



Office of the Commissioner
Community and Health Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Katherine Chislett, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

Date: September 7, 2021

Re: Update on Public Health Emergency Response to COVID-19 Global Pandemic

In [June 2021](#) Committee of the Whole received Public Health's update to the emergency response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

This memorandum provides an update to the June 2021 memo

The COVID-19 emergency response and vaccination activities continue to be a corporate wide effort, and Public Health remains grateful to the Corporation and Regional Council for prioritizing the response and the critical supports provided. Key updates include:

- The Region is in a 4th wave and is seeing a slight increase in cases week over week since late July 2021
- Most cases are among unvaccinated individuals and the rate of these cases is now nearly as high as the rate in previous periods of the pandemic
- York Region vaccination rates are high, with over 84.2% of eligible York Region residents aged 12 years of age and older have completed at least one dose and 79.1% have received two doses
- Mass immunization clinics have now closed and have transitioned to smaller community hub, mobile and pop-up clinics across the Region to enhance access to immunizations, especially in areas with lower vaccination rates
- Vaccinations also continue to be offered Region-wide at participating pharmacies and in primary care settings (e.g., a medical clinic or physician's office)

- Regional staff are working with schools and childcare centres on their COVID-19 health and safety measures
- Work is underway to prepare Public Health to handle COVID-19 as it moves to an endemic state, and to return redeployed staff so usual public health programs and services can be restored
- The Province has committed to continue covering COVID-19 extraordinary costs

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINES

Over 84% of York Region residents have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and targeted approaches to reach youth, residents under 35 years of age, newcomers and religious/cultural groups are ongoing to increase coverage rates

Working collaboratively with partners, by September 7, 2021, there were 1,508,351 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in York Region. Over 95% of health care workers have been immunized and over 90% of long-term care home and retirement home residents have been immunized.

The coverage rate (Table 1) refers to the number of residents who have been vaccinated as a percentage of all residents aged 12 and over. Residents 11 years of age and younger (12.5% of the Region's population) are excluded from this measure as they are not yet eligible for vaccine. Over 84.2% of eligible York Region residents aged 12 and older have completed at least one dose and 79.1% have received two doses. First dose coverage rates are lower in residents 12 to 34 years of age, with only 77.0% of these residents receiving at least one dose compared to 86.4% of residents 35 to 64 years of age and 91.5% of residents aged 65 years and older. Currently, 12.5% of all York Region residents are 11 years of age and younger and remain ineligible for vaccine.

**Table 1
York Region vaccine coverage as of September 7, 2021**

York Region residents by age group (years)	Received one dose		Received two doses	
	Number vaccinated	Coverage rate (%)	Number vaccinated	Coverage rate (%)
All eligible residents	887,001	84.2%	832,804	79.1%
12 to 34	272,287	77.0%	243,994	69.0%
35 to 64	426,850	86.4%	405,909	82.1%
65 and older	187,864	91.5%	182,901	89.1%

Data notes:

- Number vaccinated includes all York Region residents who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine at any clinic in Ontario or submitted documentation of vaccination outside of Ontario
- Data may be incomplete due to records missing public health unit or postal code information
- Eligible age groups are determined by resident age as of December 31st, 2021
- Coverage uses population estimates from Environics Analytics, Demo Stats 2021 and may differ from other sources.
- The number of individuals vaccinated was extracted from the provincial COVID Vaccine (CoVax) system

York Region case data shows vaccination is highly protective against contracting COVID as well as severe outcomes such as hospitalization

In York Region, of all cases and hospitalizations reported since May 21, 2021 the majority have been among unvaccinated residents. Of the total 4,312 cases, 69% were unvaccinated (2,983 cases), 20% were partially vaccinated (859 cases) and 11% were fully vaccinated (470 cases). Similarly, of the total 161 hospitalizations, 81% were unvaccinated (131 hospitalizations), 15% were partially vaccinated (24 hospitalizations) and 4% were fully vaccinated (6 hospitalization).

Although vaccination greatly reduces the risk of severe symptoms, hospitalizations, and death due to COVID-19, there are various factors to consider such as pre-existing health conditions or advanced age. These factors could increase the risk of severe symptoms, hospitalizations, and death due to COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.

