

COVID-19: Update for TDSB

Planning and Priorities (Special Meeting)

November 24th, 2020



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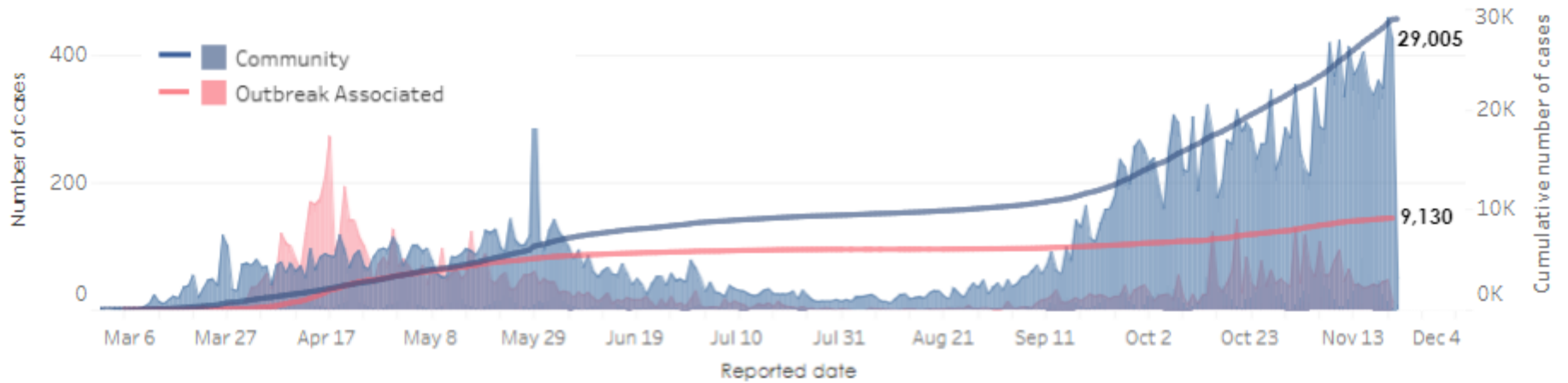
Vincenza Pietropaolo

Toronto Public Health
Associate Director,
Liaison

- COVID-19 in Toronto to date
- Grey Lockdown Control Level
- Role of Toronto Public Health and Hospital testing partners in schools
- Aerosol transmission
- Questions

