

Planning and Priorities Committee (Special Meeting) Report No. 14

PPC:015A Tuesday, June 15, 2021 Electronic Meeting

Members Present Trustees Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel

Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer

Story, Chris Tonks and Manna Wong.

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustees Alexandra Lulka, Zakir

Patel and David Smith.

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97,

Electronic Meetings

PART A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report

PART B: Information Only

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A special meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened electronically on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 from 4:03 to 6:12 p.m. with Alexander Brown presiding.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Delegations

re Equity in Virtual School

1. Greg Schneider, Learning Centre 4 Virtual School Parent

re Virtual School

2. Edward Nixon, Learning Centre 4 Virtual School Parent

4. Report From the Director of Education and Toronto Public Health: Impact of COVID-19

The Committee heard a presentation from Dr. Vinita Dubey, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Nicole Welch, Director, Toronto Public Health providing an update on COVID-19 (see attached).

The Committee heard a presentation from staff providing an update on the impact of COVID-19 and secondary timetables (see attached).

5. Report From the Chair of the Board

No matters to report

6. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health

No matters to report

7. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

No matters to report

8. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

No matters to report

9. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee

No matters to report

10. Reports From Student Trustees

No matters to report

11. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff

No matters to report

12. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Mammoliti, seconded by Trustee Moise, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

PART C: Ongoing Matters

13. Written Notice of Motion

Trustees Chernos Lin and Doyle provided notice of the following for consideration at the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on June 23, 2021:

Return to Semesters

Whereas, the quadmester model has been a practical model used during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure student safety through limited cohorting to allow high school students return to school in-person during the 2019-2020 school year; and

Whereas, we have heard from students, parents and staff about concerns around the quadmester model creating excessive stress, compressed learning opportunities, and extreme challenges in keeping up should students need to miss school; and

Whereas, vaccines are now widely available to staff and high school students, and uptake appears to be strong with vaccine rollout progressing well; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education indicating:

 i. that if by mid-summer vaccination rates are strong and case counts low, and it is deemed safe to expand the two-cohort recommendation, that every consideration be given to moving to a semester model;

ii. that such decision be provided to Boards by August so that schools would be able to organize to safely receive students in this model in a timely manner.

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Committee Chair

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June 30, 2021

Special Planning & Priorities Committee Meeting

June 15, 2021 4 p.m.



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Agenda

- TPH Presentation, Q&A
- Vaccine and Testing Clinics
- Secondary Timetable

Vaccine and Testing Clinics

- To date, the TDSB, together with local health partners, has hosted over 200 vaccine and testing clinics in our schools.
- Based on information provided by Toronto Public Health (TPH), areas in the northwest part of Toronto would benefit from additional school-based vaccine clinics
- TDSB staff are working with TPH to identify additional schools in these area where clinics could be offered as soon as possible.
- Together with TPH, staff are exploring strategies, including translations, to better focus communications in these areas to increase vaccine uptake. This would build upon existing vaccinerelated communications that the TDSB has already shared with families from TPH and the Ministry of Education.

Secondary September Opening: Modified Semester Timetable

- Students attend school in-person every day, all day
- 4 courses / Modified Semester
- Week 1 (Course 1+2) + Week 2 (Course 3+4)
- Input from Students, Union
 Federations/Partners and Associations

Secondary September Opening: Modified Semester Timetable

- Students/Families will select In-Person or Virtual Learning in August 2021
- Approval by Ministry of Education
- Following TPH guidelines
- Contingency Plans

Quad Model

	WEEK 1				
Day	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
9:00 – 11:30 am (2hr.30min/150 min)	Music Course 1				
11:30 – 12:15 pm	LUNCH				
PM Classes 12:15 - 2:45 pm (2hr.30min/150 min)	Geography Course 2				

Modified Semester/ Week 1

			WEEK 1		
Day	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
9:00 – 11:30 am (2hr.30min/150 min)	Music Course 1				
11:30 – 12:15 pm	LUNCH				
PM Classes 12:15 - 2:45 pm (2hr.30min/150 min)	Geography Course 2				

Modified Semester/ Week 2

			WEEK 2		
Day	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
9:00 – 11:30 am (2hr.30min/150 min)	English Course 3				
11:30 – 12:15 pm	LUNCH				
PM Classes 12:15 - 2:45 pm (2hr.30min/150 min)	Math Course 4				

