

Response to COVID-19: Update Presentation to the Board of Health



Toronto Public Health
January 18, 2021

We have surpassed 75,000 cases in Toronto

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 CASES IN TORONTO



All Cases

Case Count*	77,327
Recovered Cases	66,398
City Incidence Rate per 100,000 People	2,607
Fatal Cases	2,206
Ever Hospitalized	4,912
Ever in ICU	961



Currently Hospitalized	491
Currently in ICU	113

As of January 17, 2021



CASES IN THE COMMUNITY	83%
Recovered Cases	55,100
Median Age At Time of Illness	38
Percent Female	49%
Percent Male	51%
Fatal Cases	627
Median Age of Deaths	74
OB ASSOCIATED CASES**	17%
Recovered Cases	11,298
Median Age At Time of Illness	60
Percent Female	61%
Percent Male	37%
Fatal Cases	1,579
Median Age of Deaths	88

*Includes confirmed and probable cases

**Outbreak associated cases include persons with COVID-19 within a defined group or setting. These are generally in healthcare (e.g., long-term care homes, hospitals) and residential or congregate settings (e.g., homeless shelters, group homes), but can also be in workplaces and other settings

†Gender was unknown or other for some cases

Cases continue to increase in Toronto

Virus Spread and Containment

Status: RED - Indicators trending away from goals

New COVID-19 cases, 7 day moving average¹

852

Goal: A 14-day decline* OR a stable trend with less than an average of 1 case per 100,000 per day (30 cases).

New Hospitalizations, 7 day moving average¹

36.9

Hover over number for recent calculation change
Goal: A 14-day decline OR a stable trend with less than an average of 2 hospitalizations per million population per day (6 hospitalizations).

Active daily COVID-19 outbreaks in institutions¹

106

Goal: A 14-day decline* OR a stable trend AND below 10% of healthcare institutions with an active outbreak (18 facilities).

Effective Reproductive Number for COVID-19 Cases²

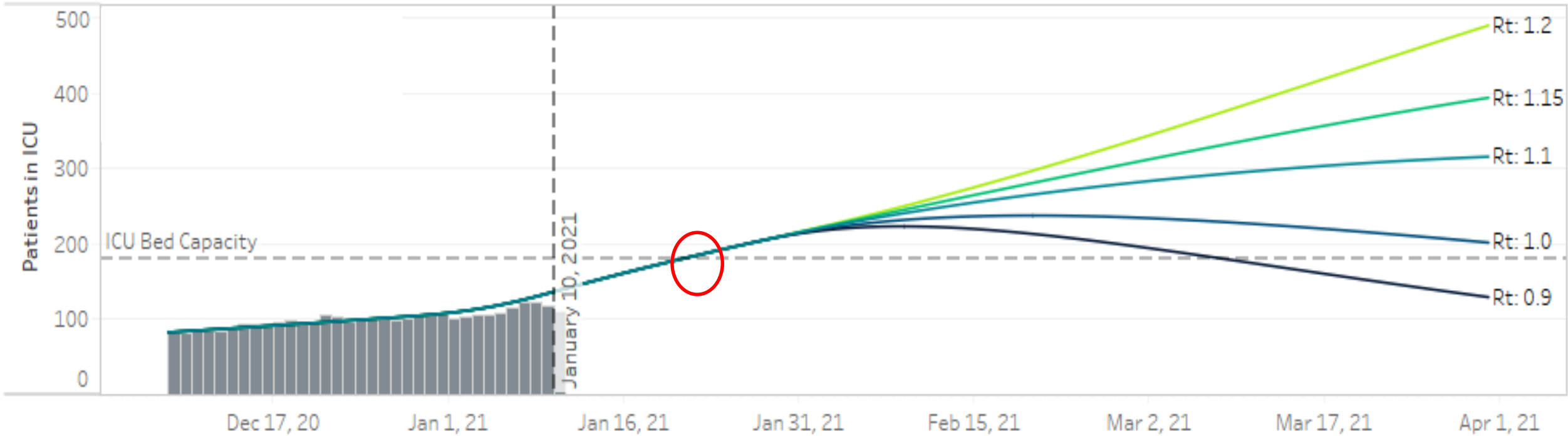
$R_t=1.05$

(90% CI 0.81 to 1.27)

