others, 10 to 14 days before returning home for the holidays



RAPID TESTING

RAPID TESTING

- Point of care testing (POC) or rapid testing now available in ON
- Different types exist (e.g. antigen testing vs molecular testing) that are Health Canada approved
- Tend to have lower sensitivity than PCR (gold standard) testing (higher rate of false negatives)
- Usually used for surveillance purposes (screening for low-risk population)
- Currently, in ON an 8-week rapid antigen screening pilot program is being planned for use in workplaces that apply
- Parallel testing with PCR is also being conducted to evaluate the pilot

OVERVIEW OF TESTS

	Abbott ID Now COVID-19 Rapid test*	Panbio COVID-19 Antigen test*
Type	RNA (RdRp)	Antigen (SARS-CoV-2 Ag)
Reported sensitivity, %	77 - 80	73 - 98
Reported specificity, %	99 -100	100
Specimen	Nasal, throat, NP swabs	NP swab
Time to result	5 - 13 mins.	15 mins.
Cost per test (does not include labour or auxiliary equipment)	\$35 CAD	\$5 CAD

Table 1. Overview of COVID-19 rapid tests procured by the Government of Canada and in use in Ontario

*Tests distributed for free to provinces by the Public Health Agency of Canada

MANAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH POINT OF CARE (POC) RESULTS

- A positive result from a PoC assay should be considered a preliminary positive result (Physicians must report positive COVID-19 test results asap to Public Health)
- All preliminary positive PoC test results require confirmatory testing at a licensed lab within 24 h
 - If confirmatory lab-based NAAT is not performed, individual should remain a probable case
 - If confirmatory lab-based NAAT is performed and is positive, individual should be considered a confirmed case
 - If confirmatory lab-based NAAT is performed and is negative (specimen collected ≤ 24 hours from POC test), individual should be considered 'does not meet' case definition
- **After the initial evaluation phase, guidance may be updated to no longer require parallel confirmatory testing for PoC results**

TESTING SETTINGS

COVID-19 Assessment Centres	COVID-19 Assessment Centre or Pharmacy	Workplaces (Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic • Close contact of a confirmed case (including those identified by the COVID Alert app) • Resident of a congregate setting in COVID-19 outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident, worker or visitor in long-term care homes, homeless shelters or other congregate settings OR • International students that have passed their 14-day quarantine period OR • Farm workers OR • Indigenous communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic • Passed workplace screening tool/questionnaire • No known + close contacts • Volunteer basis only • Should not be used in a confirmed or suspected workplace outbreak • Should not be used on individuals who have previously been infected with recovered from COVID-19 • Panbio test is a screening tool (i.e., not a diagnostic tool)

If patient is asymptomatic and needs a test to confirm they do not have COVID-19 before travelling internationally, they can currently visit a COVID-19 Assessment Centre or make an appointment at a select pharmacy.

NEW or UPDATED PROVINCIAL TESTING/SCREENING RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Employer Rapid Antigen Screening Pilot](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Privately-Initiated Testing](#)
- [Case & Contact Management Guidance Appendix 9: Management of Individuals with Point-of-Care Results](#)
- [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update](#)
- [Case Definition Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) \(update\)](#)
- [Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance \(update\)](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE

COVID-19 VACCINE LANDSCAPE

- Global efforts are underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and work is progressing at an unprecedented pace
- There are over 130 candidate COVID-19 vaccines at different stages of development by academia and industry
- The current landscape of candidate COVID-19 vaccines in clinical evaluation can be found at: [Draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE LANDSCAPE

- To date, the Government of Canada has signed advanced purchase agreements to secure up to a total of 358 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine candidates from seven vaccine developers
- As of November 18, 2020, there is one active anti-SARS-COV-2 vaccine candidate which has obtained regulatory authorization to initiate clinical trials in Canada (Medicago Inc.)
- Three international COVID-19 vaccine developers have applied for expedited review under the federal [Interim Order Respecting the Importation, Sale and Advertising of Drugs for Use in Relation to COVID-19](#)
 - Moderna Inc.
 - Pfizer Inc / BioNTech SE
 - AstraZeneca PLC

COVID-19 mRNA VACCINES

Pfizer Vaccine	Moderna Vaccine
Prefusion spike transcript	Prefusion spike transcript
2 doses, 21 days apart	2 doses, 28 days apart
162 cases of symptomatic disease in placebo group; 8 in vaccine group	90 cases of symptomatic disease in placebo group; 5 in vaccine group
VE = 95%	VE = 94.5%
10 cases of severe disease; 9 in placebo group, 1 in vaccine group	11 cases of severe disease – all 11 in placebo group
VE = 94% in those >65	No difference in VE by age and ethnicity
Storage at -70°C for up to six months Refrigerated for 5 days Room temperature for several hours	Storage at -20°C for up to six months Refrigerated for 30 days Room temperature for 12 hours