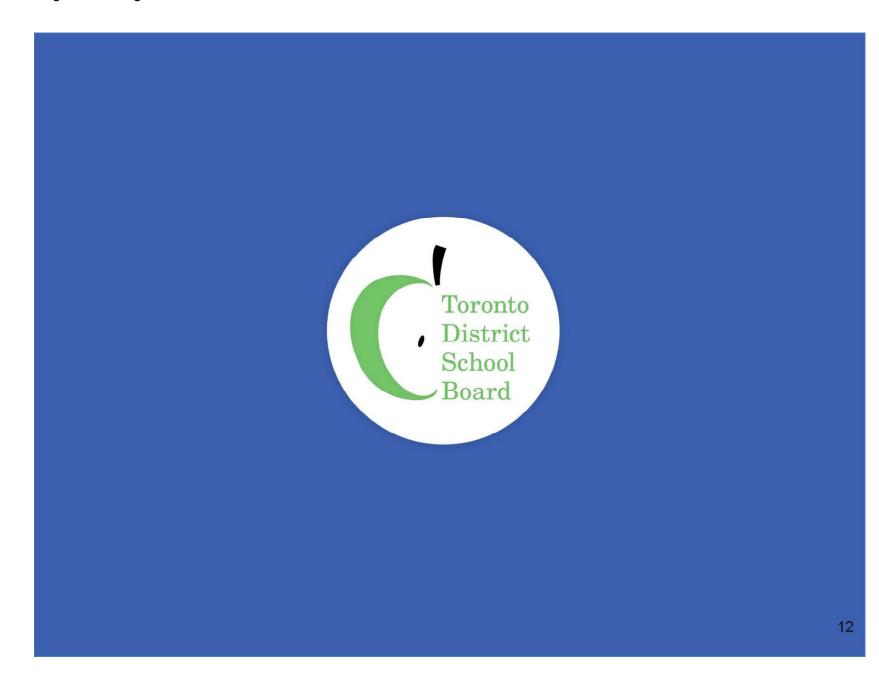
Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	27 Music AM Geography PM	28 Music AM Geography PM	29 Music AM Geography PM	30 Music AM Geography PM	Music AM Geography PM
WEEK 2	English AM Math PM	5 English AM Math PM	6 English AM Math PM	7 English AM Math PM	English AM Math PM
WEEK 1	THANKSGIVING	Music AM Geography PM	Music AM Geography PM	Music AM Geography PM	Music AM Geography PM
WEEK 2	English AM Math PM	English AM Math PM	20 English AM Math PM	English AM Math PM	English AM Math PM
WEEK 1	25 Music AM Geography PM	26 Music AM Geography PM	27 Music AM Geography PM	28 Music AM Geography PM	Music AM Geography PM

Benefits of Modified Semester

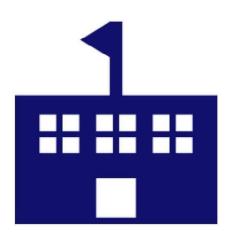
- More face-to-face time for students and teachers
- Learning over a longer period of time and slower pace
- GLE class can support students with exceptionalities in up to 3 other classes
- Longer time to build relationships and enhance a sense of belonging (student-student, student-staff, staff-staff)
- More time for students to ask teachers questions and for extra support
- Build in regular wellness and well-being for students
- Supports social-emotional learning

Questions?





COVID-19 Update - TDSB June 14, 2021



Dr. Vinita DubeyAssociate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH) &

Nicole Welch
Director & Chief Nursing
Officer

Outline

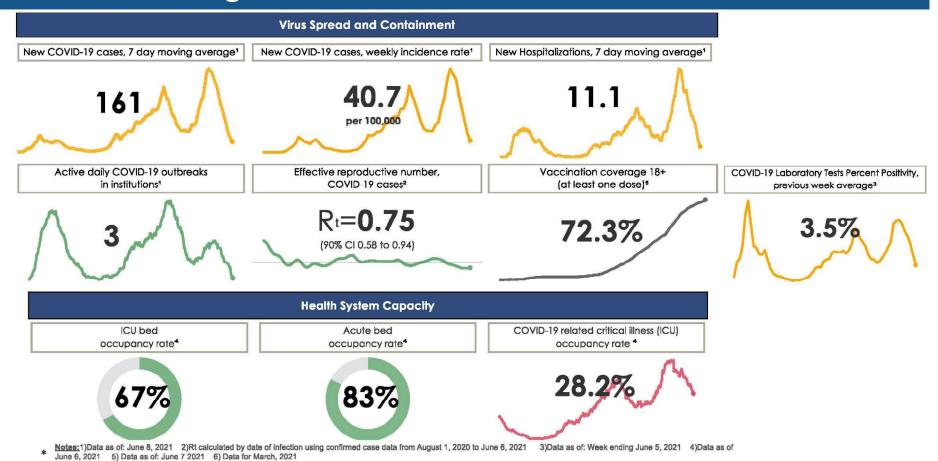


- COVID-19 statistics
- COVID-19 in schools
- Delta Variant
- Vaccination efforts
- New public health guidance for schools
- Public health measures
- Mental health promotion

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Key COVID metrics continue to improve, while vaccine coverage increases