Data as of November 22nd, 2020 at 2 PM

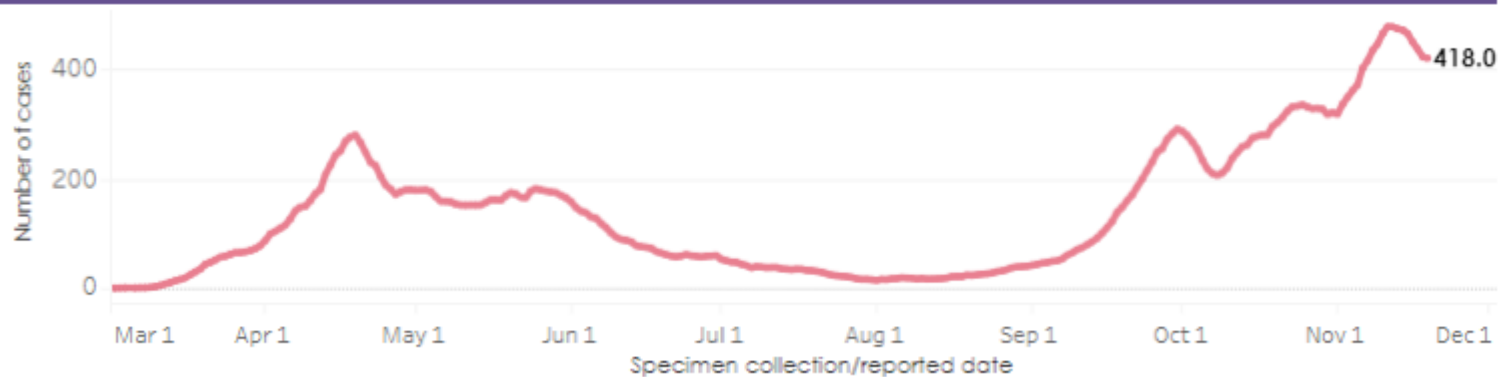
New COVID-19 cases, by setting



Case Count – Overall	38,135
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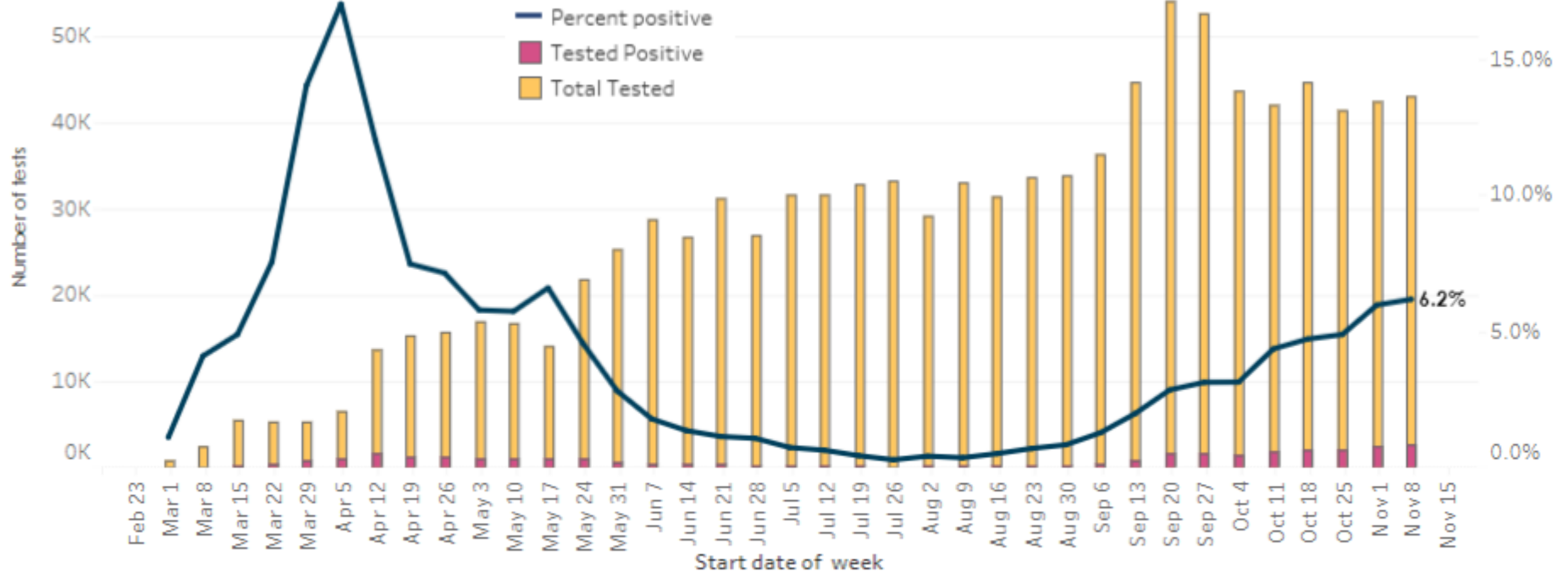
Data as of November 22nd, 2020 at 2 PM

