

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION UPDATE



Presented to
HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING BOARD

Presented by
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A hand wearing a white nitrile glove is holding a silver metal clipboard. The clipboard has a white sheet of paper attached to it. The background is a blue, textured fabric, possibly a lab coat or scrubs. The word "AGENDA" is printed in large, bold, black capital letters at the top of the white sheet.

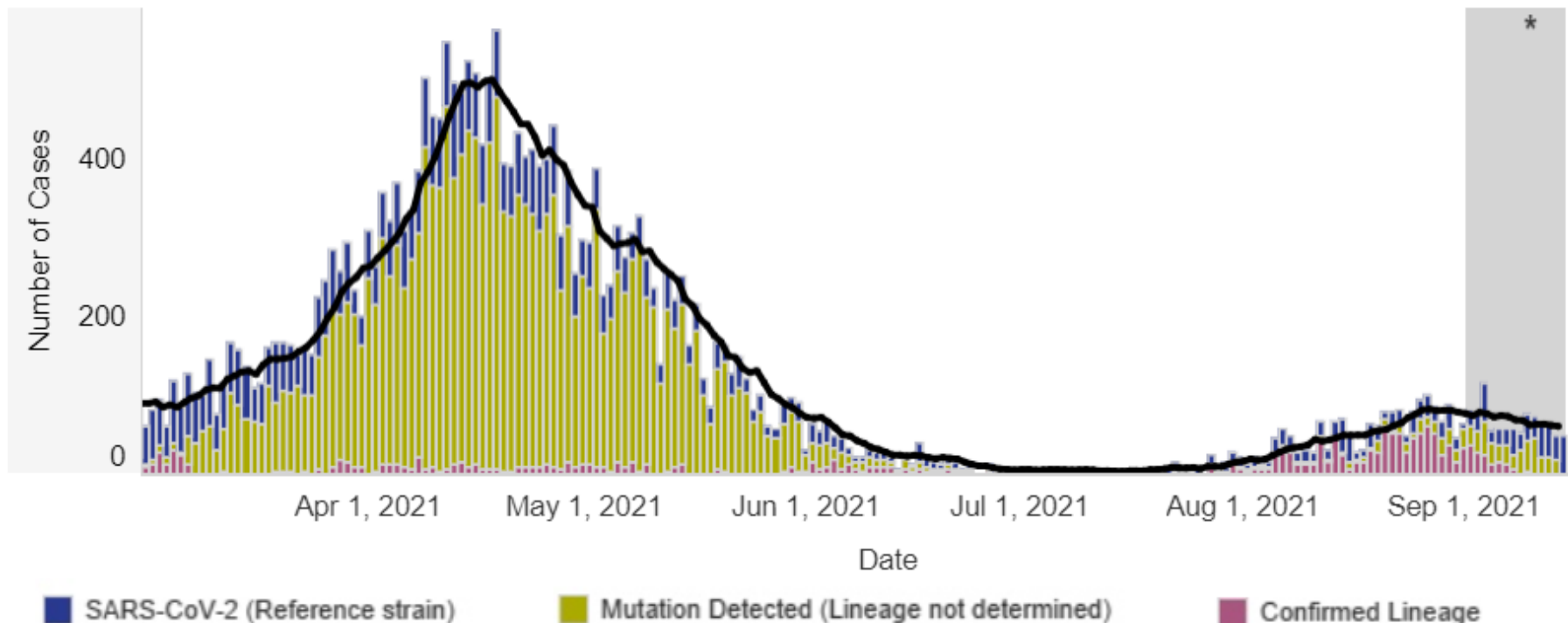
AGENDA

- Current situation: Fourth wave, Public Health measures
- Ongoing immunization efforts
- New vaccine policies
- How you can help

CURRENT SITUATION – THE FOURTH WAVE

COVID-19 cases on the rise in York Region

- Trends are approaching what was seen at the start of the third wave, 7-day average now at **62** cases
- Seeing plateau in current week; however, incidence rate increased from previous week for 5-9 and 10-14 year old age groups.
- Majority of cases presumed to be Delta variant

