



# Health Care Professional Town Hall: Back to school with COVID-19

Thursday, September 2, 2021



The webinar will begin at 5 p.m.

If you run into technical difficulties, please email [Niels.Rasmussen@halton.ca](mailto:Niels.Rasmussen@halton.ca)

[halton.ca](http://halton.ca) ☎ 311





# Agenda

- COVID-19 vaccination in Halton
  - Coverage rates
  - Youth vaccination
  - Onboarding primary care
  - Medical reasons for not vaccinating
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> doses
- Routine youth immunizations
- Influenza vaccine update
- COVID-19 and back to school
  - COVID-19 cases in Halton
  - Isolation and return to school
  - Masking exemptions, testing in office, rapid testing
- Question and answer session





## NEW COVID-19 LEARNING ACTIVITY AVAILABLE IN MAINPRO+®

Your work helps flatten the COVID-19 pandemic curve.

Now you can earn certified credits for conquering the learning curve!



### COVID-19 Learning on the Go

As part of their response to COVID-19, physicians in Canada are taking part in many learning opportunities related to the pandemic, including reading journal articles and attending webinars and rounds. Many of these activities have been developed quickly and are not formally certified.

**Here is an opportunity to have your efforts recognized.**

Turn your learning experience into two Mainpro+ certified credits by describing and documenting the impact the activity has had on your practice. You can find this newly created learning activity in Mainpro+ under Self-Learning, Certified activities: **COVID-19 Learning on the Go**.

If you have questions, please contact the Mainpro+ team at  
1-800-387-6197 ext. 560 or [mainprocredits@cfpc.ca](mailto:mainprocredits@cfpc.ca).

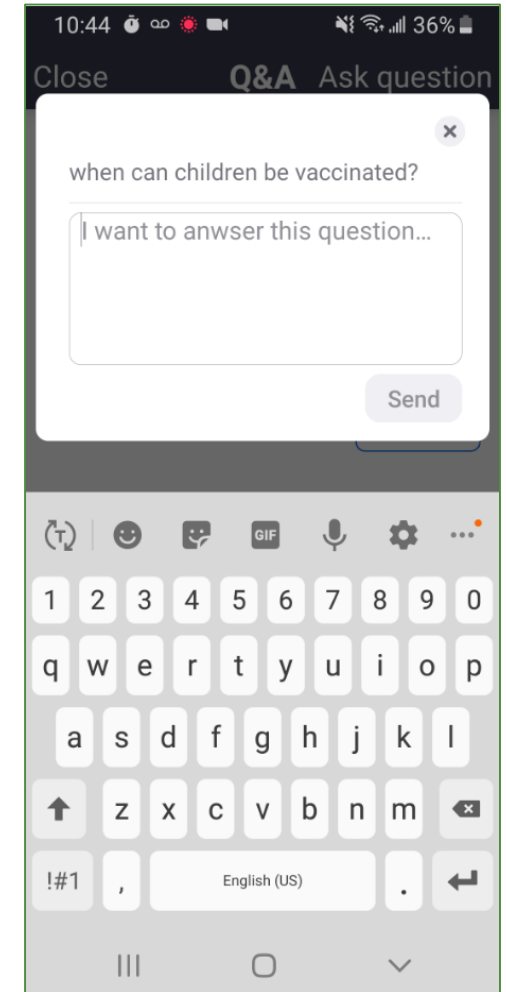
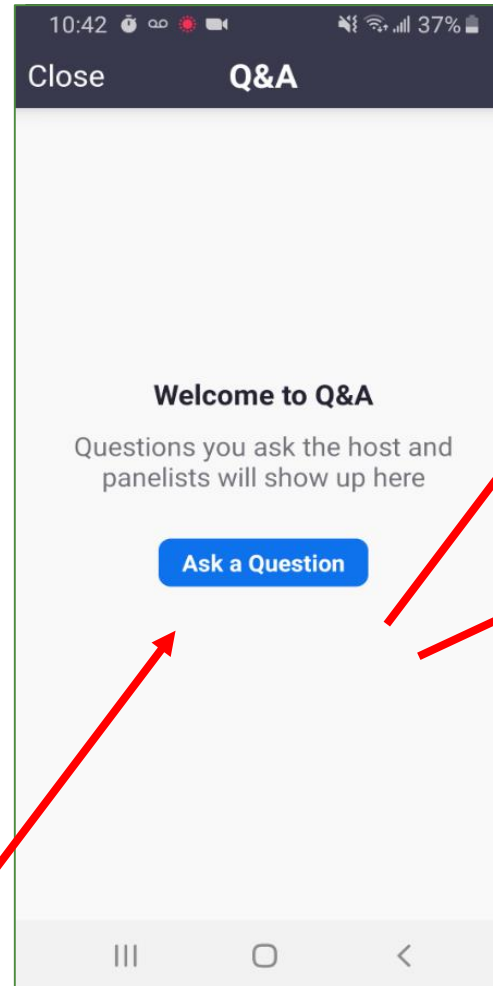
THE COLLEGE OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
OF CANADA



LE COLLÈGE DES  
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE  
DU CANADA