New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average



Data as of November 22nd, 2020 at 2 PM

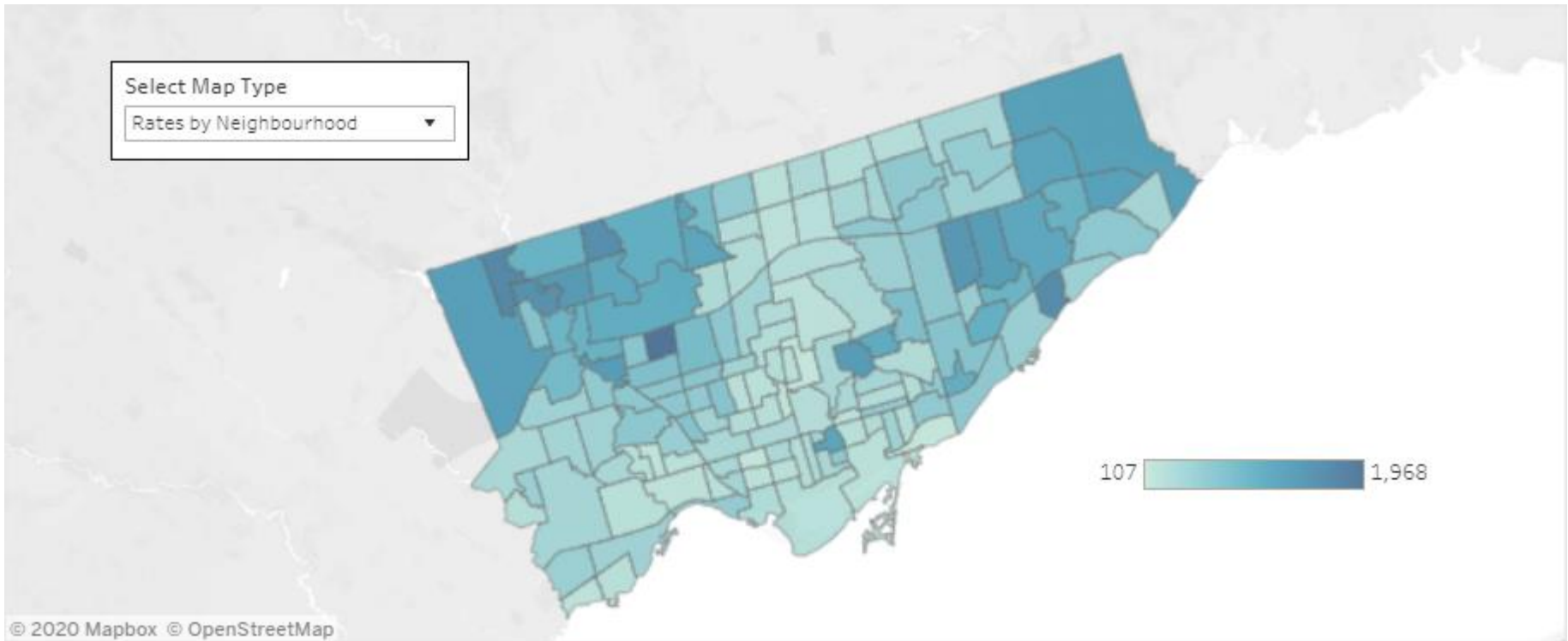
COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Submitted, Positive Tests, and Percent Positivity data as of week ending: November 14, 2020



Note: As of June 15, ICES has changed their reporting from daily to weekly. Data for the most recent week may be incomplete due to reporting delays.

COVID-19 in Toronto – rates by neighbourhood

From October 1 to November 23rd, 2020



Update as of November 22nd at 2:00 PM

Active Outbreaks in Toronto

Data as of Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 2:00:00 PM

Data source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Integrated Public Health Information System and CORES



PDF

This page provides an update on **COVID-19 active outbreaks** in Toronto.

Healthcare Institutions*	Shelters & Congregate Settings†	Community & Workplace Settings‡	Child Care Centres	School
45	12	37	6	30

- Cases and Outbreaks of COVID-19 are smaller compared to the community and other institutional outbreaks
- Schools are the source of about 10% of COVID-19 cases related to all outbreaks in the City.
 - Outbreaks in schools are made up of fewer cases compared to other institutions
- In Ontario, schools accounted for 7% of all cases. That figure has stayed between 7 and 9 % since the second week of school.

- Secondary school outbreaks do not appear to be the reason behind an increase in the percentage of teenagers whose COVID test results come back positive
- Test-positivity rate by age group (week of Nov8):
 - 14 to 17 years - highest test-positivity rate of any age group in Toronto at 10.2%
 - Young adults ages of 18 to 23 years - 9.5%
 - Children ages 4 to 13 years – 5.4%
- Reasons beyond school to explain higher rate in teenagers

As of Monday November 23rd- Toronto is in Grey Control Lockdown Level

City of Toronto supports provincial lockdown measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission

[News Release Nov 20, 2020](#) Hyperlinked



Schools follow advice of Ministry of Education and local public health

- Stay home except to:
 - Attend school/work
 - Pick up essentials like groceries
 - Attend health care
 - Exercise
- Commitment to keep schools open while they continue to be safer places for students to learn and grow



WHAT'S OPEN & CLOSED

DURING THE GREY - LOCKDOWN CATEGORY
OF THE PROVINCE'S RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

OPEN

- Bars & restaurants for take out, drive-through & delivery
- Schools & child care centres
- City park amenities like playgrounds & off-leash dog parks
- All retail stores for curbside pick-up or delivery, including in malls
- Outdoor farmers' & holiday markets
- Drive-in cinemas & performances
- Indoor/outdoor cleaning & maintenance services
- Libraries for contactless pick-up as well as in-person computer use
- Veterinary & other pet services

