



Health Care Professional Town Hall: COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination II

Wednesday, April 21, 2021



The webinar will begin at 5 p.m.

If you run into technical difficulties, please email Niels.Rasmussen@halton.ca

halton.ca ☎ 311

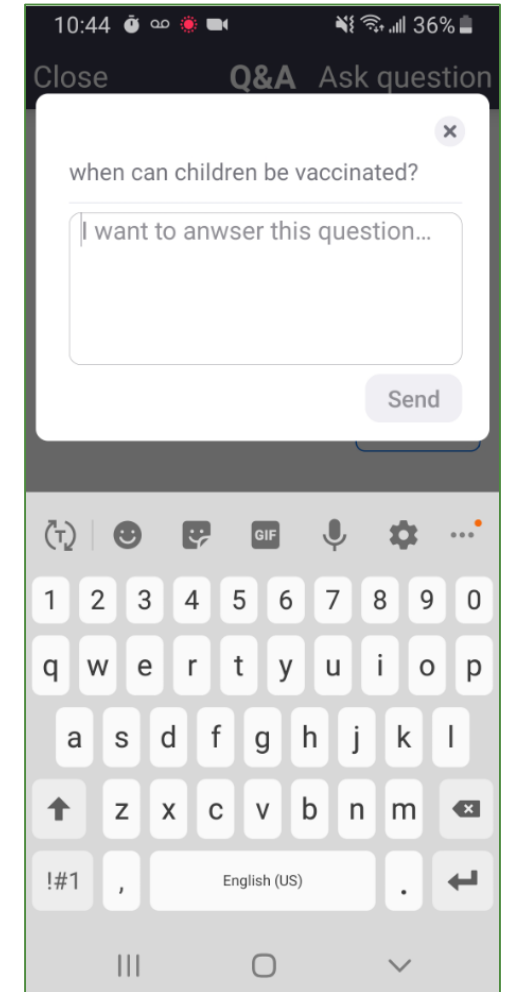
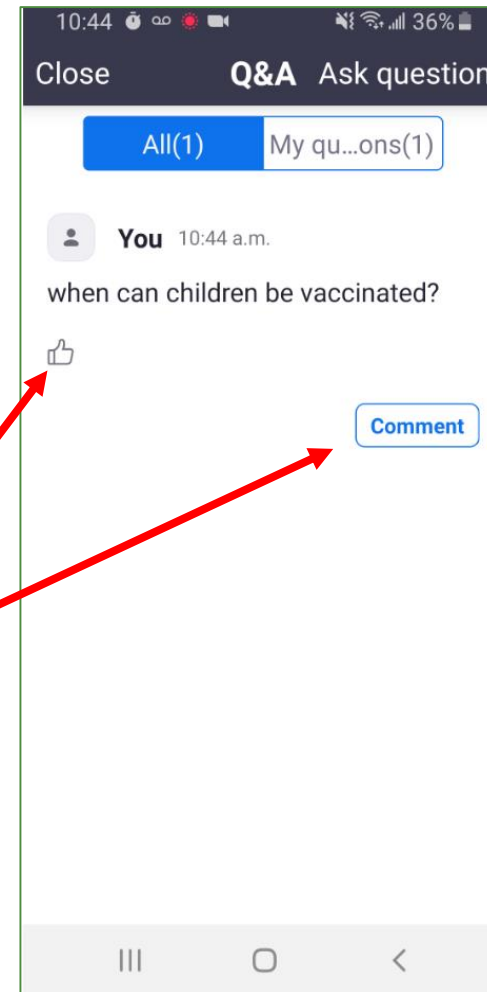
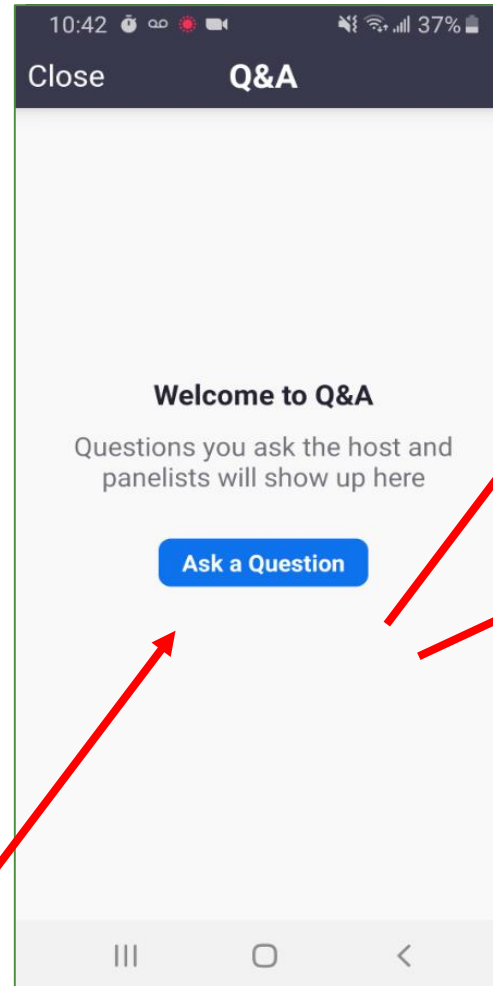


Agenda

- Update on COVID-19 in Halton –
Dr. Deepika Lobo, Halton Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health, COVID-19 disease lead
- Update on COVID-19 vaccination in Halton –
Dr. Joanna Oda, Halton Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health, COVID-19 vaccination lead
- Questions and Answer session