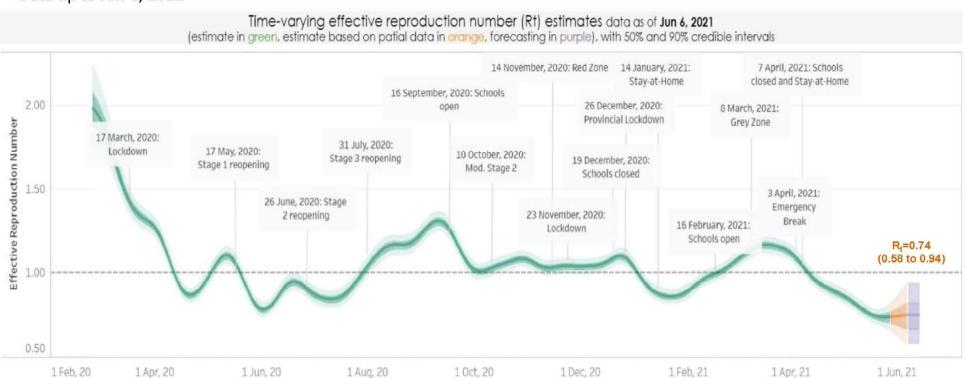




Pandemic case transmission has been consistently decreasing since early April

TORONTO
Public Health

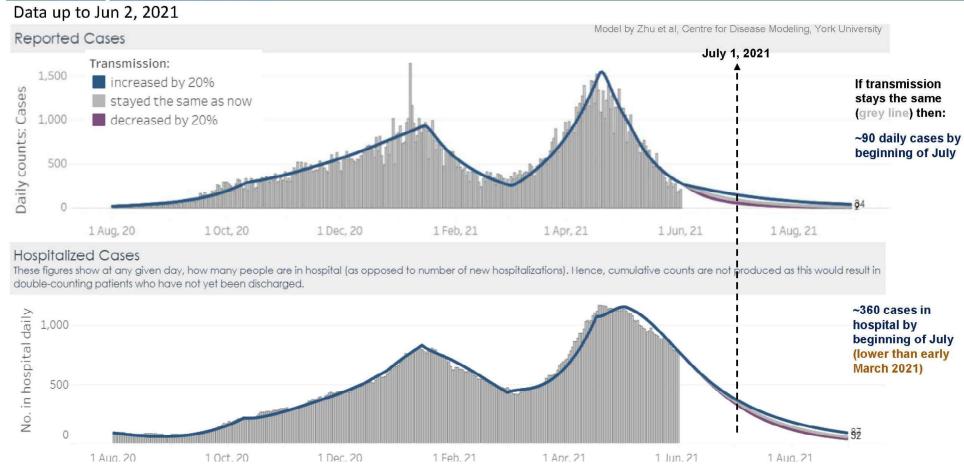
Data up to Jun 6, 2021



Model by Abbott et al., Center for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Hard work and vaccine supply has resulted in improved summer outlook for new cases and hospitalizations





Outline



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School Data-Toronto COVID-19 Data



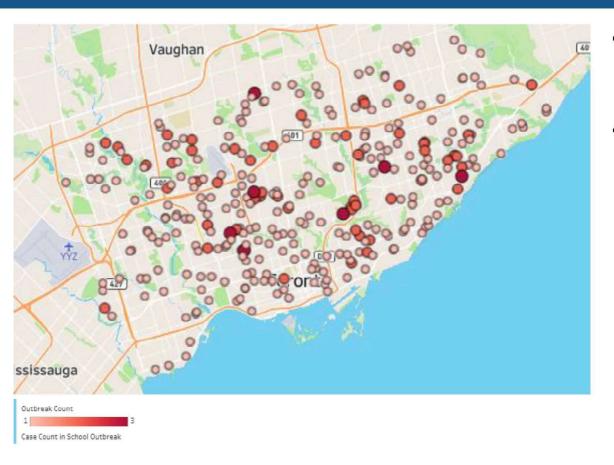
Active	Cumulative	Total Case	
Outbreaks	Outbreaks	Counts	
In Schools	In schools	In Schools	
0	389	1819	

- Average Cases per outbreak = 4.7
- Average Outbreak duration= 20.4 days
- For number of cases in schools, please go to <u>the</u> <u>Ministry of Education</u> website
- For Toronto COVID Data, see the TPH website: <u>Status of Cases in Toronto</u>

Data as of: June 14th 2021

School outbreaks were spread across the city

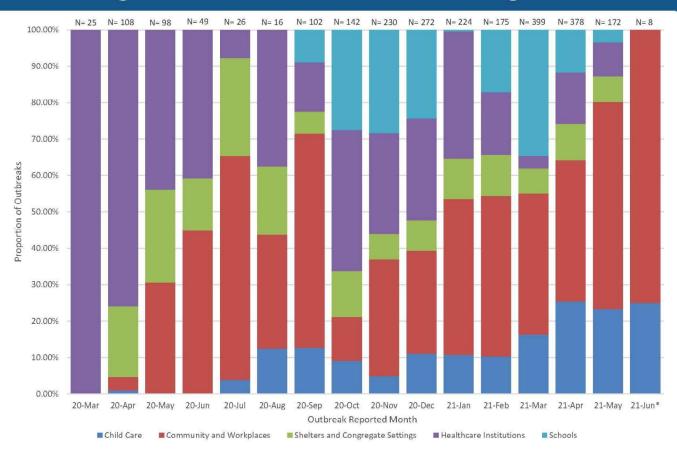




- 80 per cent of school investigations found no secondary cases
- Genetic fingerprinting studies with Sick Kids
 - usually multiple strains of COVID-19 virus in schools
 - suggests that students and staff who had COVID-19 in a school setting most often acquired their infection in the community

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Outbreaks continue to be concentrated in workplace/community TORONTO settings and child care, but are declining overall Public Health



^{*}June 2021 is an incomplete month and only contains data for June 1-9

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WHO- Variants of Concern (VOC) naming