VE = Vaccine Efficacy; proportionate reduction in disease among the vaccinated group

COVID-19 VACCINE CONSIDERATIONS

- Pregnant women and children <12y have not been included in the two clinical trials
- Similar efficacy from both mRNA vaccine candidates simplifies distribution process
- There is insufficient data to suggest whether the two mRNA vaccine candidates reduce acquisition of infection. Do persons still get infected after vaccination and if so, are they still infectious to others?
- Ongoing vaccine safety monitoring relying on health care providers to report adverse events
- Reinforcement of public health measures (e.g. face mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene) to abate behavioural disinhibition
- Planning for an efficient, effective, and equitable approach to vaccine allocation from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#)
 - Key populations include individuals who are: high-risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19; likely to transmit COVID-19; essential workers maintaining COVID-19 response; contributing to the maintenance of other essential services for the functioning of society; and those who are in living conditions predisposing them to elevated risk of infection and disproportionate consequences from infection, including Indigenous communities (and minority groups)

COVID-19 VACCINATION

KEY POPULATIONS FOR EARLY COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION*

Those who are:

✓ **At high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19**

- Advanced age
- High-risk health conditions

✓ **Most likely to transmit to those at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19**

✓ **Essential to maintaining the COVID-19 response**

- Health care and other workers providing care for patients with COVID-19 or long-term care residents and older adults in other congregate-care facilities
- Household contacts of those at high risk

✓ **Contributing to the maintenance of essential services**

- Those who can't work virtually (e.g., police, firefighters)
- To be defined and prioritized by governments

✓ **At high risk of infection owing to living or working conditions and in settings where infection could lead to disproportionate consequences**

- Settings where physical distancing and other infection prevention and control measures are challenging and access to health care is reduced, including in Indigenous communities

Key populations may overlap

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION IN ONTARIO

Ontario Update for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

- ON Task Force set up, Chaired by General Rick Hillier, to advise on:
 - Delivery, storage and distribution of the vaccines;
 - Support for health care system partners to deliver a phased vaccination program that initially prioritizes vulnerable populations and follows with mass immunization;
 - Clinical guidance on vaccine administration and surveillance of vaccine uptake;
 - Data, reporting, and technology to provide timely, relevant and accurate information to clinicians conducting vaccine administration, decision-makers, and the public; and
 - Implementation of a broad and sustained public education and community outreach effort to encourage vaccination.

Your role as a provider in COVID-19 vaccination

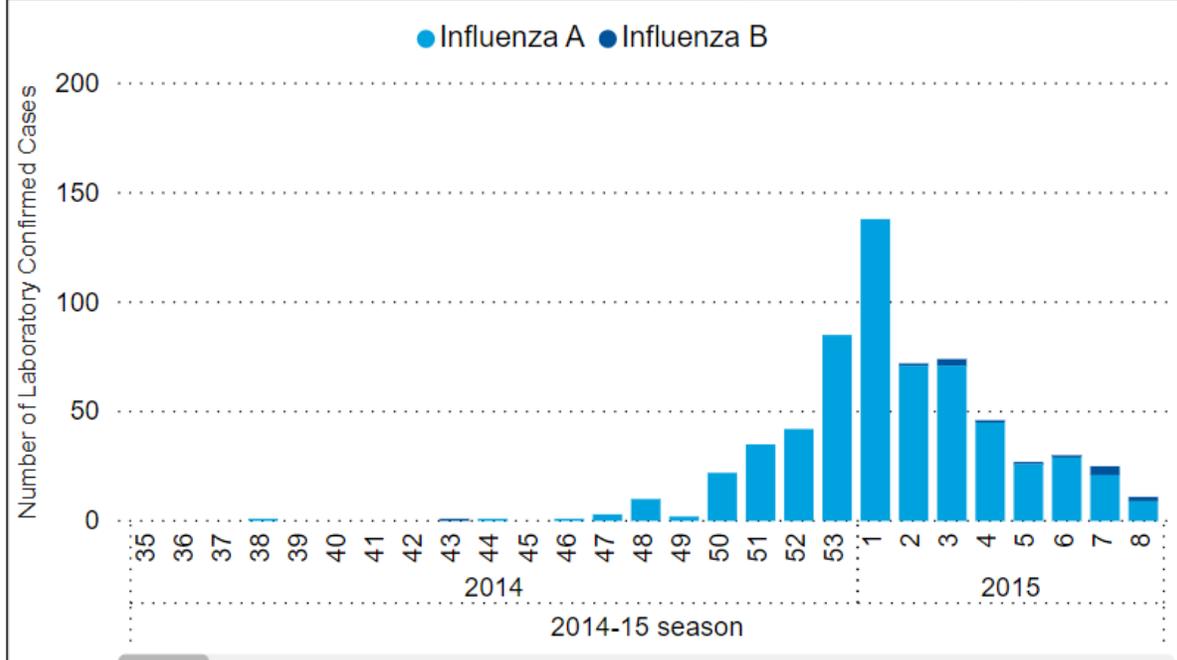
- Reporting serious adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) - (Form)
- Addressing patient vaccine hesitancy
- Continued promotion of public health measures