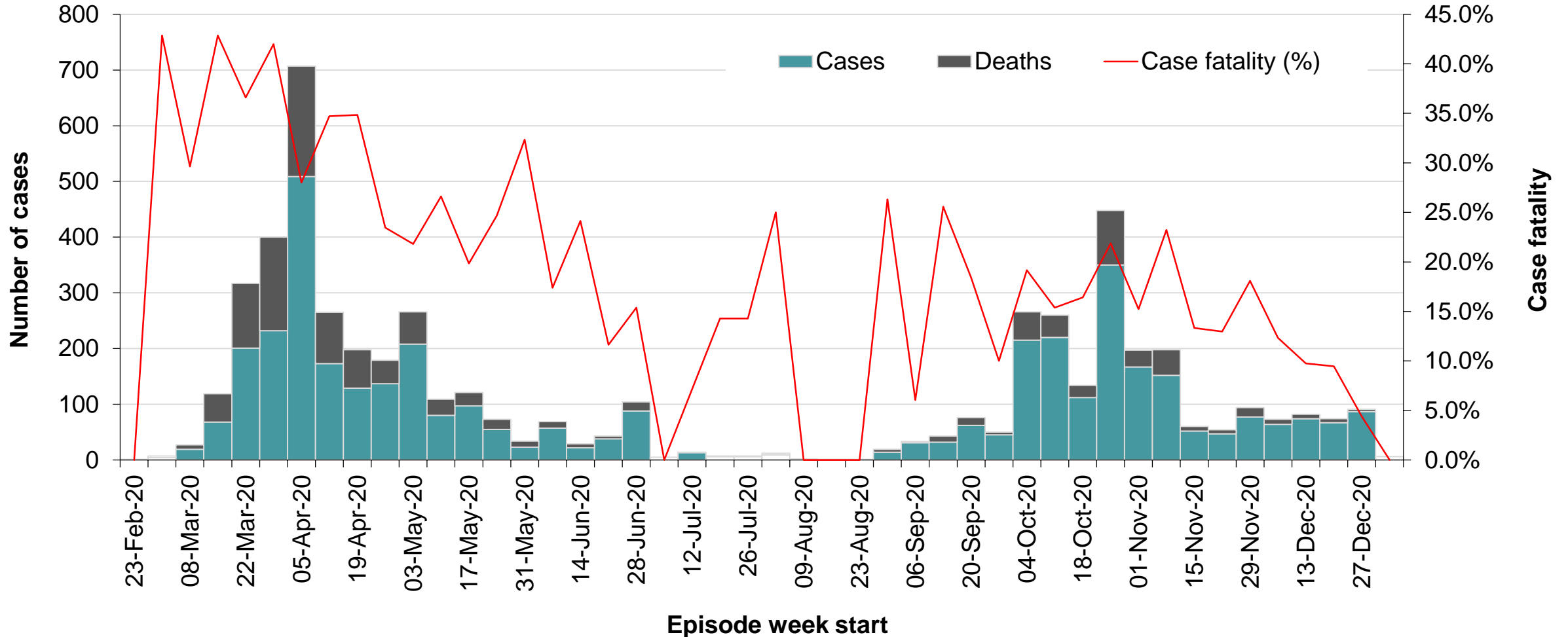
Goal: Under 1.0

Current projections suggest Toronto will surpass ICU capacity before the end of January

Estimated number of cases in ICU if transmission remained similar to current estimates, increased, or decreased