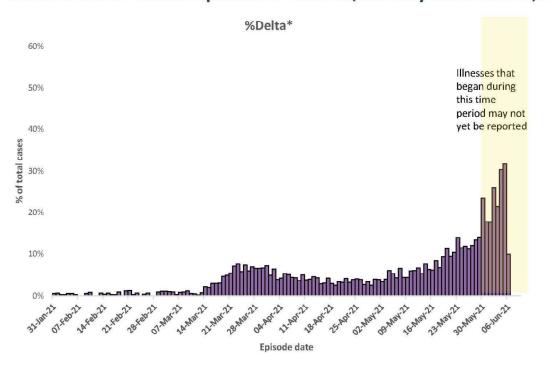
WHO label	Pango lineage	GISAID clade/lineage	Nextstrain clade	Earliest documented samples	Date of designation
Alpha	B.1.1.7	GRY (formerly GR/501Y.V1)	20I/S:501Y.V1	United Kingdom, Sep-2020	18-Dec-2020
Beta	B.1.351	GH/501Y.V2	20H/S:501Y.V2	South Africa, May-2020	18-Dec-2020
Gamma	P.1	GR/501Y.V3	20J/S:501Y.V3	Brazil, Nov-2020	11-Jan-2021
Delta	B.1.617.2	G/452R.V3	21A/S:478K	India, Oct-2020	VOI: 4-Apr-2021 VOC: 11-May- 2021

For more information please see the WHO website

Delta* variant constitutes a growing proportion of Toronto cases; acquisition is largely community



Epi curve of Delta* cases reported in Toronto, January 31 to June 9, 2021



Characteristic	Delta*	
N	122 (confirmed) and	
	3,224 (potential)	
Age (range, median)	0-101, 37 years	
Mostly Likely Source of	Community: 49%	
Infection	Household: 19%	
	Close Contact: 7%	
	Travel: 1%	
Number of outbreak	209 (6%)	
cases		
Number of hospitalized	200 (6%)	
cases		
Number of ICU cases	29 (1%)	
Number of fatal cases	27 (1%)	

Data extracted from CCM on June 9, 2021.

^{*}Interpret this data with significant caution, as the Delta variant is not universally screened for in the province.

Additional Vaccine Effectiveness larger after 2nd dose for Delta, larger after 1st does for Alpha



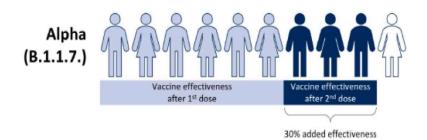
	VE	RR
Alpha (B1.1.7.)		
 1st dose 	70%	0.30
 1st & 2nd dose 	90%	0.10
 Added effectiveness of 2nd dose 	33%	0.10/0.30
Delta (B1.617.2)		
 1st dose 	40%	0.60
 1st & 2nd dose 	90%	0.10
 Added effectiveness of 2nd dose 	83%	0.10/0.60

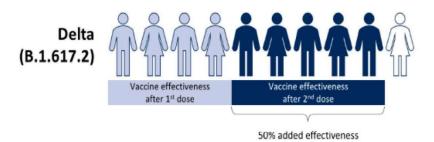
VE= Vaccine Effectiveness RR= relative risks of becoming a case

Source: COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout of Second Doses in Delta Hotspots, presented to Science Advisory and Modelling Consensus Table – June 3, 2021



Effectiveness against symptomatic infection of 1st dose larger for Alpha (B.1.1.7), effectiveness of 2nd dose larger for Delta (B.1.167.2)



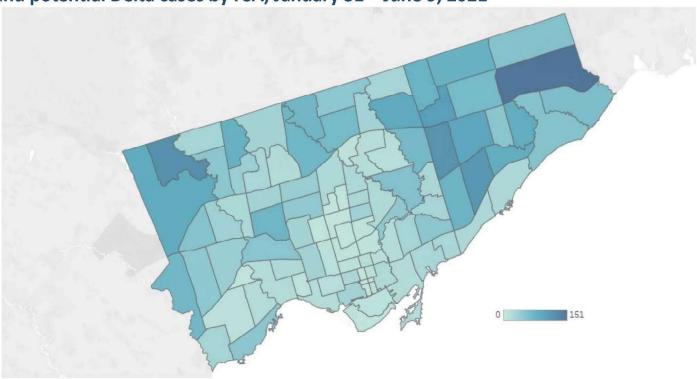


Estimated from Bernal et al, BMJ 2021; Bernal et al, medRxiv 2021

Confirmed and potential Delta* case counts are concentrated in Scarborough and north and west parts of Toronto.



Confirmed and potential Delta cases by FSA, January 31 – June 9, 2021



Data extracted from CCM on June 9, 2021.

*Interpret this data with significant caution, as the Delta variant is not universally screened for in the province.