# Housekeeping



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





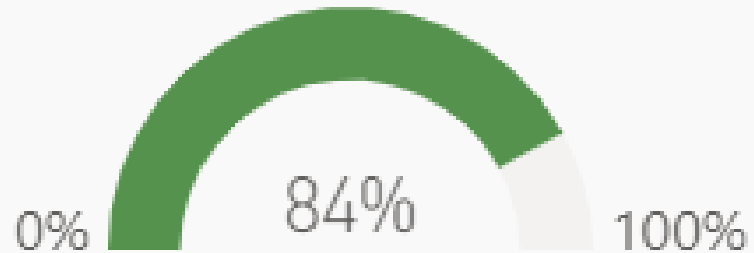
VAXX AND  
RELAX

Vaccine Rollout Progress and Update

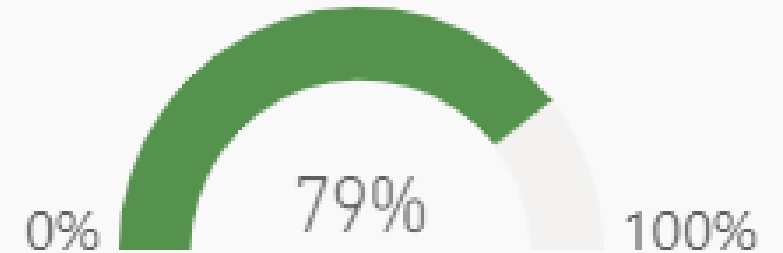
# COVID-19 Vaccination coverage (12+)

As of August 31, 2021:

## COVID-19 vaccination rates among 12+ in Halton



% of population with at least one dose



% of population with both doses

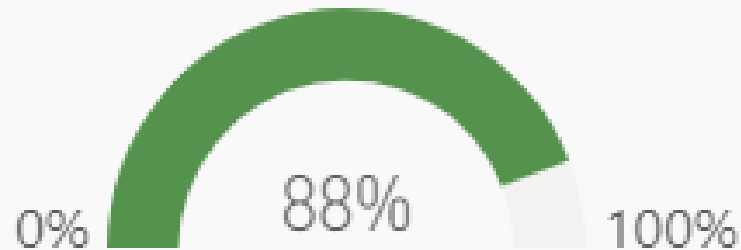




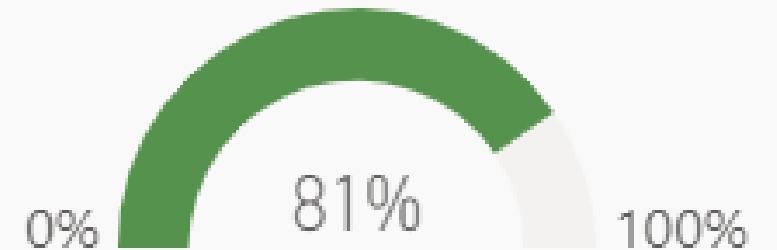
# Coverage among school aged children

As of August 31, 2021

## COVID-19 vaccination rates amongst 12-17 year olds in Halton



% of population with at least one dose



% of population with both doses



# COVID-19 Vaccination in under 12s

- Studies ongoing; results expected in the Fall
- Approval likely by end of 2021
- Email [doctors@halton.ca](mailto:doctors@halton.ca) to onboard your clinic so you're ready to administer vaccine when available





# Medical reasons for not vaccinating

- [Medical exemptions to Directive #6 for COVID-19 Vaccination Policy in Health Settings](#)
- Only two absolute contraindications to COVID-19 vaccine:

## Allergy to vaccine component

- Polyethylene glycol (Moderna & Pfizer)
- Tromethamine (Moderna)
- Polysorbate-80 (AZ and Janssen)

## Myocarditis/peri-carditis after first mRNA dose

- Defer 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of mRNA vaccine following myocarditis or pericarditis after first dose until more info available

# Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine

## Eligible populations

- Immunocompromised populations  
(2 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
- Vulnerable elderly in high-risk congregate settings  
(LTCH and some higher-risk retirement homes)  
(5 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)

## Physician referral form

- Available [online](#)
- Patient must bring referral form to third dose appointment
- Accepted at Public Health clinics and pharmacies

The best way to ensure eligible patients can receive their third dose is to offer COVID-19 vaccine in your clinic





# School-Based Immunization Eligibility at Community Clinics

## Hepatitis B (Engerix®)

### Birth Year

2006\*, 2007\*, 2008,  
2009

### Grade in 2021-2022 school year

Grade 7, 8, 9, 10

## HPV-9 (Gardasil®)

### Birth Year

- 2002\*, 2003\*, 2004-2009 females
- 2004-2009 males

### Grade in 2021-2022 school year

- Grade 7-12
- Grade 12 in 2019-2020
- Grade 12 in 2020-2021

## Meningococcal ACYW-135 (Nimenrix®)

### Birth Year

2002 - 2009

### Grade in 2021-2022 school year

- Grade 7-12
- Grade 12 in 2019-2020
- Grade 12 in 2020-2021



\*must complete immunization(s) by Aug. 31, 2022 to be eligible for a publically funded vaccine

# Special orders & routine immunizations

- Halton Region Public Health will be delaying approval and release of special orders for school-based vaccines starting mid-September.
- Deliveries for routine vaccines will be reduced to once per month during September to accommodate the arrival and processing of influenza vaccine.

Municipality	Order by date	Delivery date	No deliveries	Next order by date	Next delivery date
Burlington	September 1	September 7	September 21	September 29	October 5
Oakville	September 1	September 8	September 22	September 29	October 6
Milton	September 8	September 14	September 28	October 6	October 12
Halton Hills	September 8	September 15	September 29	October 6	October 13



# COVID-19 vaccine intervals



You must wait at least **14 days** after receiving any vaccine before receiving your COVID-19 vaccine.



In addition, you must wait at least **28 days** after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine before getting any other vaccine.