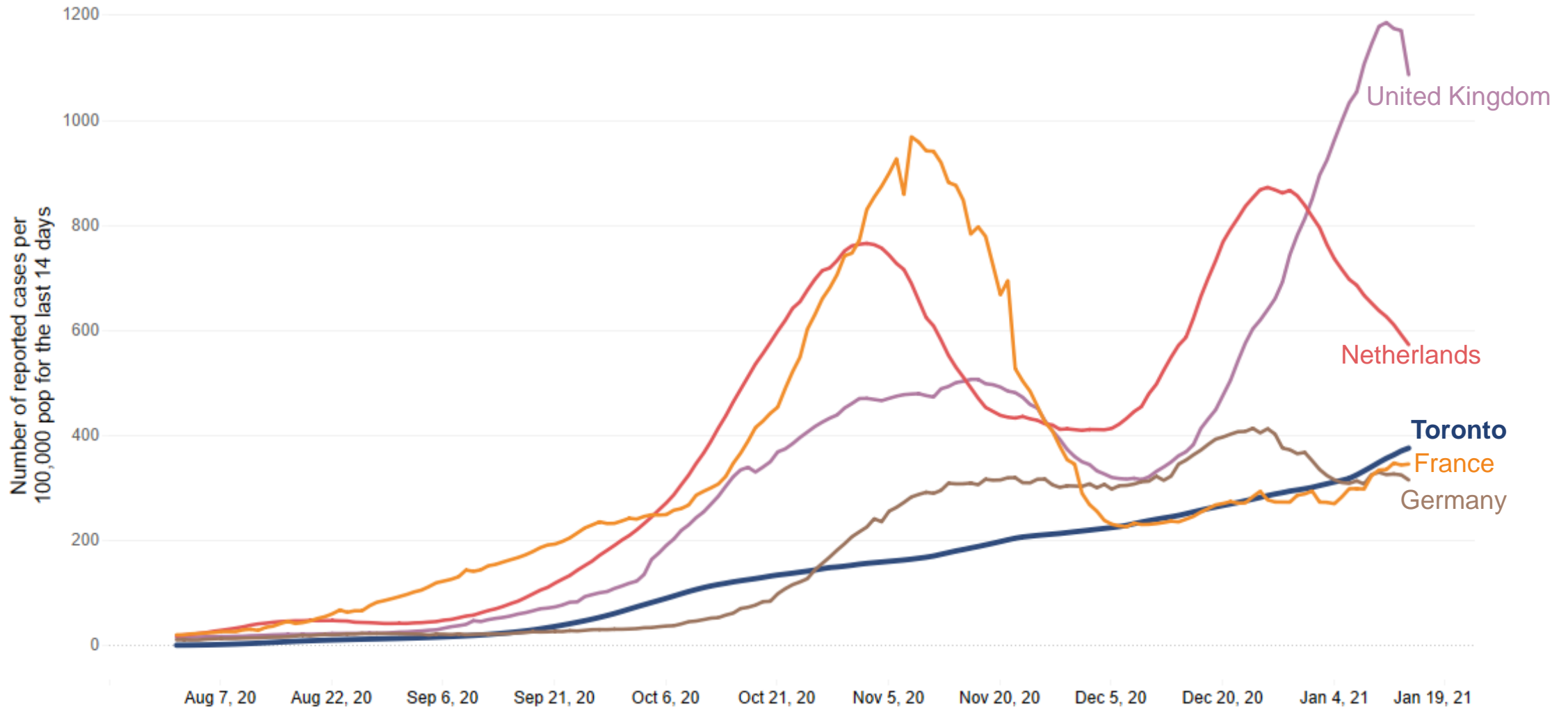


Case fatality in LTCH/RH residents continues to be much higher than the general population



Comparison with peer jurisdictions

Number of reported cases per 100,000 pop for the last 14 days - Regional Comparison