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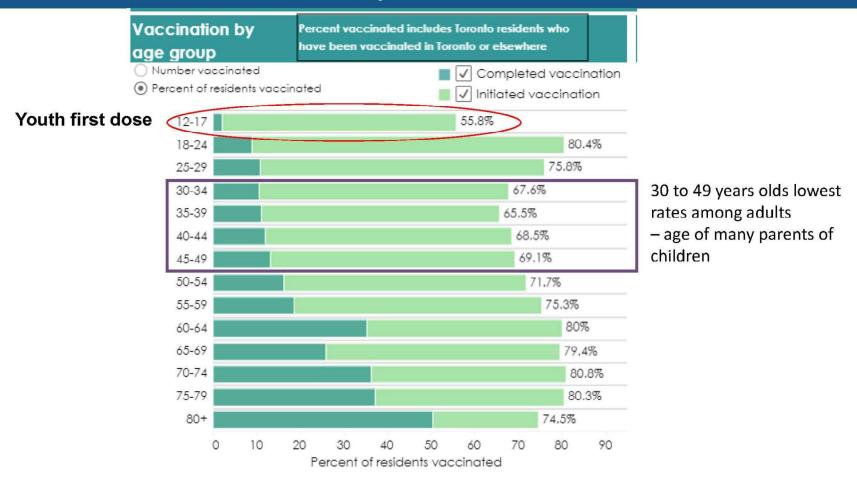
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Youth COVID-19 Vaccination stats (Data as of June 10th, 2021)



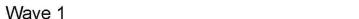


Toronto Data-Different wave, same inequitable distribution



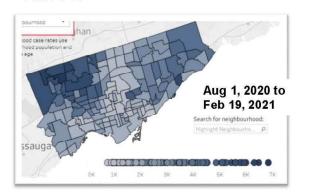
COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 across Toronto neighbourhoods, by Pandemic wave

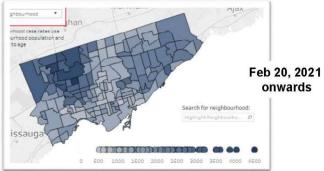
Wave 2





Wave 3



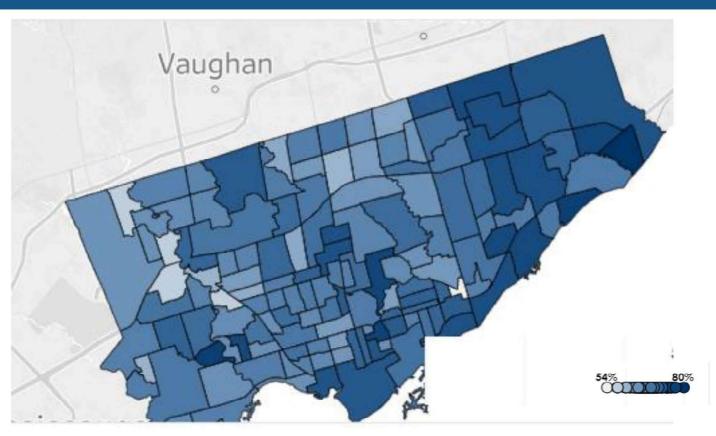


*Excludes LTC/RH residents

Based on episode date, as of April 29, 2021

Percent 18+ with at least one dose, as of June 10, 2021

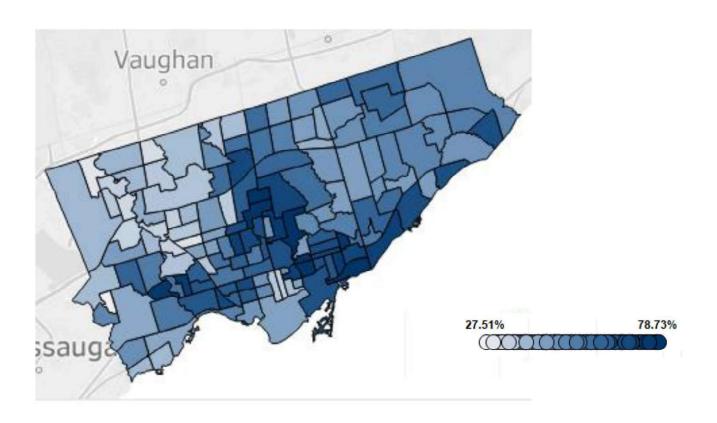




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Highest youth vaccination rates are in the centre and east part of the city, as of June 10, 2021

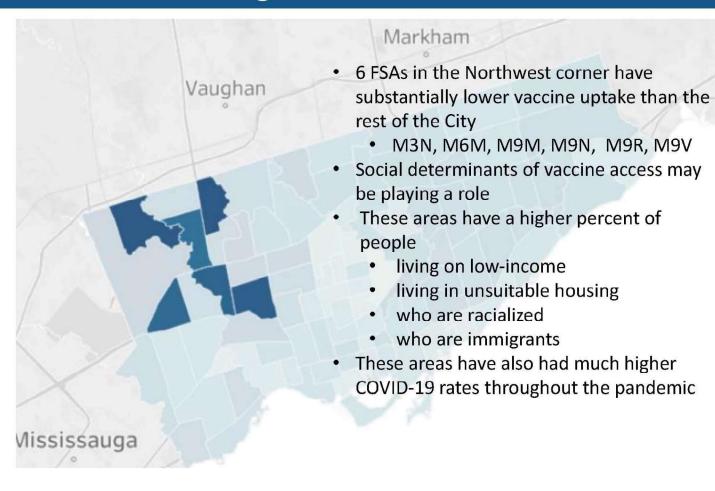




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Areas in the northwest still have lower first dose vaccine coverage





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Graduation and End of Year Celebrations





 Ministry of Education Guide to End of School Year Celebrations.