# Influenza vaccination

- Anticipating 163,410 doses – around 20,000+ doses than 2020
- Anticipating 41,000 doses of HD vaccine –LTCH first
- High risk facilities expected to get vaccine late Sept
- First orders planned for late October
- Please don't plan any flu clinics until early November to ensure access to flu vaccine







## COVID-19 and back to school

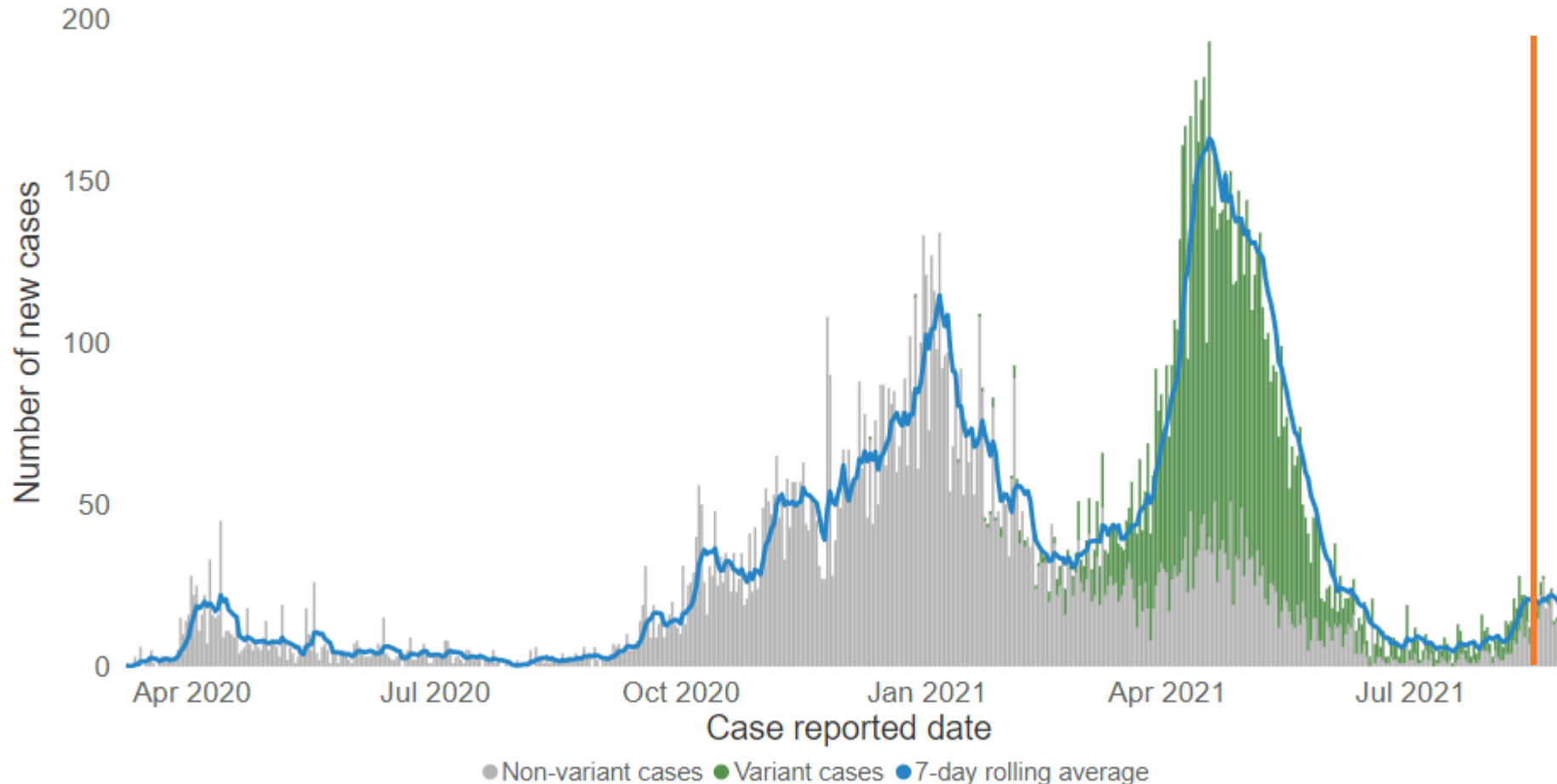


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15