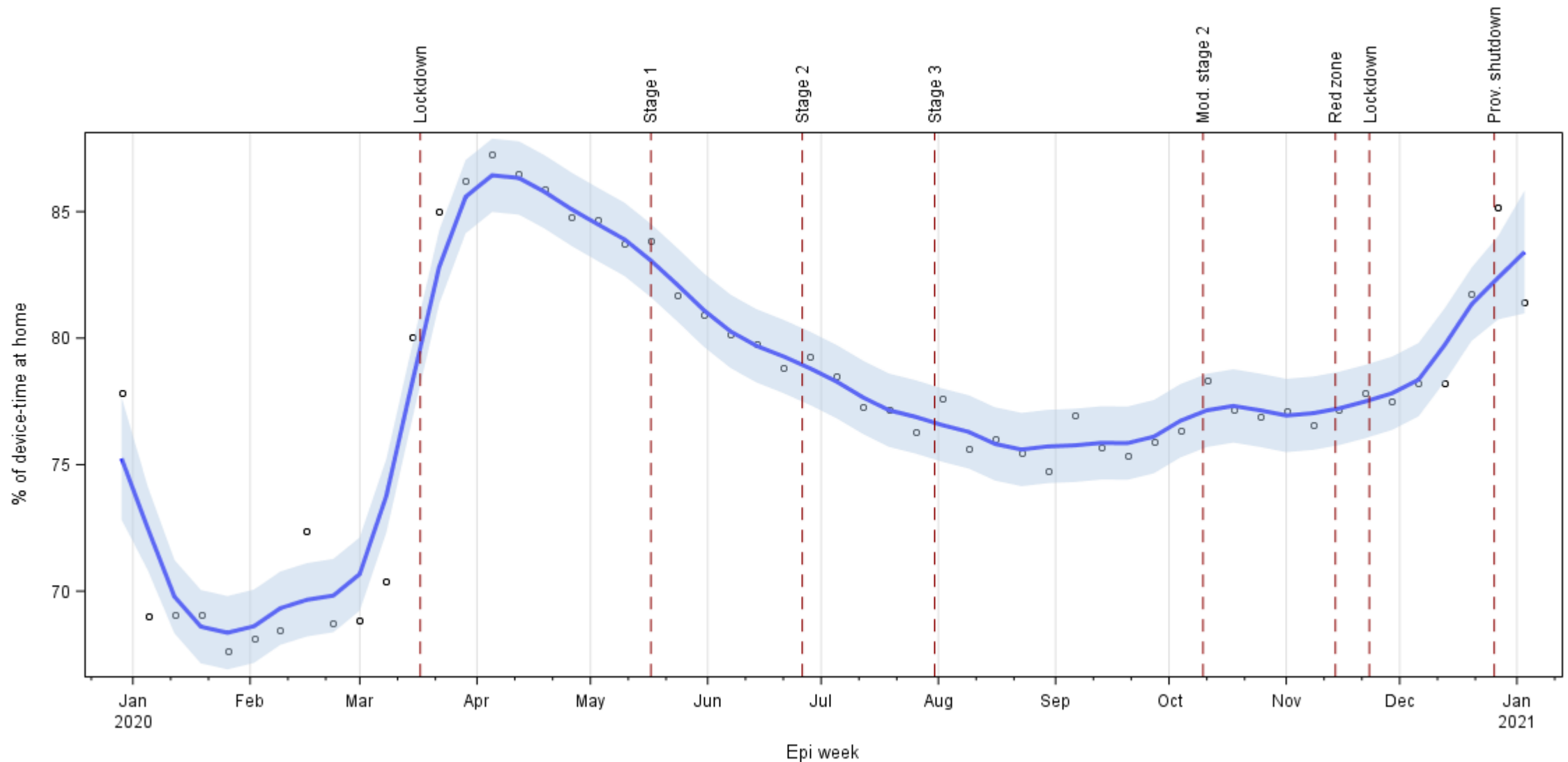


Key components of hard lockdowns in peer jurisdictions

	Victoria, Australia	France (Fall)	UK*	Germany*	Netherlands*
Strict stay-at-home order / movement restrictions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-essential retail closed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bars, restaurants , gyms etc. closed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Most workplaces closed	✓	✓	✓ → ✓	✓	✓
Schools closed	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Mandatory masking outdoors	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Testing blitz in high-risk areas	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Curfew	✓	✓	✗	✗ → ✓	✗
Enforcement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ → ✓

✓ = fully imposed, ✓ = partially imposed, ✗ = not imposed, *Currently in lockdown

Time at home for Toronto residents for the week of Jan 3-9 is almost at March 2020 lockdown levels



In Summary

- We continue to see significant impact of COVID-19
- We continue to see challenges in hospitals, ICUs, and LTCHs
- Mobility data are suggesting that we are staying home
- Given these observations we all need to continue to follow public health measures, with due consideration for those with equity issues

Important for everyone to follow the Stay-at-Home Order and:

- If you are symptomatic, please isolate and get tested
- If you are a case, protect your family and consider isolating in a voluntary isolation centre
- Get vaccinated when you become eligible

The Medical Officer of Health recommends the Province of Ontario respond to the current level of transmission by:

1. Continuing to carefully monitor the provincial circumstances and other evidence in order to adjust public health measures accordingly; and
2. Proactively planning to reopen schools and other sectors safely.