Housekeeping

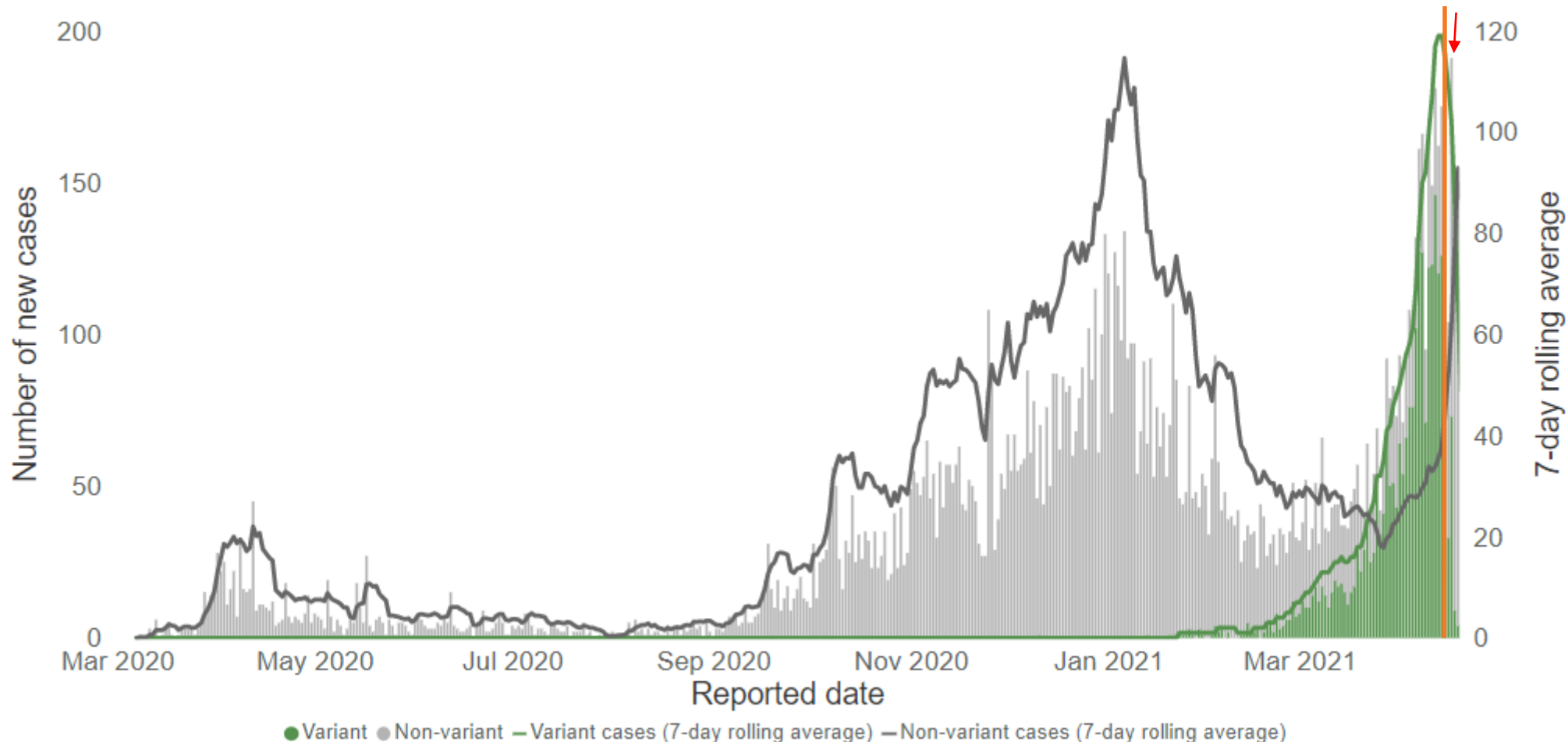


Use the Q&A function to ask, vote or comment on a question



Current state of COVID-19 in Halton

COVID-19 cases in Halton



Total cases: 13,690

- Active: 1,010
- Resolved: 12,474
- Deceased: 206



Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by reported date and variant status, Mar 1 2020-Apr 19 2021

COVID-19 variants in Halton

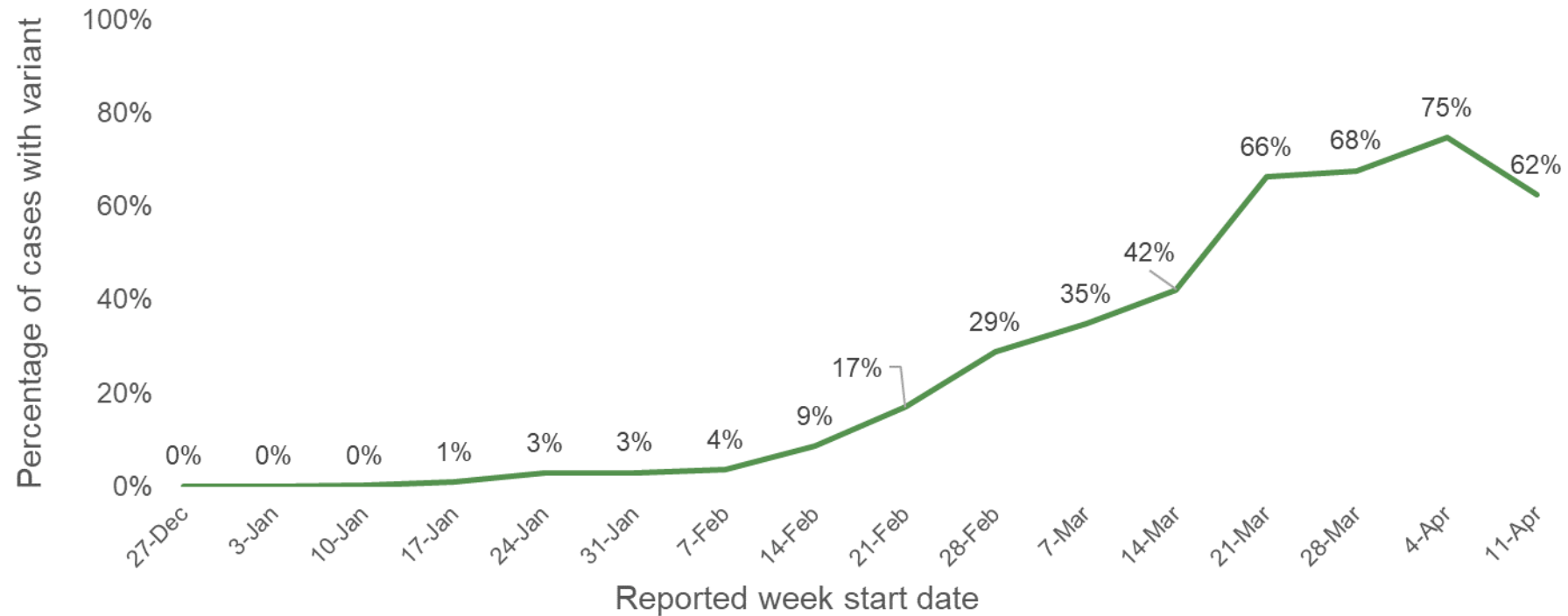


Fig: Percentage of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents with confirmed or likely variant, by reported week, Dec 27 2020-Apr 17 2021