# COVID-19 cases in Halton



**Total cases: 18,737**

- Active: 119
- Resolved: 18,380
- Deceased: 238



**Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by reported date, Mar 1 2020-August 30, 2021**

# COVID-19 cases by age in Halton

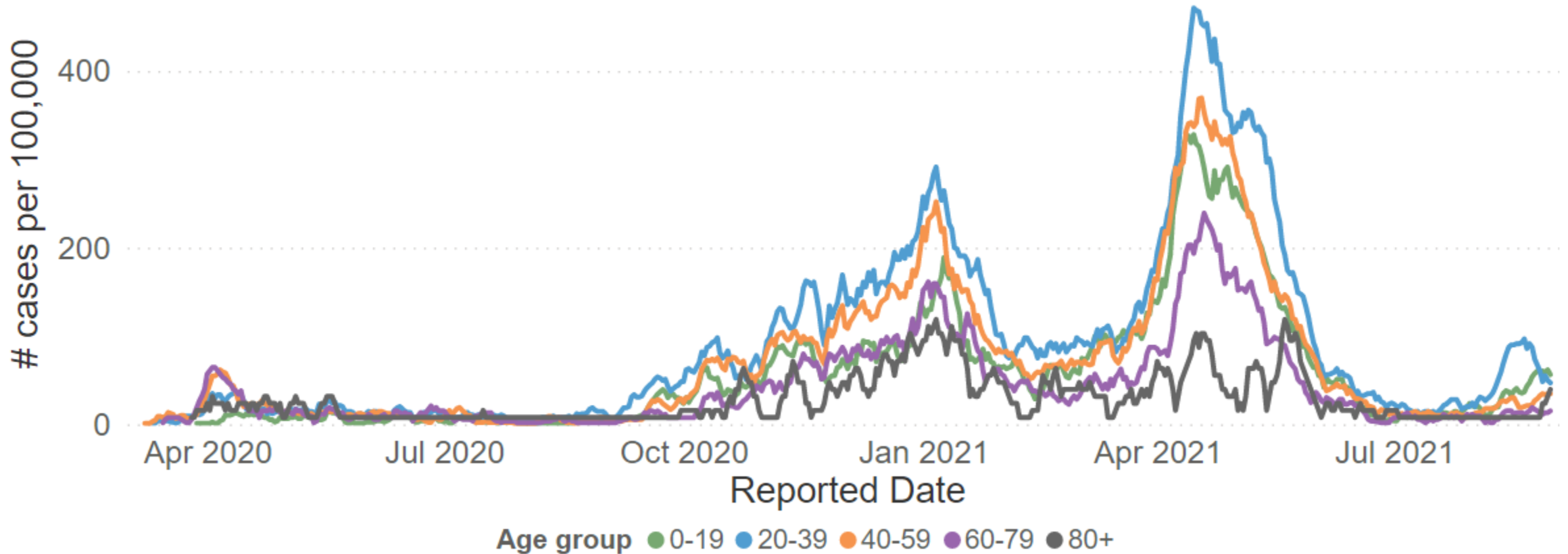


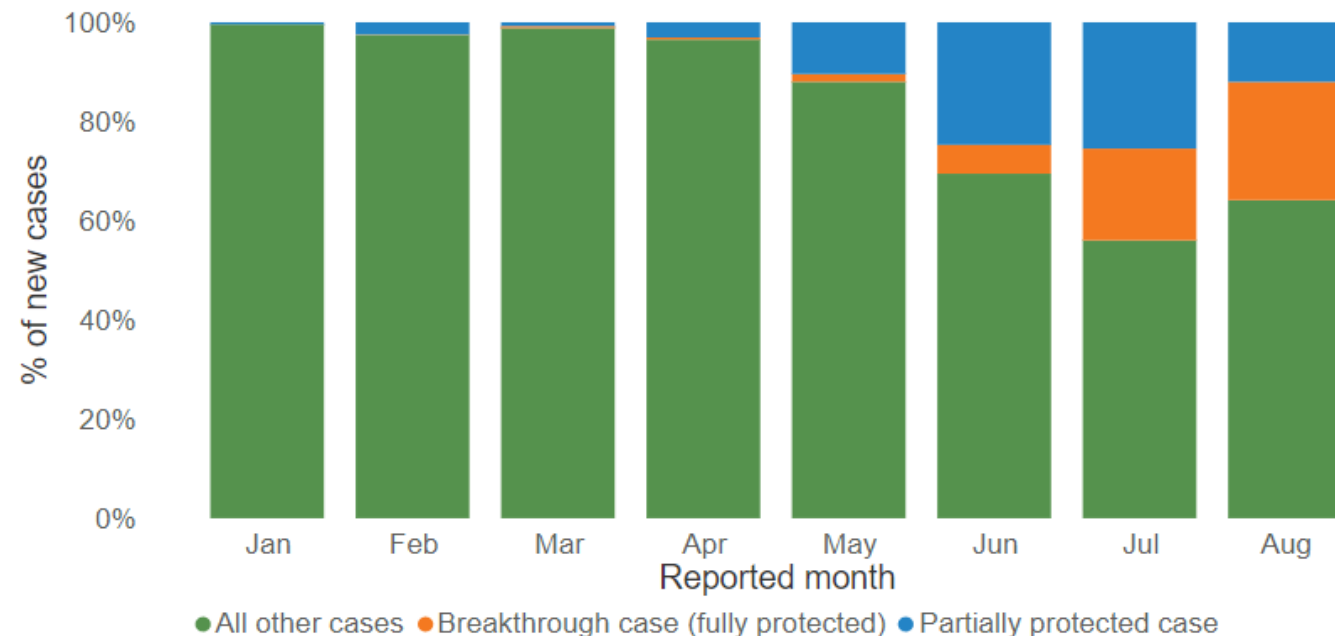
Fig: Moving weekly incidence rate of COVID-19 not associated with an outbreak, by age group, Halton residents, Mar 1 2020-August 30, 2021