CLOSED

- Indoor/outdoor dining at bars & restaurants
- Indoor fitness activities & indoor/outdoor team sports
- In-person retail shopping, except at essential stores that sell:
 - Groceries & alcohol
 - Medical, hardware & safety supplies
- Personal care services (e.g. hair & nail salons)
- Meeting & event spaces (e.g. banquet halls & conference centres)
- Movie theatres, casinos & bingo halls
- Zoos, museums & attractions, unless drive-through is available

What is the Role of Toronto Public Health in Schools During COVID-19

- Support school boards and principals with COVID-19 information needs and provide resources.
- Investigate COVID-19 cases and close contacts & facilitate testing.
- Investigate cases occurring at schools for suspect and confirmed outbreaks.
- Work with school boards/schools to maintain COVID 19 public health prevention measures.
- Provide Immunization Clinics (i.e. Flu Clinics) in the community.
- Support Student Nutrition programs.
- Respond to other school based communicable disease cases and potential outbreaks.

TPH School Response

Toronto Public Health has established:

- A team of COVID 19 School Liaison Public Health Nurses to provide outreach, education and COVID-19 prevention services
- A team of Communicable Disease Investigators to follow-up when there is a positive case(s) or outbreak



What is the Role of the TPH COVID-19 School Liaison Public Health Nurse (PHN)

- Conduct assessments, consultations and provide education to schools related to COVID 19 prevention measures. Includes onsite visit to review IPAC measures.
- Support school mental health and well-being.
- Provide COVID-19 information sessions for school staff and parents/caregivers.
- Provide the initial response when there is a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case in a school.
- Help support the CDI and Outbreak team when there is an investigation.
- Provide testing support- communication and coordination role.
- To find your public health nurse go to the webpage: COVID 19 [School Liaison Public Health Nurses](#)

What is the Role of the TPH Communicable Disease Investigator (CDI)

Case & Contact Communicable Disease Investigators (C&C CDI)

- Investigates and monitors cases and any high risk close contacts.

Outbreak Communicable Disease Investigators (OB CDI)

- Investigates the setting- and declares when there is an Outbreak (OB).

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance

- An **outbreak in a school** is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school (including transportation and before/after school care)

A red, rectangular stamp with a distressed, ink-like texture. The word "OUTBREAK" is written in bold, uppercase letters, slanted slightly upwards from left to right.

In response to a reported case of COVID-19 in a student/staff/visitor in a school, the following will take place once there is verification of a lab-confirmed positive case:

Initial Response

School Liaison PHN will:

- Contact the school to collect initial information.
- The PHN will support the principals in making a decision to dismiss a cohort until the Outbreak CDI begins the investigation.
- Reinforce important prevention measures.

Outbreak Investigation

Once the Initial Notification and Information received, an outbreak investigator will begin an investigation:

- Contact school and verify whether there was an exposure in the school setting and complete the investigation.
- Identify who may have been exposed and ensure they are isolated.
- Determine if the exposure is limited to a single case (monitoring), 2 cases with no school transmission (suspect OB) or 2 or more cases with transmission occurring in school setting (confirmed outbreak).
- Monitor the setting until no further cases reported after 14 days from the last confirmed case.

What is the role of our Hospital Partners during COVID-19

- To provide clinical services including treatment.
- To provide Emergency services
- To provide testing and clinical assessment.
- Some provide community outreach and services.



Where can you go to be tested

- **Assessment Centers** (these are arranged by our hospital partners)
- **Participating Pharmacies** (need to meet requirements for testing at these sites)
- **Mobile Pop Up Centers**