COVID-19 age trends in Halton

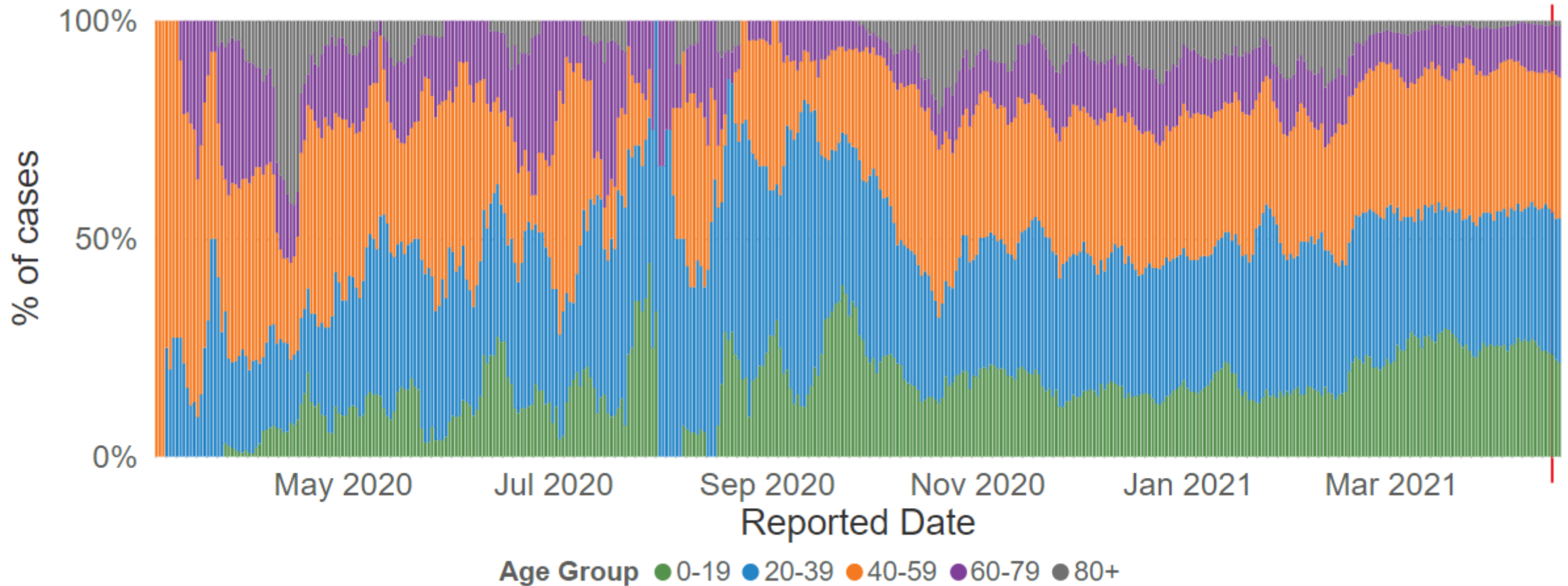


Fig: Proportion of Halton cases over time (7-day moving average), by age group, Mar 1 2020-Apr 19 2021