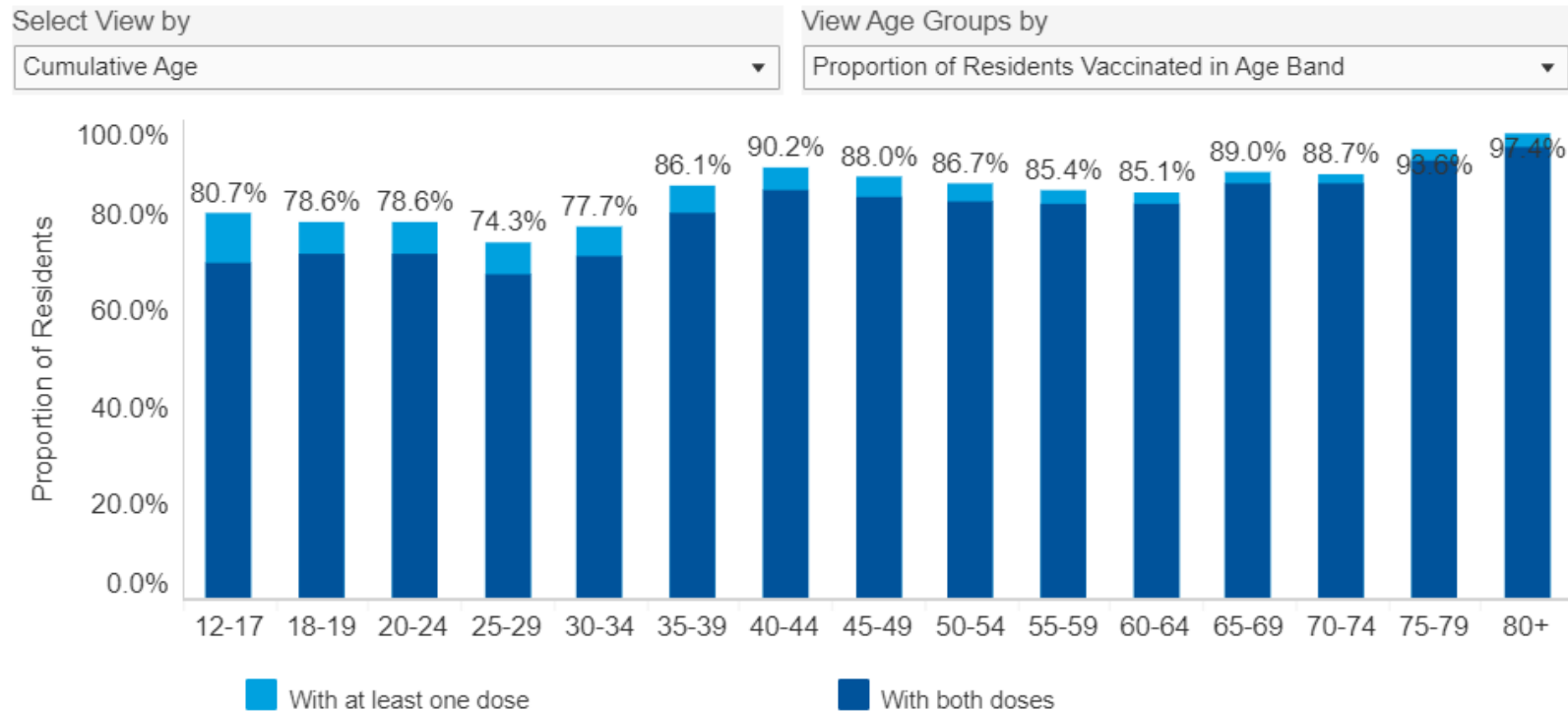


RECOGNIZING OUR SUCCESS

Vaccinations slowing but still seeing growth

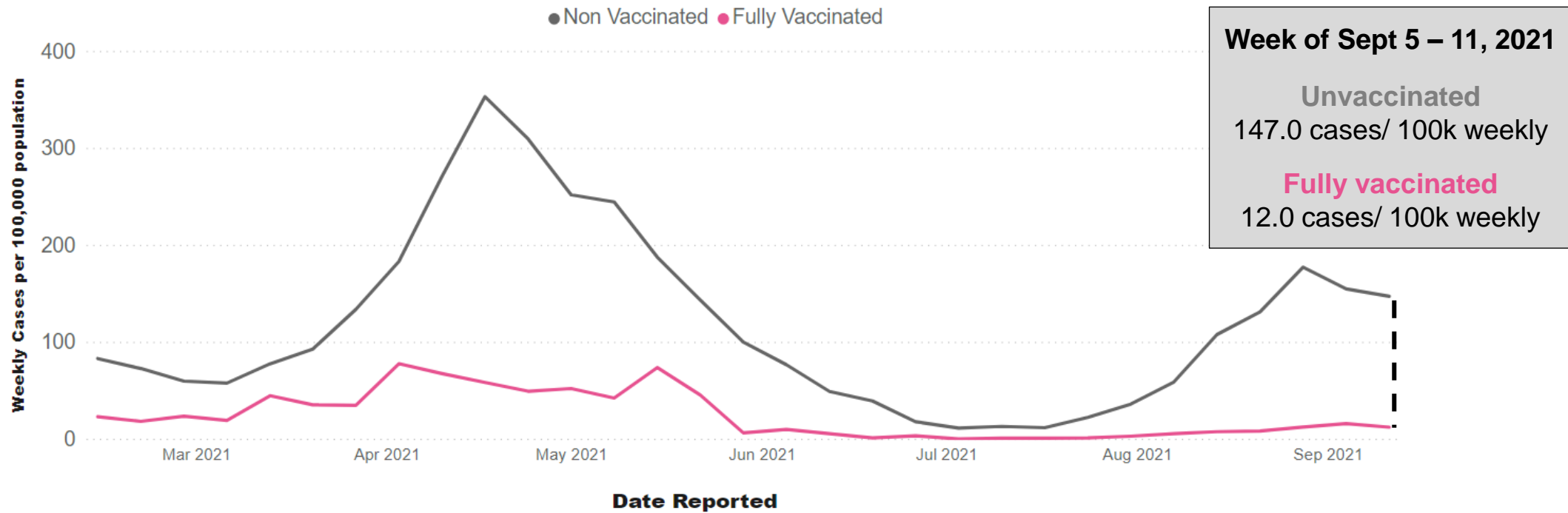
- Higher proportion in older age ranges
- Still room for improvement in the under 35 groups
- In eligible populations (12+) 85% received first dose, 80% fully vaccinated

Vaccinations of York Region Age Groups



UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS AT MUCH GREATER RISK

The risk of COVID-19 infection is greater among unvaccinated individuals. Vaccination remains our best defense against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.