Go to the TPH Website: [COVID-19 Testing](#) for more information

Hospital COVID-19 Assessment Centers in Toronto

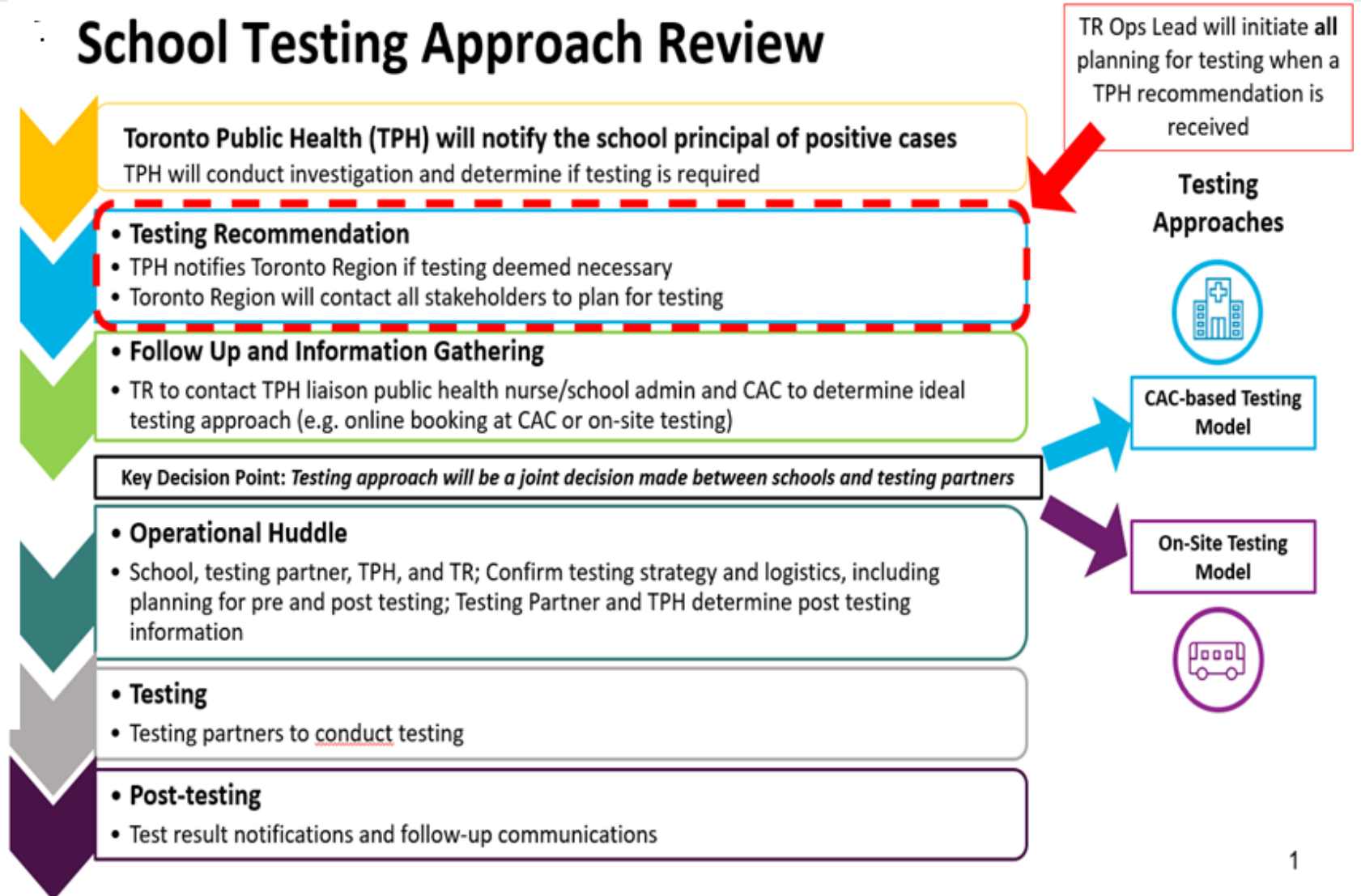
- Etobicoke General Hospital Drive Through
- Humber River Hospital Church Site
- Humber River Reactivation Center Finch Site
- Michael Garron Hospital
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Na-Me-Res Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong (Place of Healthy Breathing)
- North York General Branson Site
- Scarborough Health Network
 - *Birchmount Hospital
 - *Centenary Hospital
 - *General Hospital
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- UHN Toronto Western Hospital
- Unity – St. Joseph’s Health Centre
- Unity – St. Michael’s Hospital
- Women’s College Hospital

Go to the TPH Website: [COVID-19 Testing](#) for more information

School Testing Model

School testing is co ordinated centrally with Ontario Health (OH) (province). OH has developed this process in Collaboration with TPH

School Testing Approach Review



- TPH makes a testing recommendation for school.
- **TPH doesn't do the testing.** Testing is co-ordinated through the Province.
- In Toronto –school testing is co-ordinated through the **Toronto Region of Ontario Health.**

Testing Recommendations

- Principal is included in the planning process and contributes important information about their school community relevant to testing.
- When details confirmed, TPH provides letters with testing information for principals to share with impacted cohorts.
- TPH will request from the principal a list of students and staff who are being recommended for testing.