- Our graduation/end of year celebration guidance has been <u>updated</u>.
- Virtual ceremonies continue to be the safest choice.

Image from Pixabay

Updated TPH Guidance for the Retrieval of Personal Property has been posted



- Covid-19 Guidance on the Retrieval of Personal Property
- English PDF
- French PDF
- located on our web here



COVID-19 Guidance for Schools on the Retrieval of Personal Property

This document provides guidance for schools for the safe retrieval of personal belongings by parents, students and staff while schools remain closed for in-person learning. Strategies can be adapted to meet the needs of different school environments. Read Toronto Public Health's <u>COVID-19 Guidance Elementary</u> and Secondary Schools for further quidance.

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist schools with information related to the Ontario Government's reopening framework as well as Toronto Public Health requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is important to know that breaches of some of these directions will constitute offences under provincial regulations or other public health legal requirements. While we aim to provide relevant and timely information, no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information provided. This guidance is not intended to nor does it provide legal advice and should not be relied upon or treated as legal advice. Users seeking legal advice should consult with a qualified legal professional.

Current information about COVID-19 can be found in Toronto Public Health's COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Maintain a Healthy Environment

Set-up a screening area

- . Designate an area outside, near the main entrance, as a screening station.
- Post signs for <u>staff/visitors</u> and <u>students</u> at all entrances instructing individuals not to enter the school if they are sick or answer yes to any of the questions.
- Post signage in visible areas which clearly explains the screening process, and the rules and conditions for entry.
- The screening station must allow a minimum of two metres/six feet distance between staff conducting screening and the individual being screened.
- · Alternatively, a protective barrier (e.g. plexiglass) can be installed around the screening station.
- · Make hand sanitizer available at the screening area.

Screen staff, students, and parents for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the school

 All school staff, students and parents must complete a COVID-19 symptom screening questionnaire for school staff/visitors and students before entering the school. The questions can be completed on a paper-based questionnaire (asked directly to employees/visitors and answers recorded), or can be completed electronically.

416.338.7600 toronto.ca/COVID19 | 1

Youth Resource

Youth COVID-19
 Vaccine FAQ

- English PDF
- French PDF
- These are posted on our web



1 Toronto

Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Youth (Age 12 to 17)

Why should I get the vaccine?

The vaccine will protect you from getting sick from a COVID-19. While most youth experience mild symptoms from COVID-19, or none at all, some can get very sick and may even need hospital care. The vaccine will also prevent you from spreading the virus to other people, such as your friends and family, and help reduce virus spread within your community.

What happens if I don't get the vaccine?

If you don't get the vaccine, you will be at greater risk of getting sick from COVID-19 and spreading it to other people, such as your friends and family.

Who can get the vaccine?

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved in Canada for youth 12 years of age and older. If you have had your 12th birthday already, you can get the vaccine.

I've already had COVID-19. Do I need to get the vaccine?

Yes. Immunity from having COVID-19 may not protect you for very long. It is possible to get COVID-19 again. It's better to get the vaccine to stay protected.

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine teaches our immune system how to make antibodies that protect us from the COVID-19 virus. After vaccination, your body will be able to recognize the real virus and be able to make antibodies to fight the infection. The vaccine doesn't contain the virus, so you can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. The vaccine has been tested and results showed that the vaccine is safe and effective for youth 12 years of age and older. It's safe for those with a health condition including diabetes, asthma, allergies or a weak immune system. It's also safe for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding.



 COVID-19 Vaccine Resource List for Youth

- English PDF
- French PDF
- They are posted <u>here</u> and <u>here</u> on our web.



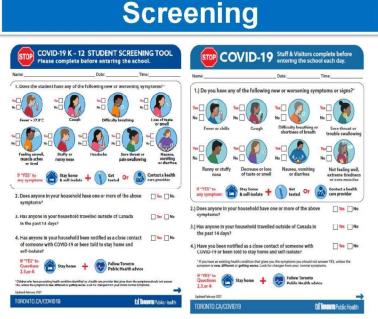
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Public Health

Public Health Measures in Education Settings



Physical Distancing

6 ft (2 m)

Stay 2 m (6 ft) apart or wear a mask.