In the first week of September, the risk of COVID-19 infection among the unvaccinated vaccine-eligible population is **12x** higher compared to the fully vaccinated population.

*Rates use population estimates from Environics Analytics, DemoStats 2021

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

York Region Public Health clinics

- York Region Administrative Centre
- Vaughan Maple Community Centre
- Armadale Community Centre

Pop-up clinics and mobile vaccine teams

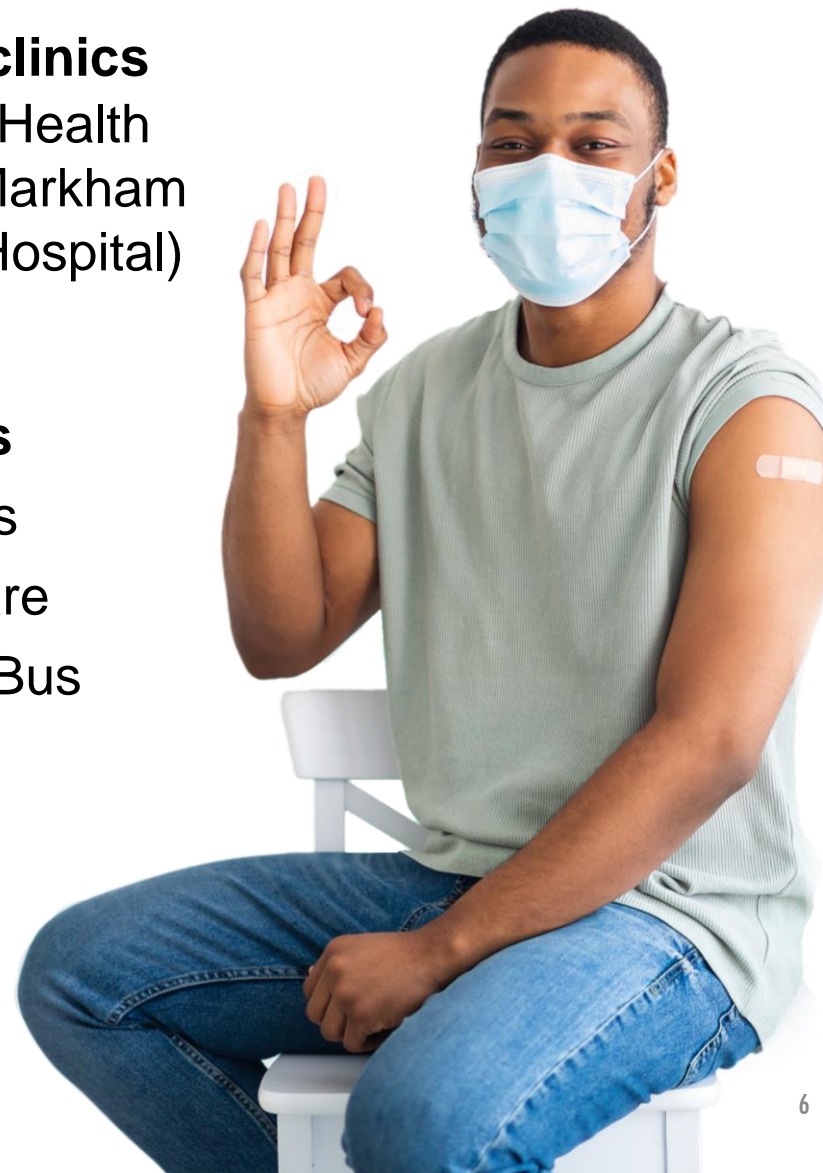
- CMHA in the City of Vaughan and Town of Aurora
- Malls, schools, community centres, places of worship
- Current clinics can be found at york.ca/COVID19Vaccine