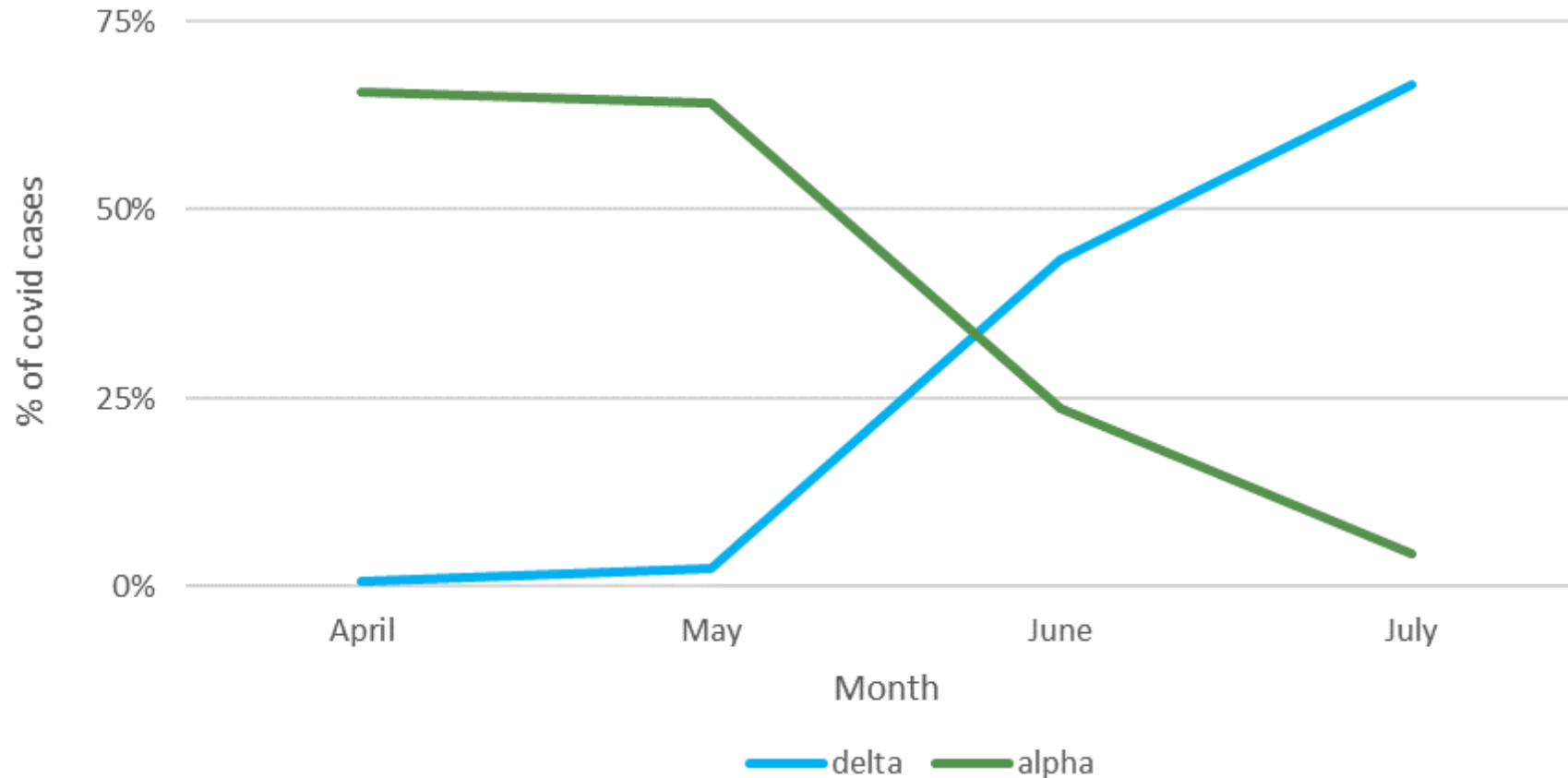
# COVID-19 post-vaccination cases

- Among 434,127 Halton residents with two doses of vaccine, only **0.06%** were diagnosed with COVID-19 after full vaccination.
- Even though vaccinated people make up the majority of Halton's population, unvaccinated people continue to account for the majority of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among Halton residents.

Fig: Percentage of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by post-vaccination status, reported Jan 1 2021-Aug 31 2021



# Why the Delta variant is so important



**Fig: Percentage of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents with alpha or delta variant, by reported month, April-July 2021**

# COVID-19 Cases in School 2020 - 2021



925

Total School Exposures  
Investigated 2020 - 2021



41

Total School Outbreaks  
2020 - 2021





# Child & youth mental health in Canada and Halton during the COVID-19 pandemic

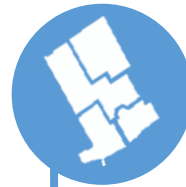


## Canada

70% of children are experiencing **poorer mental health** than before the pandemic



Ontario students reported **increased loneliness (55%), stress (43%)** and **anxiety (38%)** during the pandemic



## Halton



81% of surveyed parents were concerned about their children's mental health, while **72%** were worried about loneliness & isolation



# Masks in a school setting



## Students

### JK – Grade 12

- Must wear masks indoors
- Do not need to wear masks outdoors

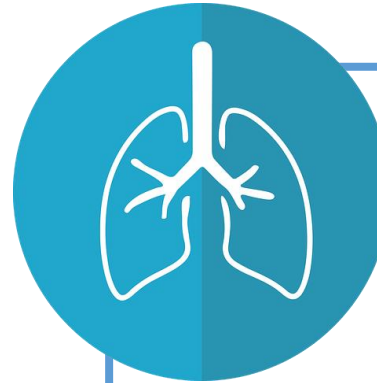


## Staff and Visitors

- Must wear medical masks indoors
- Eye protection should be worn indoors when working with children who are not able to wear masks or when close contact is required

# Mask exemptions

- Very [few conditions](#) justify mask exemption:
  - Children under age of 2
  - Anyone who has trouble breathing
  - Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove mask without assistance



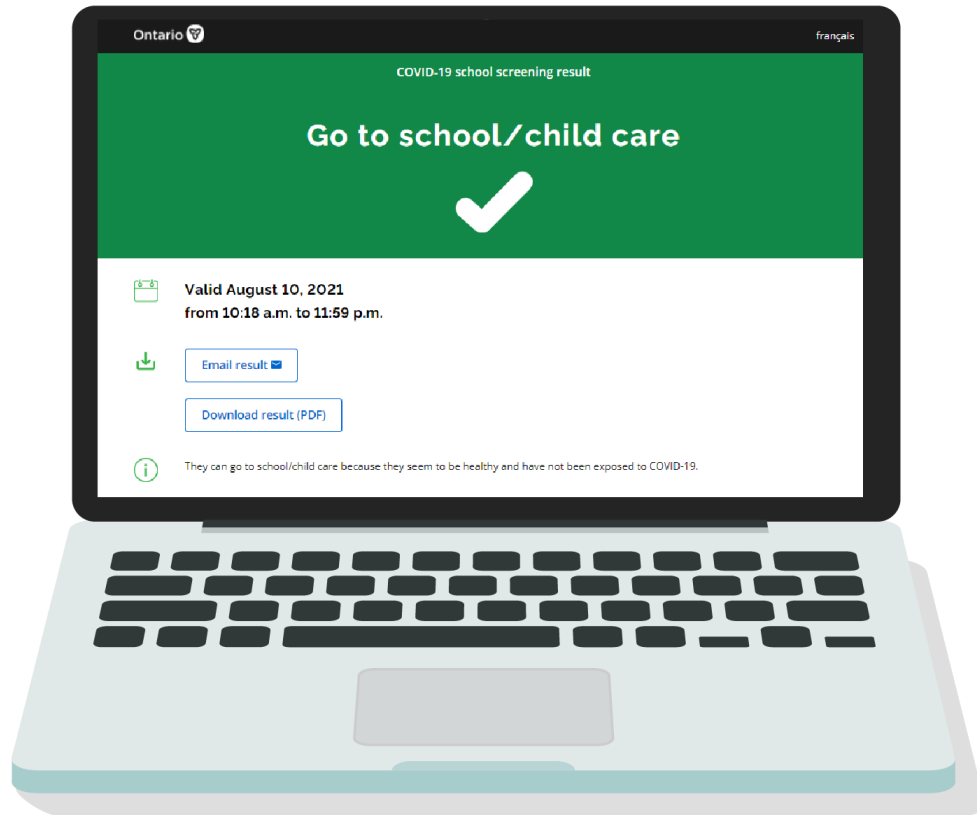
“We recognize that wearing a face mask may not be possible for some people, but their lung disease should rarely be the cause of this.”