During the week of August 29, 2021 to September 4, 2021 unvaccinated residents were 11 times more likely to contract COVID-19 than fully vaccinated residents

Table 2 shows the rates of COVID-19 for unvaccinated and fully vaccinated residents by age groups; higher rates of COVID-19 were experienced in younger age groups. The number of cases is shown per 100,000 population to permit meaningful comparison by vaccination status, accounting for the fact the fully vaccinated population is about four times larger than the unvaccinated population in York Region.

The rate of COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated residents is now nearly as high as the rate in previous periods of the pandemic. In addition, compared to the rate among fully vaccinated residents, unvaccinated residents are much more likely to contract COVID-19 (155.7 cases per 100,000 population) than those who are fully vaccinated (14.9 cases per 100,000 population). Both points indicate unvaccinated residents are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 compared to vaccinated residents.

Table 2
Age-specific rates of COVID-19 by vaccination status in York Region for the week of August 29, 2021 to September 4, 2021

Age group	Weekly Rate of COVID among unvaccinated (per 100,000) *	Weekly Rate of COVID among fully vaccinated (per 100,000) *
0 to 11	59.35	N/A
12 to 19	128.55	5.57
20 to 29	183.33	23.52
30 to 39	178.08	20.60
40 to 49	240.74	21.76
50 to 59	122.36	11.71
60 to 69	99.50	11.22
70 to 79	89.20	11.02
80+	137.46	4.20
Overall	155.7**	14.9

Data notes:

- *Cases reported between August 29th and September 4th
- **The overall rate pertains to the rate among unvaccinated residents who are eligible for vaccination only. Therefore, those aged 0 to 11 years are not included in this rate.
- Cases in unvaccinated York Region residents includes cases who have no date recorded for receiving a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- Cases in fully vaccinated York Region residents includes cases who received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine at any clinic in Ontario
- Data may be incomplete due to missing postal code information
- N/A=not eligible for vaccination
- Rates are calculated with cases extracted from the provincial Case and Contact Management System (CCM), and the most recent investigation information for the numerator based on vaccine status. Denominators use population estimates provided by Environics Analytics, Demostats 2021 and doses administered extracted from the provincial COVID Vaccine (CoVax) system

COVID-19 vaccine uptake peaked in late May for first doses and in July, 2021 for second doses, but plateaued in August 2021

Both first and second dose uptake of COVID-19 vaccine plateaued in August, and vaccination strategies have shifted to be more focused on enhancing targeted pop-up clinics to reduce barriers for populations with low uptake. Since July, pop-up clinics have been prioritized to improve uptake within naturally occurring retirement communities (apartments, condo, co-op and social housing buildings with at least 30% of their residents aged 65 years) or above school communities, low coverage postal code areas, younger age groups and recent immigrants and refugees.

Between July 1 and September 6, 2021, 10,830 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered at 36 pop-up clinics that included clinics for youth with disabilities at high schools across the

region, shopping centres, Welcome Centres in the Cities of Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill, and at places of worship.

Additionally, activities to reach homebound residents and persons living in congregate settings continued, with mobile vaccination teams administering 1,063 doses to homebound clients and 445 doses at long-term care, retirement home and congregate living settings across York Region from July 1, 2021 to September 6, 2021. Between July 1, 2021 and August 20, 2021 an additional 2,347 doses were administered through 23 workplace clinics.

By late August, York Region transitioned from mass immunization clinics to mobile and pop-up clinics

The Region is appreciative for the ongoing collaboration and partnership with local Municipalities in the planning and operation of COVID-19 vaccination clinics. A total of 1,182,158 COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered across the Region at mass immunization clinics (stationery and drive-through).