Partner led clinics

- Oak Valley Health (Formally Markham Stouffville Hospital)

Other clinics

- Pharmacies
- Primary Care
- GO-VAXX Bus



CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Currently in **STEP 3** of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen

- Paused in Step 3 due to rise in cases and Delta Variant
- Mask wearing, physical distancing and screening remains in place
- Capacity limits – Percentage depends on sector for % of capacity
- Indoor public gatherings limited to 25 people
- Outdoor public gatherings limited to 100 people
- Many more contacts and potential exposure points



BUILDING COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE

Despite widespread vaccination, areas of lower vaccine confidence persist

- Data indicates lower levels of vaccine confidence in racialized communities, groups that speak languages other than English at home and/or individuals living with disabilities or need accommodation
- Even when frequently debunked, many COVID-19 vaccine myths continue to circulate and influence people's decisions

York Region is deploying an ongoing strategy to raise vaccine confidence, including:

- Pop-up clinics in partnership with community groups
- Communication strategy which includes a variety of tactics and channels (print, on-street, digital, English and non-English, media, etc.)
- Countering myths with facts, including webinars and upcoming video series

MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATION IN VARIOUS SECTORS

COVID-19 vaccination mandated in the following high-risk sectors:

- Hospitals
- Long-Term Care Homes
- Home and Community Care Services
- Paramedics/Ambulance services

Vaccination policies in place for other high-risk settings, including:

- Post-secondary institutions
- Publicly-funded schools (elementary and secondary)
- Licensed retirement homes
- Women's shelters
- Congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children's treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children's residential settings

VACCINE CERTIFICATIONS NOW REQUIRED

NEW: COVID-19 Vaccine Certificates required in the following public settings

Starting September 22, you must be fully vaccinated to access:

- Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios)
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment)
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres
- Sports facilities such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities, with the exception of youth recreational sport
- Sporting events
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas
- Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs
- Racing venues (horse racing)



COVID-19 WORKPLACE VACCINE POLICIES

Workplace vaccination policies are strongly recommended to protect employees from COVID-19

Employers have an obligation to maintain a safe work environment for their workers.

Assess your workplace's risk of transmission by considering the following:

- Does your workforce have a high vaccination rate?
- Can workers keep at least two metres apart while performing their work?
- Are workers required to be in close contact with others? How long and how often?
- Does your workplace have physical barriers when workers cannot keep distance from each other, good ventilation and personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect staff?
- Do you have staff who may be at risk for severe illness from COVID-19?
- Is your workplace able to offer alternative work, for example remote work?

York Region Public Health is developing guidance for creating a workplace vaccination policy.
Toronto Public Health also has [resources available](#).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a trusted community partner, your voice is respected by York Region residents

You can help us reach unvaccinated groups by:

- Promoting vaccination to your clients and staff
- Considering vaccination policies for your organizations
- Supporting vulnerable people to receive vaccines
- Taking appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures in your work
- Sharing information with your community

QUESTIONS




York Region