*Canadian Thoracic Society*



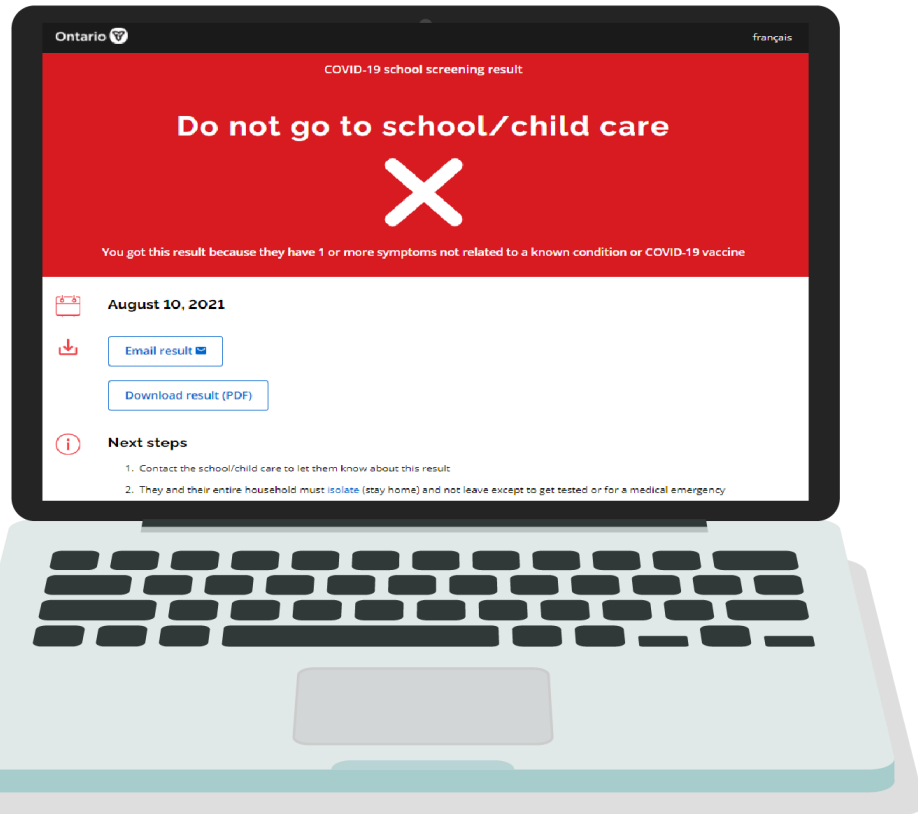
# COVID-19 Screening

**covid-19.ontario.ca**



Students, teachers and school staff must complete the provincial **School and Child Care Screening** tool before leaving for school or child care each day and on the weekend.

# COVID-19 Screening



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**Stay home, test and/or medical guidance if:**

Fever and/or chills

Cough or barking cough

Shortness of breath

Decrease or loss of taste or smell

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

Someone that student lives with experiencing new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for results

Identified as close contact of COVID-19 patient within 10 days

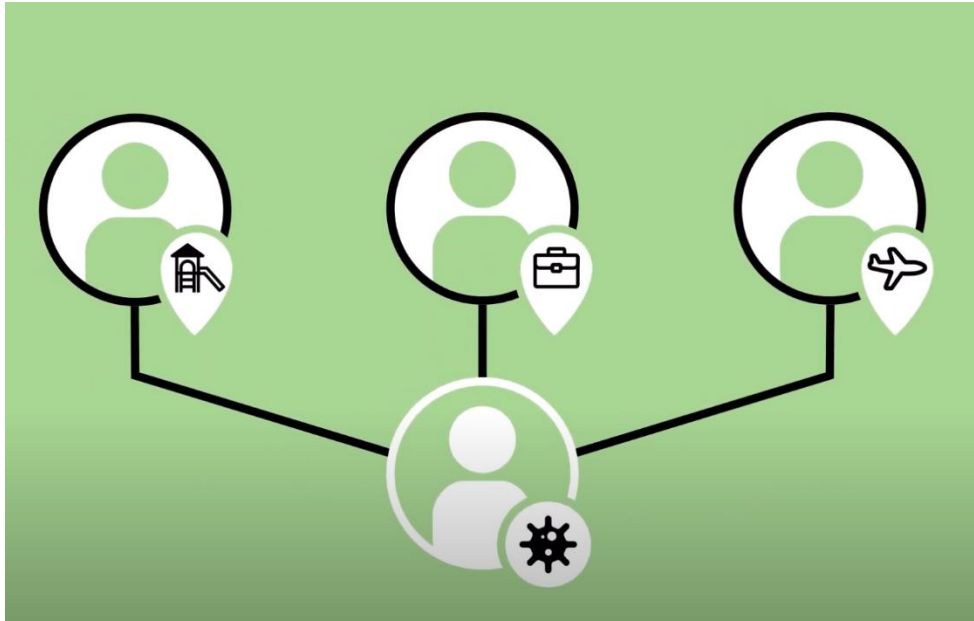
Received a COVID Alert exposure notification

Travelled outside of Canada and been advised to quarantine or not fully vaccinated

Been told to isolate by public health

Tested positive on a rapid antigen test in the last 10 days

# Case Management and Contact Tracing



If an outbreak is declared at a school, we will investigate to see whether others are impacted, define the outbreak area and identify any others who will need to be contacted for isolation and testing.