FLU UPDATE

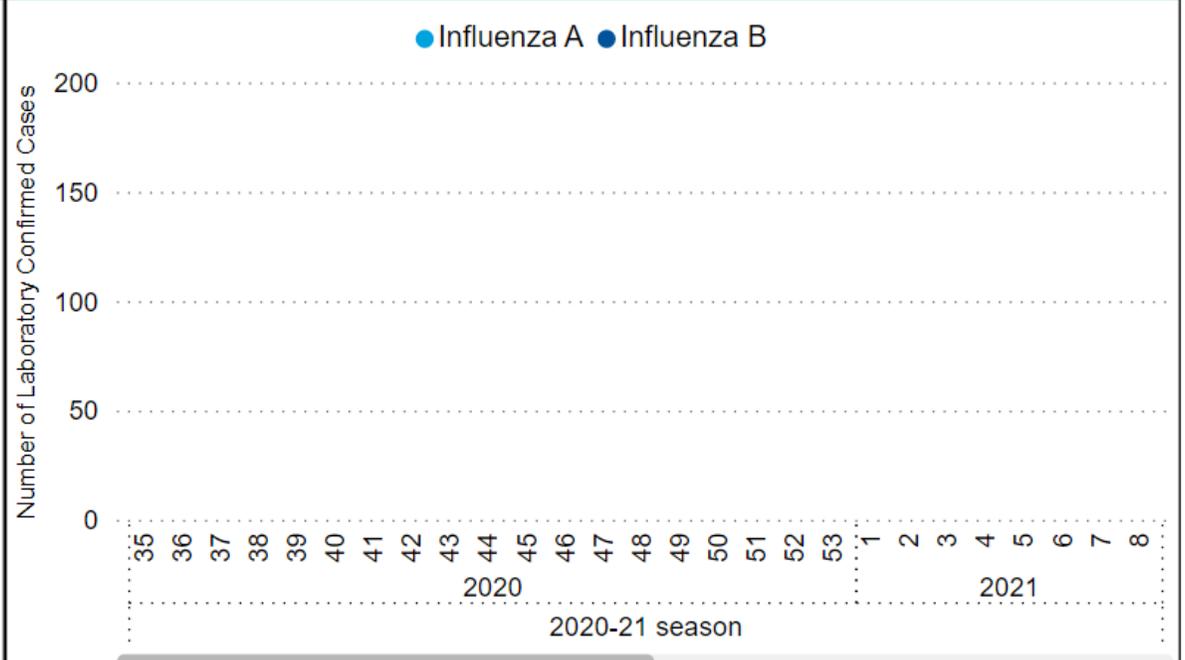
FLU IN YORK REGION

Past Seasons: Influenza A Cases	Past Seasons: Influenza B Cases	Past Seasons: Total Influenza Cases	Current season: Influenza A Cases	Current Season: Influenza B Cases	Current Season: Total Influenza Cases
4051	1277	5328	0	0	0

Past Influenza Seasons (2014-2020)



Current Influenza Season (2020-21)



Q&A PERIOD

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reminder to complete survey

If you have not already done so,
please follow the link in the Q&A box
to complete our feedback survey

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

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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

- **York Region's webpage**

- york.ca/healthprofessionals - is a health care provider specific page
- york.ca/covid19data - our York Region data dashboard
- york.ca/covid19 - for video updates from York Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kurji

- **Public Health Ontario's COVID-19 page**

- <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus> → evidence briefs, synopsis of key articles, etc.

- **Ministry of Health's webpage for health care providers, specifically**

- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx

REMINDER: HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PHONE & WEB RESOURCES



- If you have any questions, call the dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday)
- After hours call 905-953-6478

THANK YOU

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

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