COVID-19 outbreaks in Halton

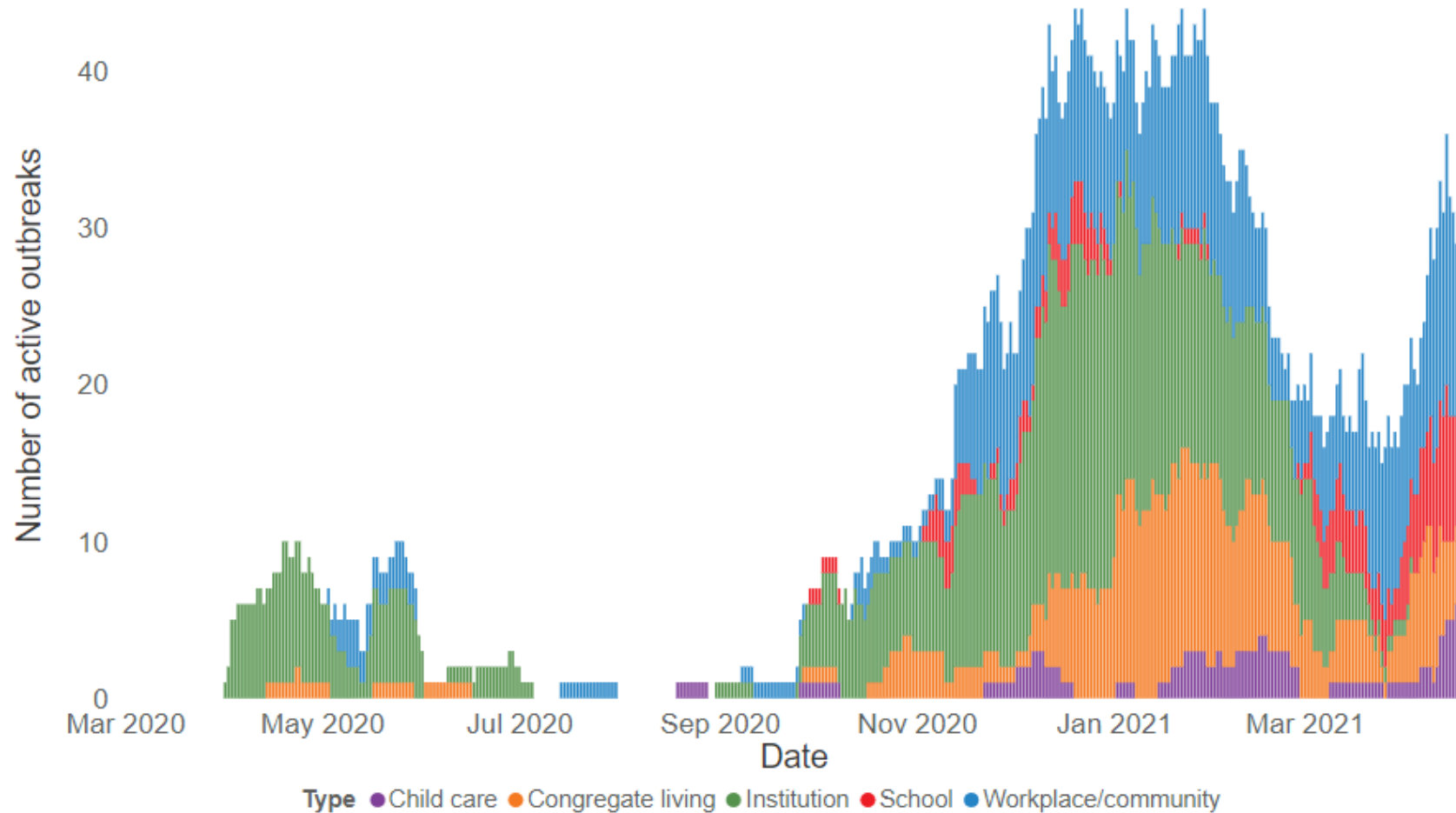


Fig: Number of active COVID-19 outbreaks in Halton, by outbreak type and date, Mar 1 2020-Apr 19 2021



COVID-19 inpatients in Halton hospitals

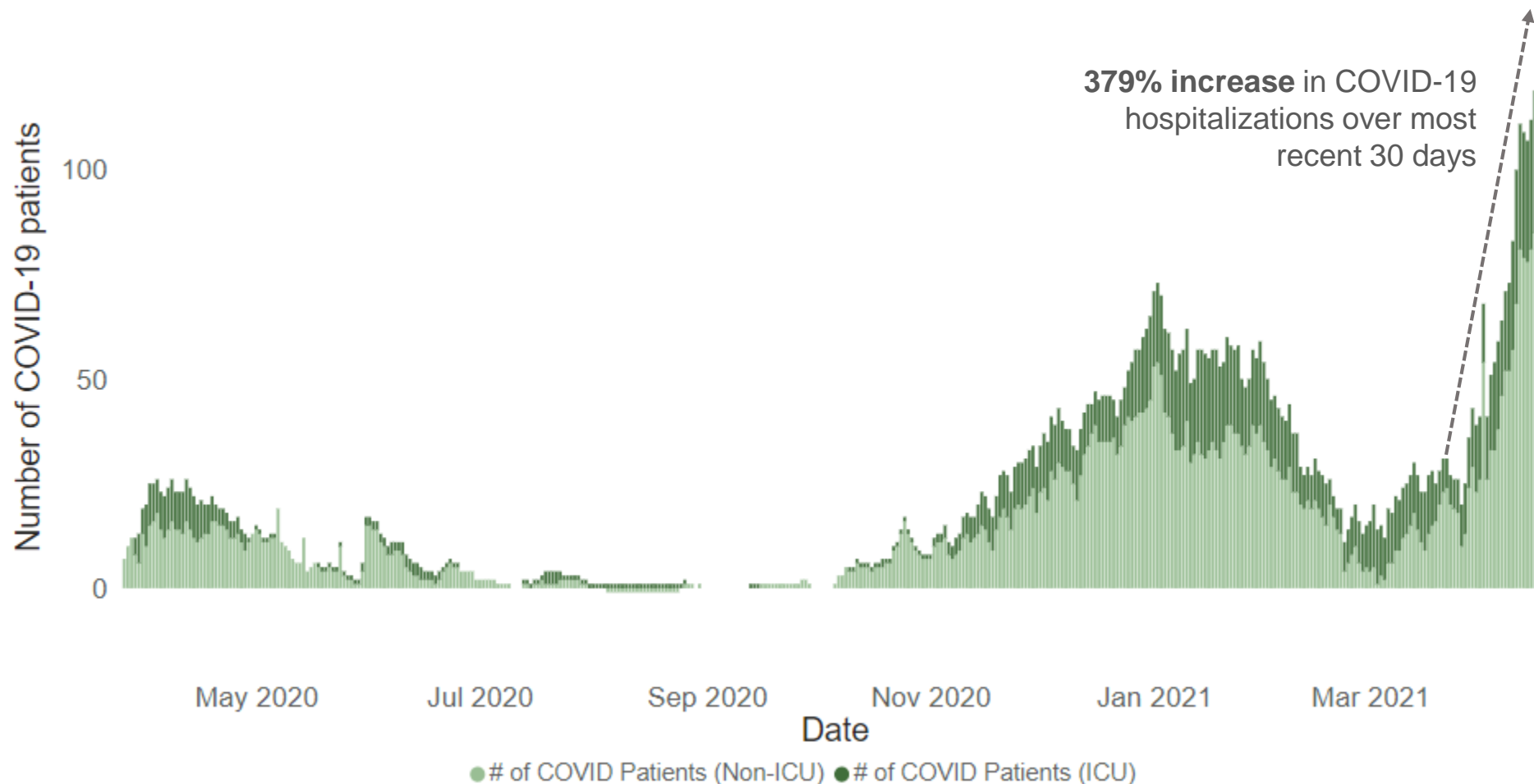


Fig: Hospital inpatients with confirmed COVID-19, by ICU status, Halton hospitals, Mar 1 2020 – Apr 19 2021