The transition from [mass immunization clinics](#) has allowed Public Health to re-allocate resources to support clinics in locations across the Region to be even more convenient to the public and to target more specific immunization efforts in areas where vaccination rates may be lower. All mobile and pop-up clinics allow walk-ins and have been hosted in a variety of locations, including:

- Malls in York Region such as Hillcrest Mall in the City of Richmond Hill, Promenade Mall in the City of Vaughan, Vaughan Mills in the City of Vaughan, and Upper Canada Mall in the Town of Newmarket
- Schools, including over six secondary schools
- Gyms, fitness centres, movie theatres and community events
- Community and faith centres
- Hosting the Ontario [GO-VAXX bus](#) at such as Canada's Wonderland in the City of Vaughan, the Sutton Fairgrounds in the Town of Georgina, Parks, Community Centre and Beaches

As mass immunization clinics closed smaller clinic locations in a range of settings throughout York Region continue to provide COVID-19 vaccine

Community hub clinics will provide ongoing opportunities for those who still need one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. As Public Health transitions back to essential services and programs, hub model clinics may also be used to provide catch-up for school-based immunizations (Meningococcal, Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus). These clinics may also be used to provide vaccine for new age groups as vaccine becomes available (e.g., children under 12 year of age) and third doses of a COVID-19 vaccine [to select vulnerable populations](#) who are at most risk for serious illness from the virus.

Additionally, a York Region Primary Care Vaccine Strategy working group was formed to support the uptake of primary care providers to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and provide a dedicated group to share successes and discuss ways to overcome challenges. Strategies developed within the working group to support primary care providers to increase vaccination and to administer COVID vaccine include:

- Developing strategies and sharing resources for providers to access lists of unvaccinated patients for them to contact
- Creating resources to support calls and email communications to unvaccinated individuals and to support the onboarding of additional providers to administer COVID-19 vaccine
- Offering resources and support for using the Provincial COVAX system
- Linking primary care providers with pharmacies in their community that are providing COVID-19 vaccine. This may be helpful for smaller primary care practices to prevent vaccine wastage if a provider is unable to book enough patients to use a full multidose vial

York Region is supporting third doses of COVID-19 vaccines for vulnerable residents

Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, the province has started to offer third doses of COVID-19 vaccine to those at [highest-risk](#), providing them with additional protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

York Region Public Health is currently planning the delivery of third doses to residents of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes and will support administration with mobile clinic teams where required. Providing third doses to immunocompromised individuals is being planned in collaboration with York Region hospitals and will be provided through hospitals, specialists, primary care providers or through referral to public health community hub clinics and pharmacies.

The Province has announced proof of vaccination in certain settings will be required

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, on [September 1, 2021](#) the Province announced new requirements for proof of vaccination for certain indoor public settings as of September 22, 2021. Vaccinated individuals who have registered their vaccines will need to download their vaccine receipt as proof of their vaccine status until a QR code vaccine certificate is made available.

Requiring proof of vaccination is aimed at reducing the risk of further COVID-19 spread, to protect the provinces hospital capacity and to minimize business disruption.

York Region continues to work with community and Provincial partners to promote and support access to COVID-19 vaccines

York Region continues to identify locations and communities that would benefit from targeted, mobile options to increase vaccine uptake. Recently, translated promotional materials, community ambassadors and volunteers were instrumental to the success of clinics held in the cities of Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill.

Currently York Region is working with community partners to develop a video campaign to address ongoing vaccine myths. Focusing on youth, the video series will aim to “bust myths” currently being heard in the local community. Informed by community ambassadors, youth will ask a common question and local experts will provide the factual response to address the myth. These short clips will be released on social media in Fall 2021.

Additionally, the Region continues with activities that support and promote vaccines in high priority communities, address vaccine hesitancy and incorporates diversity and inclusion considerations that are critical to the success of the Region’s immunization efforts by:

- 1. Delivering on the Provincially funded [High Priority Communities Strategy](#):** Two lead community health agencies, [Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association](#) and [Vaughan Community Health Centre](#), continue to lead outreach to residents, conduct case management and help residents to access services and COVID-19 testing. More recently, both agencies have been targeting their efforts to support vaccine confidence and myth busting among the youth. Provincial funding for Lead Agencies set to end on September 30, 2021, with a possibility of extension.
- 2. Increasing Vaccine Confidence:** The Region continues to work with community partners to develop and deliver targeted vaccination efforts focusing on addressing vaccine hesitancy among identified groups.