Student Cohorts

VENTILATION

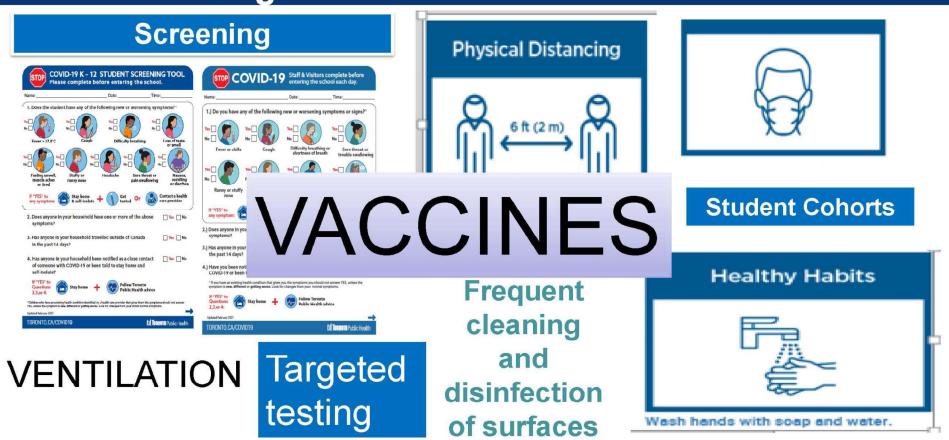
Targeted testing

Frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces



Toronto
Public Health

Public Health Measures in Education Settings



TorontoPublic Health

Pfizer Vaccine Approved by Health Canada

- The Pfizer clinical trial in the United States had over 2,200 participants.
- Showed 100% efficacy in participants against confirmed COVID-19 illness.
- Antibody/immune response was very strong one month after the second dose and was stronger than the antibody responses in those 16 to 26 years old.
- Participants included representation from diverse groups within the Black, Indigenous, Latin and Asian communities.

https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-biontech-announce-positive-topline-results-pivotal



Reports of Myocarditis or Pericarditis

Myocarditis/pericarditis being investigated after COVID-19 vaccination





A small number of cases of myocarditis/ pericarditis (inflammation in the heart) are being investigated



Most occurred in teens & young adult males after the 2nd dose of vaccine



Cases had mild illness, responded well to treatment & symptoms improved quickly



Get medical care if you get chest pain, trouble breathing or irregular heart beat after vaccination



Vaccination is still recommended as the benefits outweigh the risks

toronto.ca/COVID19

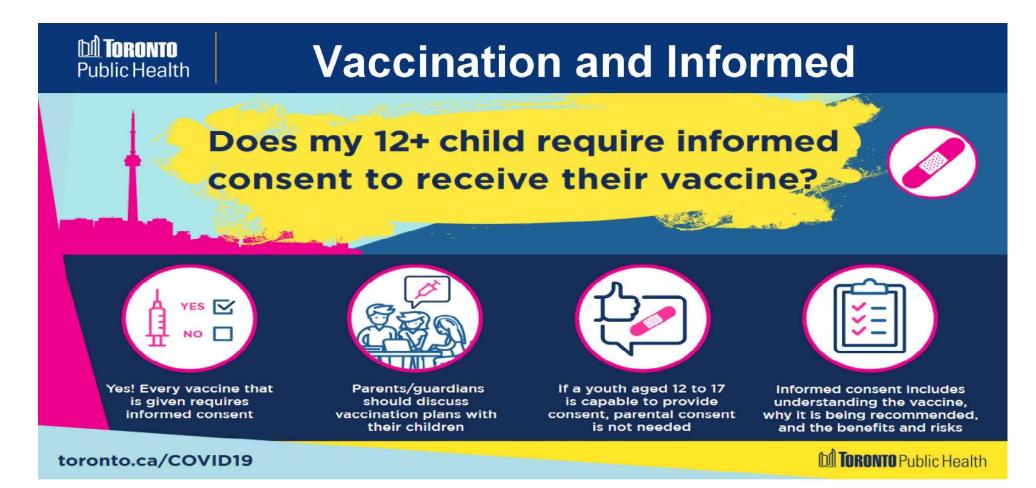
TORONTO Public Health

More Information: https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/summary.html

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Public Health

Vaccine Side Effects in Youth Similar to Adults

- Most vaccine side effects are mild lasting 1 to 3 days:
 - Pain/discomfort, redness, itching & swelling where the injection was given
 - headache, feeling tired, muscle ache, joint pain
 - mild fever, chills, nausea or vomiting
 - swelling & tenderness in the armpit / enlarged lymph nodes
- Fainting may also occur after receiving a vaccine.
- Stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination so you can be monitored and treated, if needed.



Ontario's Health Care Consent Act has no minimum age to provide consent for medical treatment(s), including vaccination. (https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96h02)

Toronto
Public Health

Ways To Get Vaccinated

Red & white or no health card?
Register using telephone #

City clinics <a href="https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-19.ontario.ca/b

vaccine/

Or call: 1-888-999-6488 (TTY 1-866-797-0007)

Hospital clinics

www.vaccineto.ca
Or call: 1-888-385-

1910

Visit https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/ to find a

pharmacy

Or call your local pharmacy / website

Mobile & pop-up clinics

Host organizations will promote clinics directly to the target community







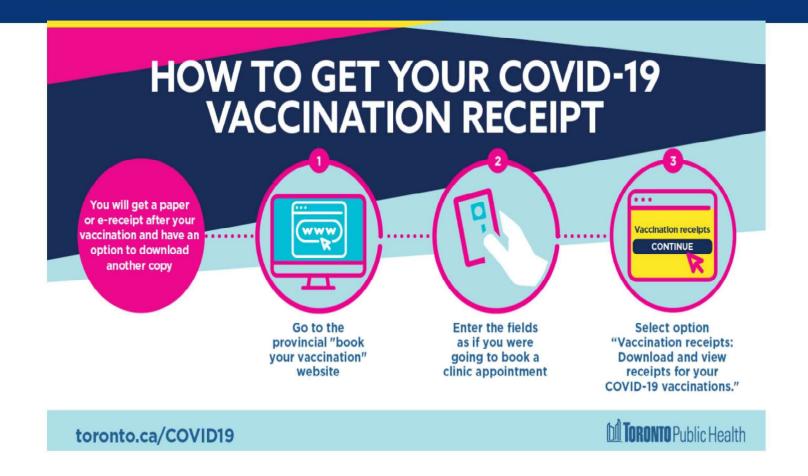


Interactive map available online:

toronto.ca/covid19vaccinemap

Toronto
Public Health

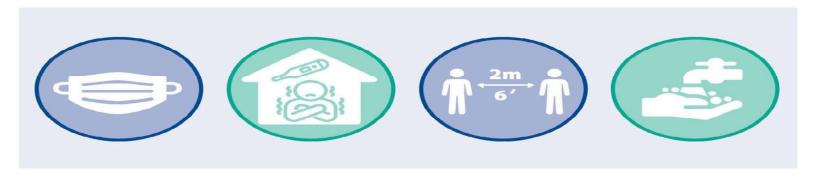
How to get your COVID-19 Vaccination receipt





Public Health Measures Continue For Now

Vaccines are one of many tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health measures continue until enough people receive their 2nd dose.



- Wear a Mask or Face Covering Where Required
- Stay Home When Sick and Get Tested if You Have COVID-like Symptoms
- Maintain Physical Distance
- Sanitize and Wash Your Hands Regularly

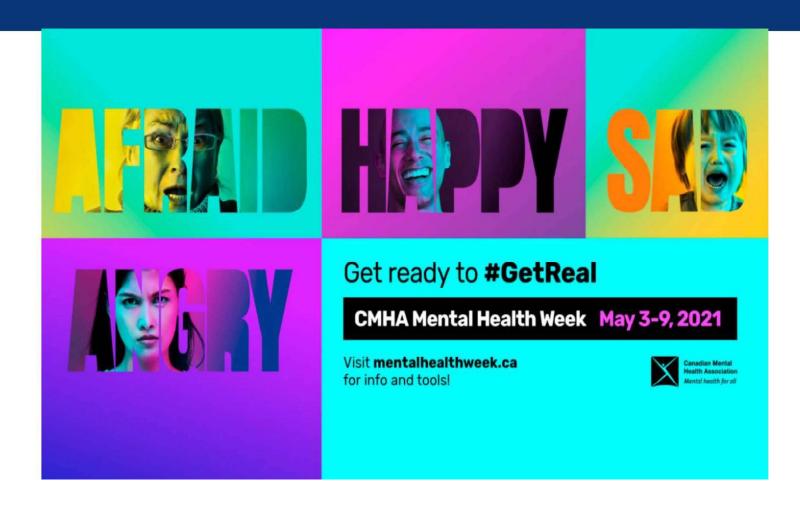
Images courtesy of Ottawa
Public Health

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TORONTO Public Health Wental Health Week





Mental Health Resources

Go to our: Mental Health Resources
Webpage.



Download information about mental health support during COVID-19 as a PDF (also available in Amharic (a) | Arabic (a) | Bengali (a) | Farsi (a) | Gujarati (a) | French (a) | Pashto (a) | Portuguese (a) | Punjabi (a) | Simplified Chinese (a) | Somali (a) | Spanish (a) | Tamil (a) | Urdu (a) | Vietnamese (a) or watch an American Sign Language (ASL) translation (b)



https://smho-smso.ca/

Please also check with your school board and associated mental health leads for your school board for more information and resources.

Take Time for Self Care

Take time for Self Care

Taking care of yourself is an act of kindnessnot only for yourself but for all those who depend on you.



Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.





Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with

If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.





Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

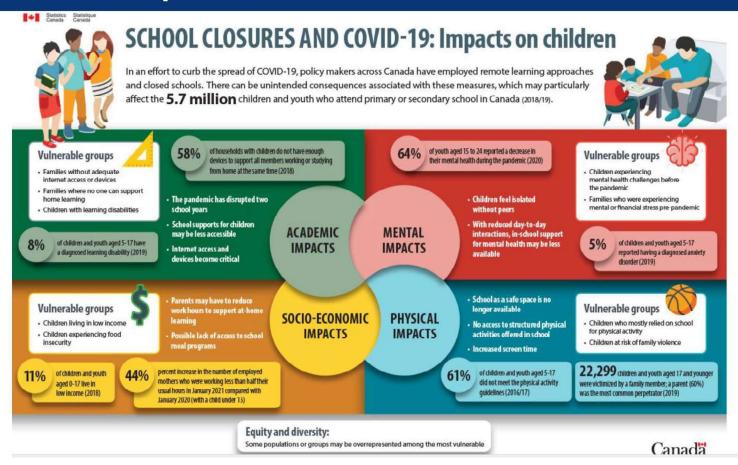
Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



Link for resource

Toronto
Public Health

Goal for 2021-22 school year – no school interruptions



LINK



Questions? Want More Information?

Call Toronto Public Health 416-338-7600

8:30 am to 8:00 pm / 7 days a week

Text the word VACCINE to 1-833-750-0888 to be connected with resources including appointment bookings & information on vaccines

Visit toronto.ca/covid19