COVID-19 hospitalized cases

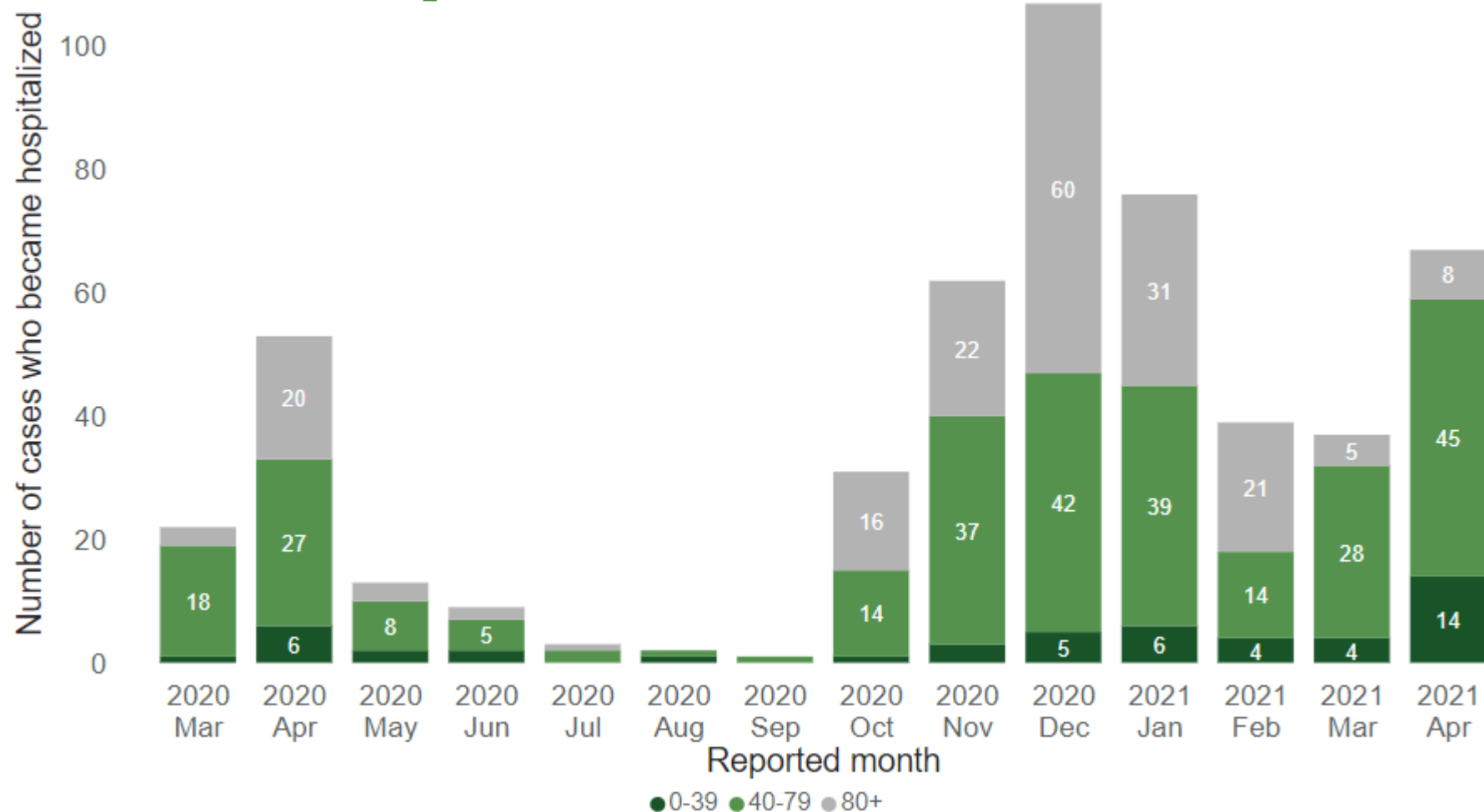


Fig: Halton cases who became hospitalized, by age group and case reported month, Mar 1 2020 – Apr 19 2021

Protecting yourself from COVID-19

- If you don't wear a mask and eye protection and if your patient is within their period of communicability, you will be considered a close contact and required to self isolate.
- If physical distancing cannot be maintained, protect yourself with:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Medical mask
 - Eye protection (i.e. face shield, goggles)





Vaccine Rollout Progress and Update

COVID-19 Vaccines: Our progress to date

As of end of day on April 19, 2021:

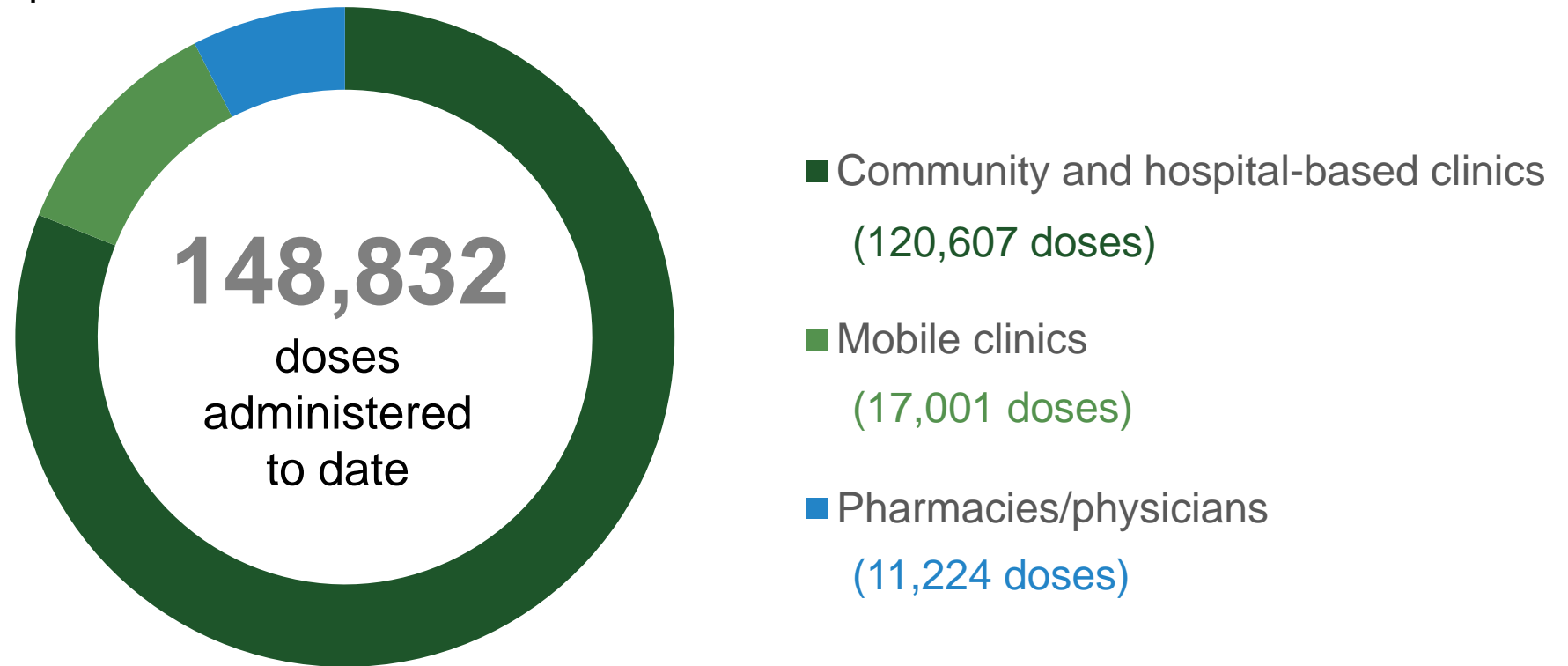


Fig: Total number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Halton, by setting where dose was given, Dec 22 2020-Apr 19 2021