Isolation Supports for Families

The City, as part of the TO Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan, has consulted with community-based agencies to identify appropriate supports to enable vulnerable families to quarantine together.

Support includes:

- Access to appropriate isolation facilities; and
- Delivery of food and essential items to the home.

- COVID-19 Vaccination to date
 - Long Term Care Home (LTCH) and Retirement Home (RH) (residents, staff and essential caregivers) and health care workers (high risk)
 - Collaborative effort between TPH, Hospitals and LTCH/RH
- Recent Pfizer announcement will result in a 20 to 80% decrease in delivery of vaccine over the next four weeks
- As a result, main vaccination focus in Toronto now is on completing the vaccine series for those who have received dose 1 (LTCH, RH, health care workers)

Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out Balance of Responsibilities

The delivery of a successful COVID-19 immunization campaign requires the well-coordinated work of all three levels of government.

- The **Government of Canada** is responsible for approving, procuring and distributing COVID-19 vaccines to the Province of Ontario.
- The **Province of Ontario** is responsible for receiving approved vaccines from the Government of Canada, establishing the vaccine distribution priorities, and distributing the vaccines across the Province.
- Once the **City of Toronto** is provided with COVID-19 vaccines, by the Province of Ontario, we are responsible for administering these vaccines in accordance with the prioritization framework developed by the Province.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

- The City of Toronto's COVID-19 Immunization Task Force (ITF) continues to work to support TPH, ensuring that Toronto residents are able to get vaccinated, in order to protect everyone against COVID-19 infection and to end the pandemic.
- The ITF is working closely with the provincial government to coordinate and collaborate on the plan for COVID-19 vaccination in Toronto.
- Toronto's ITF leaders, which includes Toronto Public Health (TPH) representation, meet often with the Provincial COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force leaders to ensure planning is aligned and the City's actions are coordinated with provincial direction.
- As of the end of 2020, over 50,000 doses have been received in Toronto and these are being administered to residents, essential care providers and staff of long-term care homes and retirement homes.
- In early 2021, it is expected that another 50,000 doses of the Pfizer/BionNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines will be available for administration in Toronto.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Immunization Task Force - Balance of Responsibilities

The **ITF** is primarily responsible for organizing the planning and logistics of the City's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, including:

- Supporting the documentation of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign's Phase Two planning for the highest risk groups;
- Assisting TPH with the drafting of a broader City vaccination plan (e.g. a mass immunization clinic plan) and ensuring this broader plan is prepared for presentation to the Province when requested;
- The TPH-led mass immunization clinics that will be operational when a sufficiently large supply of vaccine is available in Phases Two and Three of the Province's COVID-19 vaccination campaign;
- Activating City resources such as human resources and logistics support for vaccination administration, storage and handling requirements; and,
- Collaborating with the City of Toronto's strategic communications team to ensure general messages about the vaccine and the campaign are aligned with the Province and supports broader community understanding of the vaccine.