Most recently, these partnerships helped successfully facilitate pop-up clinics hosted by community organizations and faith groups in high priority areas, such as those held at the Islamic Society of Markham and at the Markham and Vaughan Welcome Centres. The Region’s Local Immigration Partnership program, which is supported by the Community Partnership Council and focuses on the economic and social integration of newcomers, supported arrangements for the pop-up clinics held at the local Welcome Centres. These clinics were supported by High Priority Community Strategy Lead Agencies and Ontario Health Team partners.

- 3. Incorporating diversity and inclusion considerations:** York Region has developed training videos and tip sheets on Indigenous engagement, inclusion, and accessibility for front-line immunization staff. These resources supported staff to provide an inclusive and accessible environment at immunization sites.

These strategies were used to inform planning for two vaccination clinics specifically designated for Indigenous peoples. York Region worked with an Indigenous agency to write communications/promotional materials in a culturally sensitive manner, organized

and coordinated smudging to be available at the clinics for those interested, and facilitated the presence of elders and knowledge keepers from the Indigenous community to be on site and respond to questions about the vaccines.

The Region has also developed an accessibility and inclusion checklist to ensure the immunization sites chosen are accessible and incorporated inclusive considerations, including developing signage to highlight the range of accommodations and supports available for residents at the clinics.

COVID-19 CASES IN YORK REGION

York Region has been experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases since late-July, mostly among unvaccinated residents

After a steady decline in cases from May 2021 into the summer months, York Region has been seeing a slight increase in cases week over week since late July 2021, reaching a daily average of 78.6 cases in the week of August 29, 2021 to September 4, 2021 (Attachment 1). During this time frame 65.5% of all cases reported were unvaccinated, 11.1% were partially vaccinated and 23.5% were fully vaccinated cases. Delta is the dominant strain in York Region, with 72.4% of all cases identified as either confirmed or presumed Delta strain based on mutation screening.

Table 3 provides York Region’s current COVID-19 situation in terms of average number of new COVID-19 cases per day, weekly incidence rate, positivity rate and reproductive numbers (Rt) of the more common variant of concern (Alpha strain) and the more dominant variant of concern (Delta strain) as of August 16, 2021.

Table 3
York Region COVID-19 indicators as of September 6, 2021

Indicators	York Region Status
*Average new COVID-19 cases per day	76.7
*Weekly incidence rate per 100,000 residents	44.7
**Per cent (%) positivity	3.7
***Reproductive number (Rt) Alpha Strain	1.04
***Reproductive number (Rt) Delta Strain	1.25
**** Active outbreaks	12
**** Institutional outbreaks	1
**** Workplace outbreaks	4
**** School outbreaks	0
**** Childcare centre outbreaks	5
**** Day program outbreaks	0
**** Camps	2

Data notes

- * For the week of August 31 to September 6, 2021
- ** For the week of August 30 to September 5, 2021. % positivity is the proportion of total tests conducted that were tested as positive (the number of positive tests among all tests completed). This helps us to understand the transmission within our community
- *** Rt, August 16, 2021 based on Estimated date of Infection
- **** Total active confirmed outbreaks as of September 7, 2021

There is a decreasing trend in the number of institutional outbreaks in York Region

York Region continues to experience low institutional outbreak numbers, with no new confirmed institutional outbreaks reported in York Region since late June 2021. A consistent decrease in new infections, associated hospitalizations and deaths has been observed in institutional residents. High rates of vaccination in long-term care and retirement homes, and congregate living settings have reduced morbidity and mortality in residents.

COVID-19 outbreaks in childcare centres and workplaces have been decreasing since June 1, 2021

Childcare centres saw an increase in the number of outbreaks in late April into May 2021, followed by a decrease and no confirmed outbreaks reported from early June to end of July. In August, the number of outbreaks in childcare centres have increased slightly but remain low, with cases being primarily in children not eligible for immunization. Higher vaccination coverage is contributing to decreased hospitalizations and other severe outcomes in these settings. Similarly, outbreaks remain low in camp settings with only one as of mid August.

Outbreaks in school settings have dramatically decreased due to school closures, with no confirmed outbreaks reported since early June. With a return to in-person schooling in September and the increased transmissibility of variants of concern, staff are working with school boards to set up vaccination clinics to provide convenient access to vaccines for eligible students and their families, as well as educators and school staff who are returning to school this fall.