COVID-19 Vaccines: One-dose uptake

As of end of day on April 19, 2021:

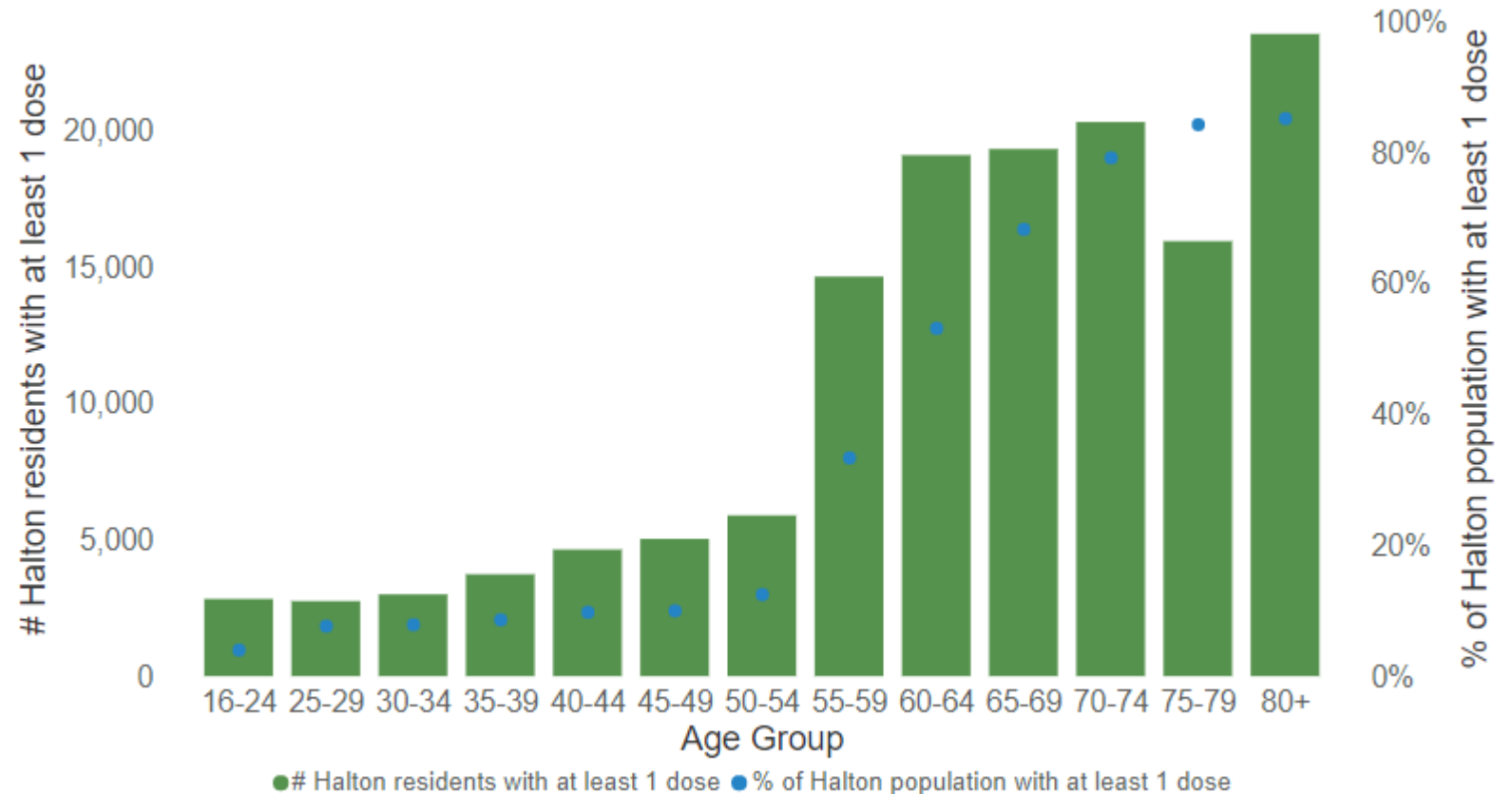
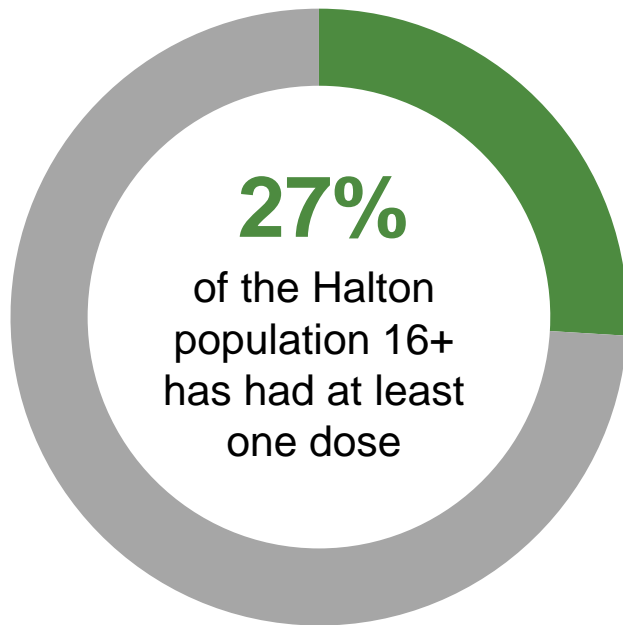


Fig: Number and percentage of Halton residents with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, by age group, as of end of day Apr 19 2021

Eligible priority populations



- Adults aged 60 years or older who live in Halton; 40+ at pharmacies; 50+ living in L9E postal code



- Indigenous adults aged 18 years or older who live in Halton



- Staff and essential caregivers of Halton long-term care homes and retirement residences



- All healthcare workers and essential workers (group 1) who live or work in Halton and cannot work from home.