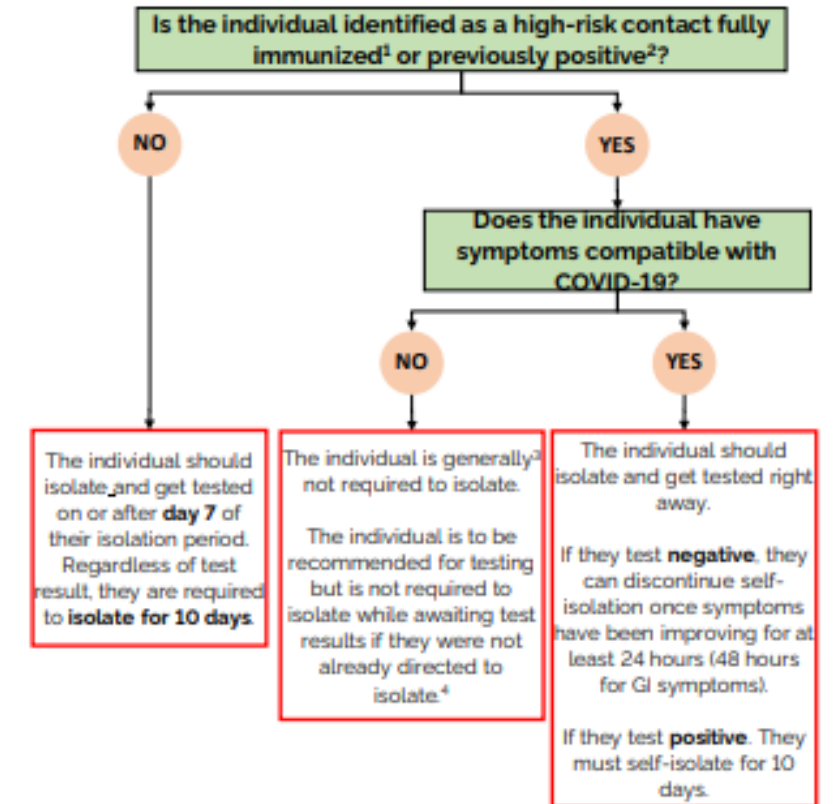
[COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management](#)



# When to isolate after exposure – school

## Appendix A: Case and Contact Management in Schools for High-Risk Contact

Adapted from Appendix II of *Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario*



- If high-risk contact is vaccinated and asymptomatic, not required to isolate – recommend testing
- If high-risk contact is vaccinated and symptomatic, isolate and get tested. If negative, discontinue isolation once symptoms improve.
- If high-risk contact is not vaccinated, must isolate and get tested on or after day 7. Regardless of test result, must isolate for 10 days.

[High risk school contact flow chart](#)

# COVID-19 PCR testing

## When to get tested:

- New or worsening symptoms with no alternate diagnosis
- After having a high risk exposure





# COVID-19 and primary care



# COVID-19 PCR testing in your office

- Primary care can offer testing if the provider can:
  - Follow Droplet and Contact precautions
  - Attain appropriate tools and knowledge of how to test and
  - Ensure coordination of sample delivery to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory or alternate lab providing COVID-19 testing
- Order PPE, swab kits and rapid tests [online](#) through ehealthontario





# Rapid antigen testing

- Primary care practices and other healthcare services can test their staff (not patients) using free rapid antigen test kits from the [Provincial Antigen Screening Program](#)
- Rapid test results do not need to be reported to Public Health, but should be followed with a PCR test



Order PPE, swab kits and rapid tests [online](#) through ehealthontario or <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-free-rapid-tests>

# Resources for resuming in-person visits

- [The vaccine, virus and in-person visits as we head into Fall](#) webinar, COVID-19 Community of Practice (Aug 20, 2021)
- [Considerations for Family Physicians: Balancing in-person and virtual care](#), Ontario College of Family Physicians (Aug 2021)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#), Ministry of Health (July 28, 2021)
- [Summary of changes in COVID-19 Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#), OCFP (Aug 2021)
- [Primary Care Operations in the COVID-19 Context](#), Centre for Effective Practice



# What about...



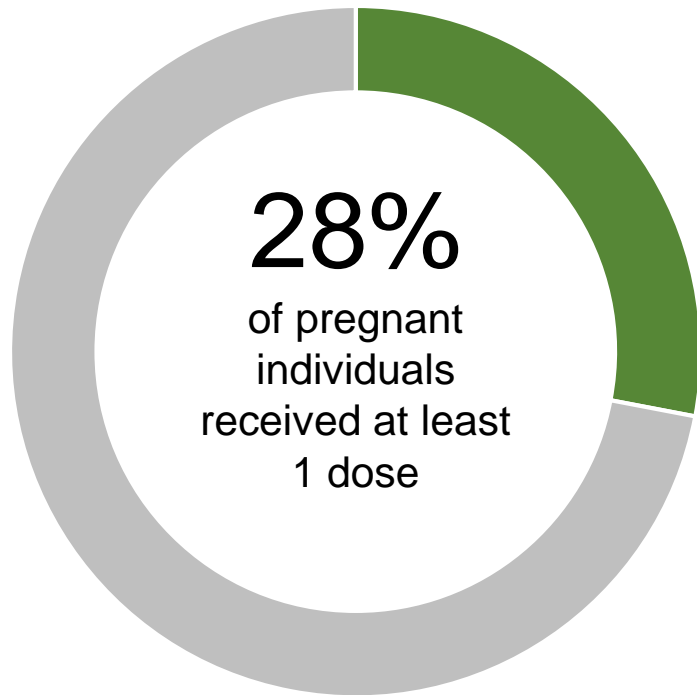
# COVID-19 vaccines and reproductive health