Workplaces also saw a marked decrease in the number of confirmed outbreaks from 45 in late June 2021 to four on August 13, 2021. Some workplace settings are more prone than others to severe or repeat outbreaks, such as product/materials manufacturing. Workplace vaccination has helped reduce the number of workplace outbreaks.

Public Health infection prevention and control specialists continue to support workplaces, schools, childcare centres, and camps with public health measures including screening practices, cohorting, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting and vaccine promotion. In addition, schools and childcare centers are required to implement policies for immunization of people in their locations, including staff. Regional staff are in discussions with both sectors on the development of those policies.

COVID-19 CASE, CONTACT AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

The COVID-19 response continues to require temporary and redeployed staff to support vaccination efforts on the ongoing response

As public health mass vaccination clinics closed in August, temporary staff were redeployed to support contact, case and outbreak management teams or reassigned to mobile vaccine teams to support continued vaccinations in the community.

As Public Health began to see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in August, previously developed plans to return staff to their home positions has and continues to be reassessed. Public Health continues to assess the staffing needs in COVID-19 response teams to be able to meet the demand of increasing workload. Only critical essential services roles in public health will be considered for return to their home positions while staff are required to maintain the current COVID-19 response.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health has confirmed the support of the case management and contact follow-up provincial workforce until at least October 2, 2021 and is currently assessing needs for continued provincial workforce support beyond this time period.

Public health continues to implement case, contact and outbreak management activities as COVID-19 moves towards endemic state

Both of Ontario's outgoing and incoming Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams and Dr. Kieran Moore have signaled to public health units, and the province, COVID-19 will become endemic, where it continues to circulate in the communality similar to other viruses such as influenza. Plans are being developed provincially, locally and within York Region Public Health to be able to respond in meaningful and sustainable ways to COVID-19. This will include responding to flare ups and outbreaks in local communities with swift public health action.

Towards the end of the third wave and into the summer months, Public Health has been ensuring the appropriate measures and actions are in place to prepare for any increases in cases and outbreaks into the fall and winter months. Some of these activities have included updating policies and procedures, cross-training staff from other areas of the response, developing and leveraging existing IT infrastructure to support work and managing new provincial guidance to understand the implications of case, contact and outbreak management activities.

As York Region moves into an endemic state of COVID-19 response and Public Health services are restored, organizational changes are underway to ensure aspects of the COVID-19 emergency response that continue to be needed for endemic control, including case management and vaccination, will continue as part of a new, normalized structure. Most functions of the Health Emergency Operations Centre will be handed off to a new temporary division focused on COVID-19, and other functions will be supported by other parts of the Region. Additional permanent and temporary staff will be required, and details will be provided as part of the 2021 Community and Health Services budget submission

Public health's leadership in case management will be showcased at Public Health Ontario Grand Rounds

In previous [April 2021](#) and [May 2021](#) memoranda, York Region Public Health detailed a locally developed nine-step approach for the prioritization and follow-up of cases during the peak of the third wave. This model and information will be shared through Public Health Ontario Grand Rounds in September 2021 with other public health agencies and stakeholders across the province. This is timely given the increased cases over the past few weeks and to help prepare individuals and organizations to better respond to local increases in their jurisdictions.

RE-OPENING THE PROVINCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

York Region Public Health maintains strong partnerships with school boards as students return to class

The province continues plans to reopen schools. With [COVID-19 health and safety measures](#) all public and private schools will return to full-time in person learning for the 2021 to 2022 school year.

Since 2020, York Region Public Health has maintained a strong and robust partnership with the education sector in York Region for COVID-19 mitigation and response efforts. This strong partnership will continue into the 2021 to 2022 school year with enhanced supports to schools through the School Liaison Nurse Program and the School Outbreak Response Programs, both funded through the provincial School Focused Nurse Initiative.

School outbreak guidance was released on August 11, 2021. Public health is communicating and working through these details with school boards and ensuring appropriate supports are in place. Public Health is planning to support schools with traditional school-based public health programming related to health promotion, mental health and information about infection prevention and control measures.

In addition to supporting schools with COVID-19 activities, York Region Public Health has started planning for Fall 2021 catching up of missed immunizations for grade 7, 8 and 9 students who require Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and Meningococcal vaccinations. Although timelines are to be determined, following catch up vaccinations, efforts will shift towards resuming *Immunization of School Pupils Act* enforcement activities.