- Adults receiving home care from LHIN



Book appointments online at
halton.ca/COVIDvaccines



Eligible health conditions

Highest-risk (442,000 people):

- Organ transplant recipients
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients
- People with neurological diseases in which respiratory function may be compromised (e.g., motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis)
- Haematological malignancy diagnosed less than 1 year ago
- Kidney disease eGFR < 30



High-risk (292,000 people):

- Obesity (BMI > 40)
- Other treatments causing immunosuppression (e.g., chemotherapy, immunity-weakening medications)
- Intellectual or developmental disabilities (e.g., Down Syndrome)

Vaccinating homebound people

- LHINs contacting and screening homebound clients
- Community paramedics booking and administering
- Developing process for primary care to support identification of homebound patients who don't receive home care



VIIT (Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombocytopenia)

- Very rare, serious event: ~1 in 125,000 to 4 in 1,000,000
- Three key features:
 - Timing: 4-20 days post-vaccine
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Clot, often unusual site
- No predictive risk factors identified, yet
 - No new contraindications or precautions for AZ at this time
- New diagnosis and treatment guidance available
 - Early recognition and treatment important to increase survival

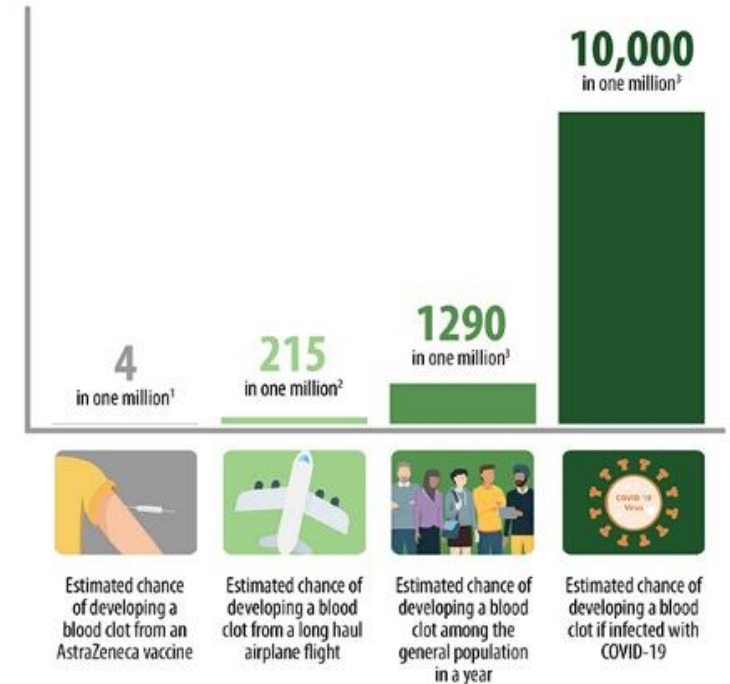
AstraZeneca vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness and complications from COVID-19.

Serious side effects such as blood clotting are very rare.

Data sources:

1. Health Canada Technical Briefing, April 14 2021
2. Thrombosis Canada, 2019
3. Thrombosis Canada, 2021

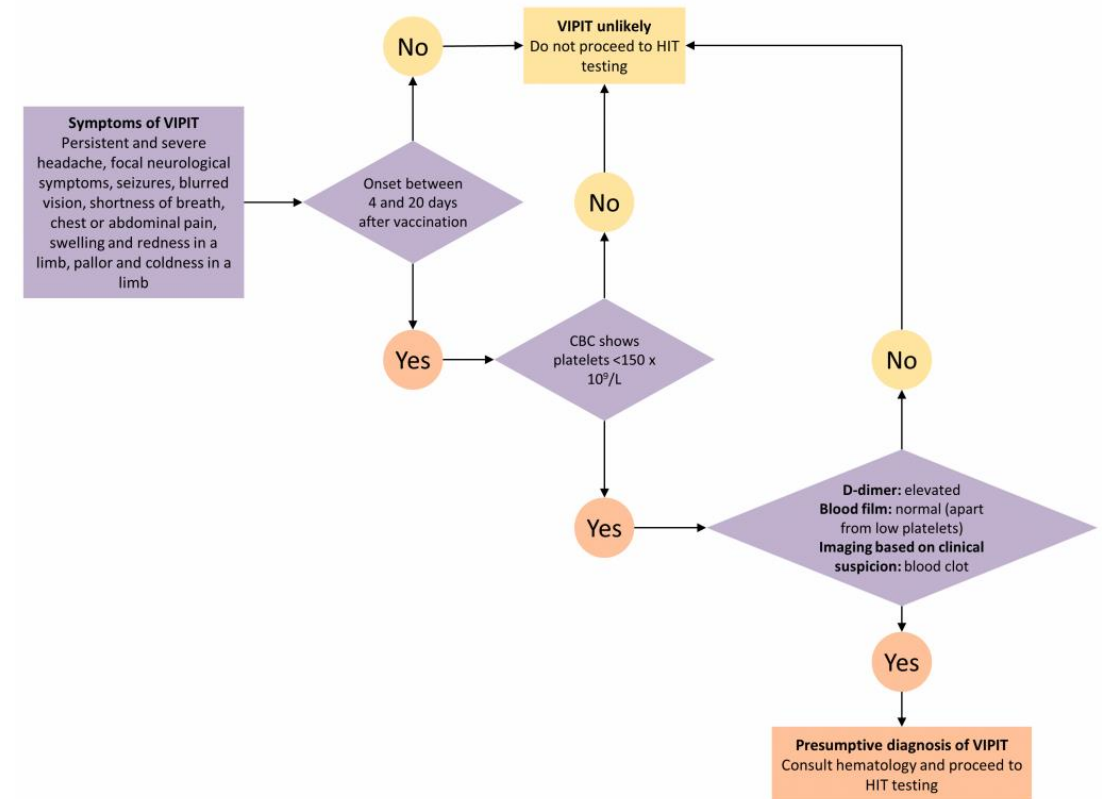
*The individual risk of developing a blood clot varies by a number of personal factors such as age, sex, medications, smoking status, weight, etc. Research to confirm the incidence of blood clots associated with AstraZeneca vaccines is ongoing.