Two options provided for testing:

(1) Dedicated hours at an Assessment Center

- Registration process determined by the testing facility – generally online with option for phone access

(2) On-site testing at the school– provided to impacted cohorts or entire school

- Hours, set up and registration process determined by school and testing partner

COVID-19: Transmission, Aerosols and Ventilation

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus. Scientists and researchers are continually gathering new evidence about this disease, including routes of transmission. New data suggests that it is possible for COVID-19 to spread through the air among people who are in enclosed, crowded spaces with poor ventilation for a prolonged period of time. Factors contributing to transmission may include activities that cause heavy breathing, such as singing, dancing or exercise, especially without precautions such as wearing a mask or keeping a physical distance. However, close, person-to-person contact with an infected person before they show symptoms remains the most common method of transmission.

Respiratory droplets and aerosols

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets that are produced when we breathe, speak, sing, laugh, sneeze or cough. The larger, heavier respiratory droplets will fall more quickly due to gravity. The smaller, lighter droplets, sometimes called aerosols, may stay suspended in the air longer than larger droplets.

There are also certain medical and dental procedures such as intubation and suctioning that generate aerosols, which can remain suspended in the air for a time. Healthcare workers performing these procedures should always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The amount of virus in respiratory droplets and aerosols produced by a person may differ based on where in their respiratory tract they originate, and the stage of illness the person is in. A person is contagious two days before they begin to show symptoms. Environmental conditions such as humidity, temperature, and air flow may also affect virus survival, risk of exposure and movement of the particles carrying the virus.