The Province remains in Step 3 of the Reopening Ontario Road Map

The Region entered a Province-wide shut down on April 3, 2021 and on April 8, 2021 a provincewide [emergency and stay-at-home order](#) was put into place requiring everyone to remain at home. On [May 13, 2021](#), the Province extended the stay-at-home order. Following this on May 20, 2021, the Province released a [Three-Step Roadmap to Safely Reopen the Province](#). Based on trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, the Province moved within the roadmap to reopen into step one on [June 11, 2021](#), step two on [June 30, 2021](#) and step three on [July 16, 2021](#).

The Province currently remains in [Step 3](#) and on August 17, 2021 the province, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, [paused the Roadmap to Reopen](#). The Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts continue to monitor data to determine when it may be safe to exit the Roadmap and lift the majority of public health and workplace safety measures currently in place.

York Region continues to enforce COVID-19 related requirements set out under the *Reopening Ontario Act* and the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

To assist with reducing the spread of COVID-19, orders and instructions for York Region residents and businesses that continue to remain in effect include:

- [Section 22 Class Order](#) under the Health Promotion and Protection Act requiring isolation for persons testing positive for COVID-19 and persons with symptoms of COVID-19. They must also cooperate in assisting case and contact management. Under this relation order, between May 24, 2021 and August 23, 2021, Public health conducted 31 visits resulting in 4 charges
- [Letter of Instruction](#) for all York Region businesses and workplaces with respect to following best practices and supporting the vaccination of their staff, in addition to cooperating with Public Health COVID-19 contract tracing efforts

During the period of May 24, 2021 to August 23, 2021, there were 3,744 inspections and investigations conducted by Public Health, and 19 charges were issued under the *Reopening Ontario Act* for non-compliance. More recently, on August 20, 2021 and August 21, 2021, a joint initiative with Public Health, Municipal Bylaw Enforcement Officers and the [Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario](#) was conducted resulting in 11 charges issued by Public Health along with additional charges issued by Municipal Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

Overall, between March 18, 2020 and August 22, 2021 combined efforts of [enforcing COVID-19 regulations](#) by York Regions COVID-19 enforcement task force members and York Region Transit has resulted in 70,937 inspections, 30,962 education activities and 1,451 charges.

In July 2021, the Ministry of Health approved initial one-time funding for COVID-19 extraordinary costs

Beginning in 2020, and continuing in 2021, the Province recognized the time and resources required for public health units to continue to effectively respond to COVID-19 including leading the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine programs at the local public health unit level in 2021. In early [April 2021](#), the Region submitted a business case to the Ministry of Health requesting funding of estimated incremental costs for the Public Health response to COVID-19. An update on the Public Health Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic was provided in [May 2021](#) to Council. In July 2021 the Ministry of Health approved initial one-time funding of approximately 50%, or \$52,670,300 to fund Public Health's estimated 2021 eligible COVID-19 extraordinary costs. These funds were cash flowed from the Province in August.

Ongoing tracking, monitoring, and reporting of extraordinary COVID-19 costs will be provided to the Province through in-year financial reports and the Province will adjust the funding as forecasts are updated throughout the 2021 funding year.

York Region is committed the ongoing management of COVID-19, making progress in vaccinations and planning for resumption of public health services

COVID-19 remains a high-risk disease of public health significance that continues require follow-up of cases, contacts, and outbreaks. Even when cases and outbreak numbers stabilize to an endemic state, Public Health will be required to maintain a response with case, contact and outbreak management, infection prevention and control measures and enforcing provincial legislation. York Region Public Health will also have a continued role in vaccination efforts to reach age groups not currently eligible (e.g., school aged children) and individuals who may not initially have had full vaccine confidence. Additionally, Public Health will continue to reinforce the importance for all individuals, even those who have been vaccinated, to continue to follow public health advice and continues to assess next steps in the COVID-19 emergency response and planning for resumption of public health services when the fourth wave stabilizes.

For more information on the memo, please contact Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74012.



Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Dr. Karim Kurji
Medical Officer of Health



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)

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