VIIT (Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombocytopenia)

- For patients who have received AZ:

- More than 20 days ago: no cause for concern
- <20 days ago: self-monitor and seek treatment for:
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chest pain
 - Leg swelling
 - Persistent abdominal pain
 - Sudden onset of severe/persistent headaches or blurred vision



[Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, March 26, 2021.](#)

Reporting adverse events

Table lists types of adverse events that should be reported, including estimated timelines between vaccination and onset of symptoms



Ontario AEFI reporting form, (Ministry of Health)





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Primary care and COVID-19 vaccination

1 Identify and contact currently eligible patients eligible for shortened second dose:

- Transplant recipients including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving **active** treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy)
 - Excluding those receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy

2 Educate patients about importance of COVID-19 vaccination

3 Decide if you want to offer in office vaccination. If so, complete Expression of Interest.



COVID-19 vaccination primary care pilot

- In April, two primary care physicians (Milton and Halton Hills) started administering in-office AstraZeneca.
- Currently expanding pilot into a soft launch, onboarding other clinics across Halton
- Pilot feedback from Dr. Kiran Cherla (Halton Hills) and Dr. Carolyn Malec (Milton)



Vaccines



COVID-19 vaccines



- For people 16 years and over
- 2 doses required,
- Storage & transport: frozen at -20 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 2 doses required
- Storage & transport: frozen at -20 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 2 doses require
- Storage & transport: refrigerated at 2-8 °C



- For people 18 years and over
- 1 dose required
- Storage & transport: refrigerated at 2-8 °C



Vaccine Efficacy and Variants of Concern

- The UK variant (B.1.1.7) is the most common VOC right now
- COVID-19 vaccines appear to provide protection against VOCs
- Health Canada is monitoring the effectiveness of vaccines
- Process to modify vaccines being fast-tracked if necessary



Photo Credit: Sharecast.com

Vaccine Preference

- Variety of vaccines available can result in “vaccine shopping”
- Pfizer and Moderna available at community clinics
- AstraZeneca available at 73 pharmacies for individuals aged 40+
- All vaccines approved by Health Canada have been deemed safe and effective

Vaccine interval increased

- Vaccine interval increased to four months
- Increasing the number of people receiving the first dose earlier
- Increasing community level protection earlier
- **This approach maximizes the number of people protected in the shortest possible time**



Extended dose exemptions

- Three exemptions to extended dose interval and physician MUST complete form:
 - Transplant recipient (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
 - Individual with malignant hematologic disorder receiving active treatment (specifically chemotherapy, target therapies, or immunotherapy)
 - Individual with non-hematologic malignant solid tumor receiving active treatment (specifically chemotherapy, target therapies, or immunotherapy)

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations

Version 3.0 March 11, 2021

Highlights of changes

- Updated for AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine
- Updated Allergy recommendations
- Updated for confirmation of counselling received
- Updated for Children and Adolescents

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19](#) website regularly for updates to this document, mental health resources, and other information.

This document contains recommendations based upon the best current available scientific knowledge for COVID-19 vaccination in special populations and expert clinician advice. Recommendations for specific populations are subject to vaccine prioritization in accordance with [Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#).

Certain populations were not included in the Phase III clinical trials for current COVID-19 vaccines, or had very small representation, and require special consideration for COVID-19 vaccination. Evidence from clinical trial data is limited due to limitations in the size and duration of follow-up of trial populations; however, studies are ongoing. The evidence on COVID-19 disease and vaccines is evolving. For these special populations, it is important that:

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Special Populations

Pregnancy and children

- No scientific evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility
- Ministry of Health, Vaccination in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Decision-Making Support Tool, April 16
- Pfizer testing vaccine with 12-15 year olds
- Moderna testing vaccine with children 6 mos to 12 years



Who shouldn't be immunized



- People with proven immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity to any component of vaccine or its container, including polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- People with history of anaphylaxis after previous administration to the COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Should be referred to an allergist to determine the cause of the reaction and whether re-immunization can safely proceed.
 - Documentation of the discussion with the allergist-immunologist must be provided to the clinic and include a vaccination care plan, confirming that appropriate counselling on the safe administration of vaccine was provided




For Residents ▾
For Business ▾
The Region ▾

Information for Physicians

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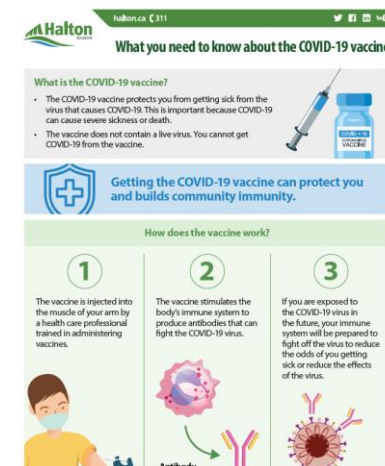
Resources Available

COVID-19 Resources, Directives and
Guidance Documents

Public Health Updates for Halton Physicians
Focus on COVID-19 vaccination



Healthcare professional toolkit



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On this page

- [COVID-19 vaccination status](#)
- [Current eligibility in Halton](#)
- [Providing support for COVID-19 immunization](#)
- [Continued education and training](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#)


Resources for health care providers

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#)
Order printed resources, including posters, postcards, fact sheets and more.

[Halton.ca/COVIDvaccines](https://halton.ca/COVIDvaccines)





halton.ca 311

**HALTON REGION**
COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

Halton Region Public Health is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to **Indigenous adults (including First Nation, Métis & Inuit populations)** who live in Halton and are 55 years of age and older.

To book an appointment:

 Visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines

 Residents who require booking support can also call 311 and a customer service representative will assist in the booking process.

Questions?



ME
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK **YOU**
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
STAY 6 FEET AWAY