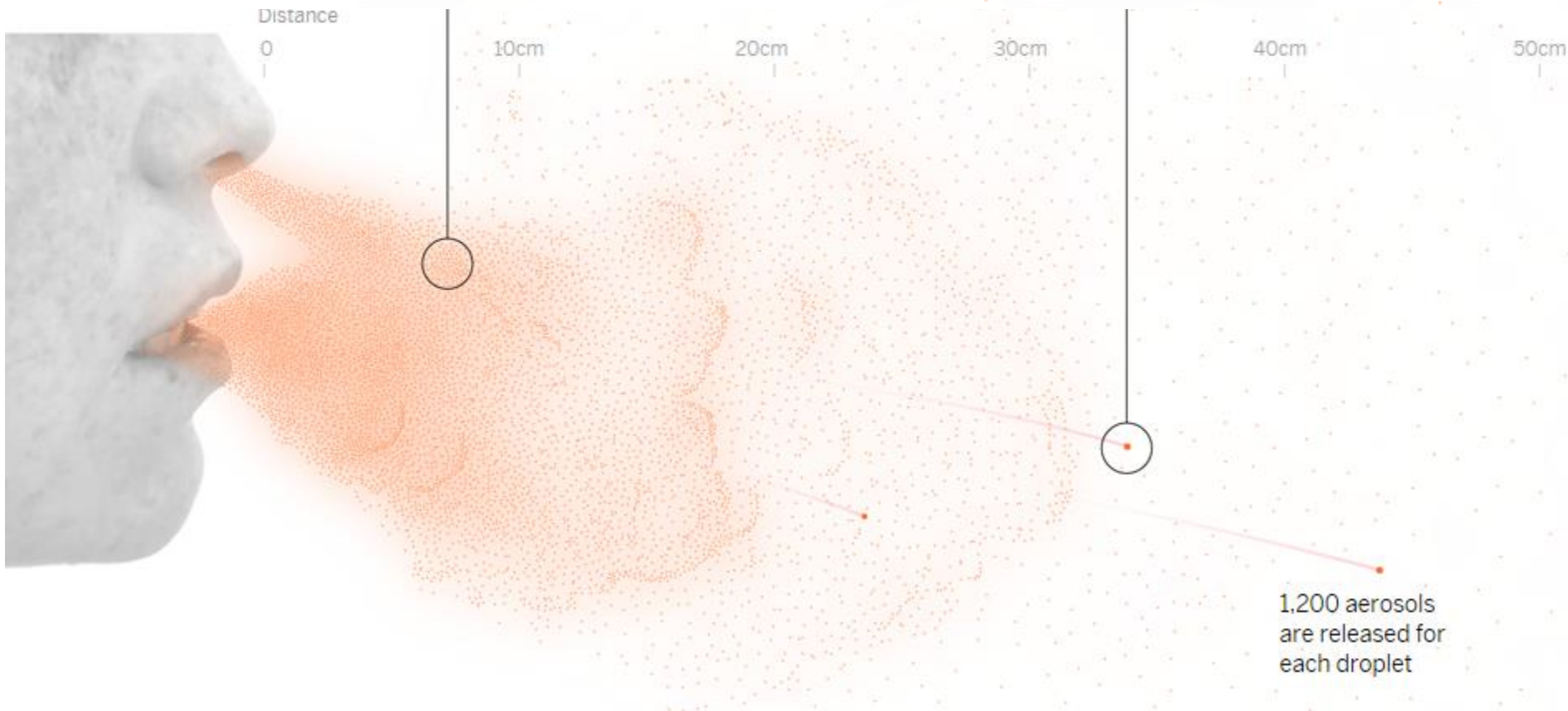
Aerosol Transmission

Aerosols

These are respiratory droplets that are less than 100 micrometers in diameter that **can remain suspended in the air for hours**

Droplets

These are particles that are larger than 300 micrometers and, due to air currents, **fall to the ground in seconds**



○ Each **orange dot** represents a **dose of respiratory particles capable of infecting** someone if inhaled

Silent



2 minutes



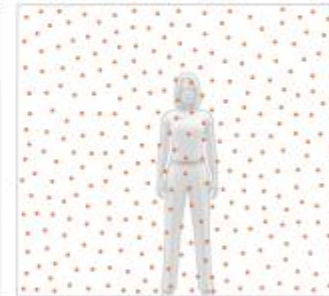
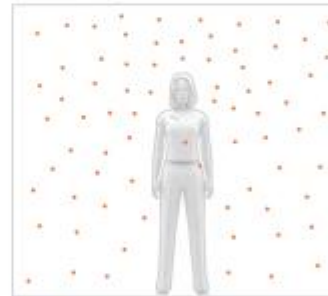
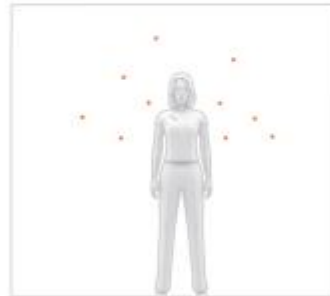
15 minutes



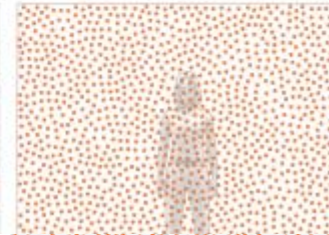
1 hour



Talking



We emit **10 times** the number of particles **talking** than we do when silent



We emit **50 times** the number of particles **shouting** than we do when silent

In the worst case scenario – shouting or singing in a closed space for an hour – a person with Covid-19 releases **1,500 Infectious doses.**

Screening – staff, students, visitors

STOP COVID-19 Please complete before entering the school.

1. Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*



Fever > 37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste or smell

If "YES": Stay home, self-isolate & get tested or contact your child's health care provider.

2. Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*



Sore throat, painful swallowing



Stuffy/runny nose



Headache



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



Feeling unwell, muscle aches, feeling tired

If "YES" to 1 symptom:

- Stay home for 24 hours from when symptom started.
- If improving in 24 hours, can return to school. No test needed.
- If not improving, or getting worse, self-isolate & get tested.

If "YES" to 2 or more symptoms:

- Stay home, self-isolate & get tested or contact your child's health care provider.

3. Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has your child been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? Yes No

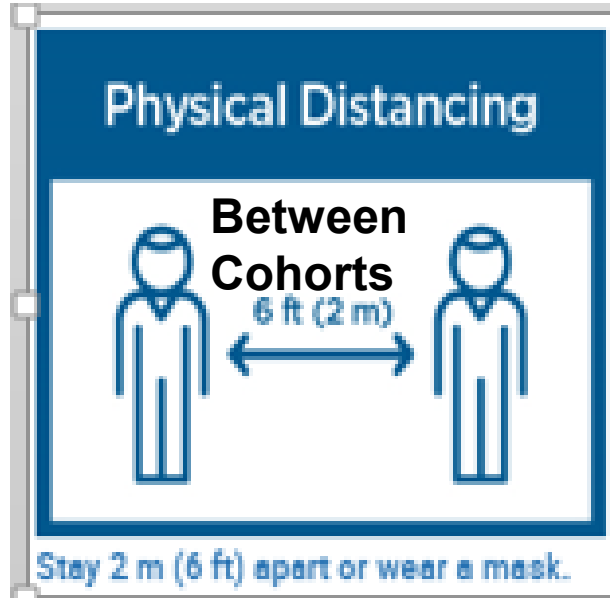
5. Has your child been instructed to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If you answered "YES" to questions 3, 4 or 5:

- Your child must stay home, self-isolate & follow the advice of public health.