- No scientific evidence that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and recommended for pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) recommends COVID-19 vaccination at any stage of pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Pregnant people with COVID-19 infection are at higher risk of hospitalization and ICU admission
- Antibodies produced from the vaccine have been found in the umbilical cord blood and breastmilk, which may provide protection to the baby

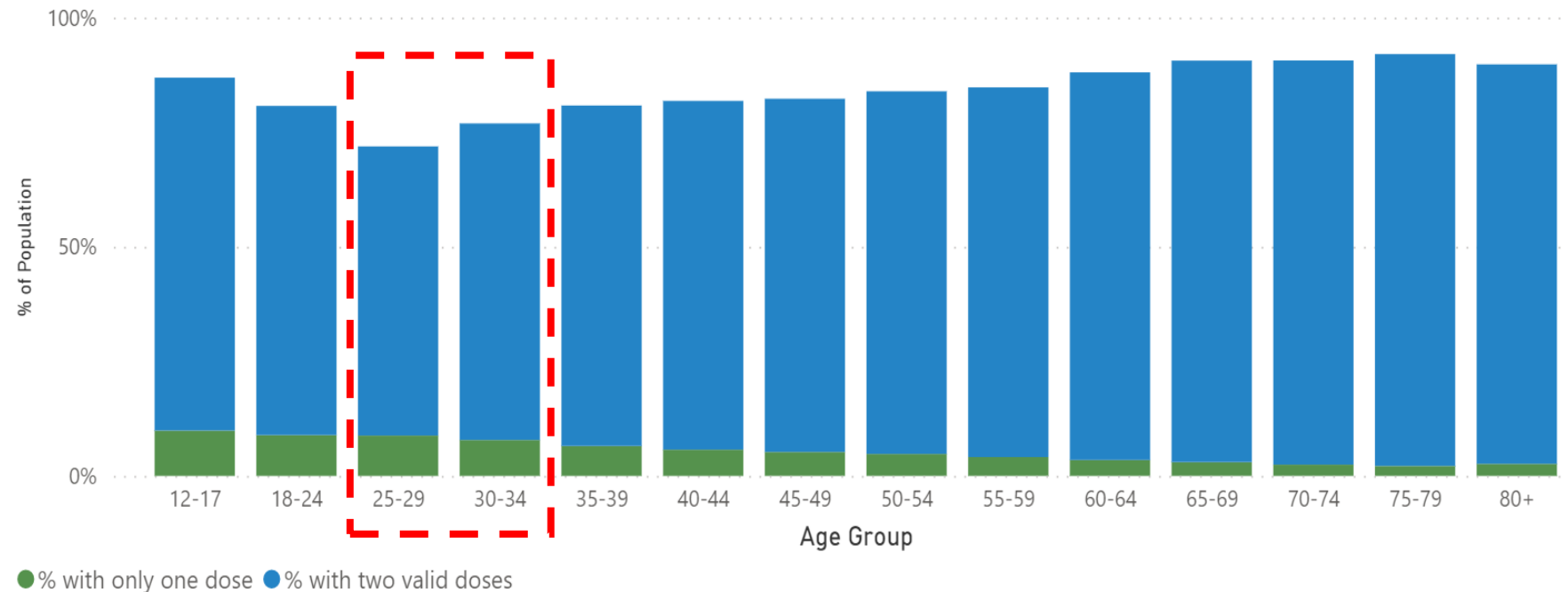




# COVID-19 vaccination: lower in 25-34 year olds and pregnant individuals



One-dose and two-dose COVID-19 vaccine coverage among Halton residents, by age group



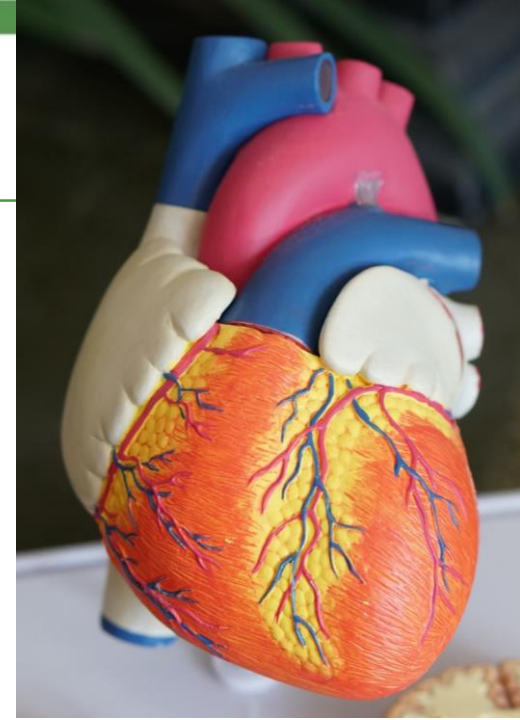
# Myocarditis and pericarditis

## Symptoms

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Arrhythmias
- Feeling of having a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm

[A primer for primary care professionals: Myocarditis and Pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination](#), University of Waterloo

[Myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination in children: Interim guidance](#), Sick Kids



# Questions?

Email [doctors@halton.ca](mailto:doctors@halton.ca)  
Call 311

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