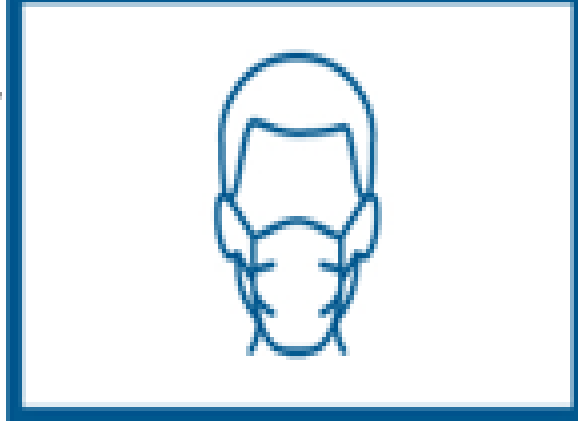
*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Frequent cleaning of surfaces



Keeping students in cohorts

Student/Staff/Visitor Face Mask Use



Ventilation in classrooms



Wash hands with soap and water.

Prevention Measures: Face Masks

HOW TO WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING AT SCHOOL



1 Before putting on the mask, clean your hands with soap & water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

2 Make sure the mask fits comfortably over your nose, mouth & chin so you can avoid adjusting it.

3 Do not leave the mask on your neck, forehead or dangling from your ear.



4 Remove your mask by the ear loops as soon as it gets wet or dirty. Avoid touching the outside of the mask.

5 Place the dirty mask in a bag and clean your hands again. Put on a new, clean mask.

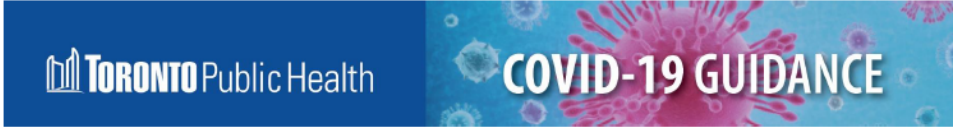
6 Do not share your masks with classmates.

Qualities of a Good Cloth Mask –updated

- Your mask should fit your face, covering your nose, mouth and chin without gaping.
- Your mask should be comfortable, easy to breathe through, and not limit your vision.
- Masks should be made of at least two layers of tightly woven fabric (such as cotton or linen), and, if possible, a middle “filter” layer. A three layer mask can provide added protection.
- For masks with a pocket, add a disposable coffee filter, paper towel, or reusable filter cloth.
- For masks without a pocket, cut/unstitch one end and tuck a filter in between the two layers.

- Guidance Document developed for Schools
- COVID-19 School Prevention Checklist

developed that follows guidance document



The image shows the cover of a guidance document. It features the Toronto Public Health logo on the left and the text 'COVID-19 GUIDANCE' in large, bold letters on the right. Below this, it says 'Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12' and 'COVID-19 Prevention Checklist'. The background has a blue and pink color scheme with virus-like graphics.

TORONTO Public Health

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Revised October 7, 2020

Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12
COVID-19 Prevention Checklist

This is a checklist of required measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in JK to Grade 12 schools. It is intended as a companion Toronto Public Health's [COVID-19 Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12](#), and schools should review that document for more detailed information on how to keep schools safe.

For publically-funded schools (i.e. Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), CS Viamonde, and CS Mon Avenir, where there is a difference between this checklist and your school board's re-opening plan and internal policies and procedures, your school board's plan should take precedence.

Before Re-Opening

A. Review Information

- Review updated information in the Toronto Public Health (TPH) [COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#).
- Review [COVID-19 Guidance for Re-opening Schools JK to Grade 12](#), and the Ministry of Education's [Guide to Re-opening Ontario's Schools](#).
- For publically funded schools, review your school board's school re-opening plan and internal policies and procedures.
- Review other applicable resources (see other resources at the end of this checklist).

Thank You!



**Thank you for working to
keep our school communities
safe**