Toronto Public Health is primarily responsible for strategically utilizing and disseminating its vaccine program expertise with key local stakeholders, including:

- Leading collaboration efforts with Ontario Health/Local Health Integration Network colleagues to vaccinate local long-term care home (LTCH) residents in partnership with Toronto's hospitals;
- Collaborating with Toronto's hospitals to ensure LTCH and retirement home staff and essential caregivers are among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine;
- Supporting ITF work including mass immunization clinic planning and IT planning;
- Drafting key documents such as training materials, consent forms and fact sheets for the COVID-19 vaccines; and,
- Collaborating with the City of Toronto's strategic communications team to ensure general messages regarding the local COVID-19 vaccination plan and answering media questions about the vaccine and its use.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

The Immunization Task Force

- The City's Immunization Task Force (ITF) reports directly into the City's COVID-19 Strategic Command Team.
- The **ITF Command Team**, chaired by the COVID-19 Incident Commander, is comprised of the Medical Officer Health, the City Manager, the Chief Communications Officer and the City Solicitor.
- A **project management team** supports the ITF with robust project management processes.
- Dr. Michael Finkelstein, Toronto Public Health, provides medical subject matter expertise and leads the production of all recommendations with respect to medical oversight and vaccine administration.
- **Key supports** to the ITF include:
 - *Health and Safety* - IPAC, physical distancing, cleaning protocols, occupational health and safety
 - *Information* - Clear messaging, signage, external media/public, internal/City agencies
 - *Liaison* - Linkage to external stakeholders, community outreach and management.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Planning for the Immunization Clinics

- The City of Toronto will be ready to launch COVID-19 Immunization Clinics as soon as vaccines are made available to us.
- The Province of Ontario both created the vaccine distribution framework, and requested that Toronto be prepared to open and operate immunization clinics to support the overall vaccination efforts.
- These clinics are planned to operate between the point where hospitals begin to immunize high-risk populations (currently ongoing now), and the point at which vaccines become readily available to anyone who wishes to receive one, by way of primary care physicians and pharmacies.
- The City of Toronto's COVID-19 immunization plan includes the establishment and operation of multiple immunization clinic sites, strategically located around the city. The network of clinics will include the use of large public facilities and a number of City-operated facilities, including community centres.
- In addition to the network of immunization clinics, the immunization plan also includes the provision of both mobile clinic capabilities and priority neighbourhood response teams.
- The Province asked that we be ready to launch our network of immunization clinics by **April 1, 2021**. This date remains fluid and largely dependent on the availability of vaccines. The City will be ready in the event that vaccines are made available to Toronto earlier than presently expected. **Plans and provisions are being put in place in advance of the estimated date of April 1.**

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign MTCC Immunization Clinic Proof of Concept

- In response to a request by the Province, we are accelerating the launch of one clinic in a non-hospital setting.
 - This will be the opening of the first COVID-19 immunization clinic on **Monday, January 18, 2021** at the **Metro Toronto Convention Centre** (255 Front Street West).
 - This immunization clinic is planned to operate from **11:00 AM through 8:00 PM, 7 days a week**, for a period of approximately **8 weeks**. This remains subject to the continued availability of vaccine.
- In accordance with the allocation of vaccines by the Province of Ontario, we are planning to administer up to **250 1st doses of COVID-19 vaccinations each day for the first 4 weeks**. Over the course of the following weeks, we will focus on the administration of the 2nd doses of COVID-19 vaccination for the same group of people.
- The group of people included in this initial COVID-19 immunization clinic will be primarily comprised of **healthcare workers who work on the frontlines of COVID-19 in support of some of our most vulnerable residents**, including **frontline healthcare workers in our shelter system**, including **harm reduction workers and streets to homes workers**.
- This accelerated immunization clinic is fully scalable and the scope of operations can be increased quickly, should the availability of vaccine increase as we move forward.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Community Liaison

- Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) is implementing a grassroots strategy to address vaccine misinformation in communities most impacted by COVID-19. This is an extension of the COVID-19 Equity Action Plan that was presented at the December 14, 2020 Board of Health (BOH) meeting.
- This strategy will focus on mitigating vaccine hesitation in these populations and neighbourhoods caused by historical concerns related to vaccination. Neighbourhood leaders, including faith-based leaders and community elders with scientific expertise, will be mobilized to engage with their communities. The goal of this engagement will be to understand their concerns and address them to ensure Indigenous, Black, racialized and low-income communities have the information that they need in order to participate in the vaccination campaign with confidence.
- In combination with a grassroots media strategy, SDFA is creating a Subject Matter Expert Taskforce with Black community members who are specialists in the development, regulation and distribution of vaccines as well as specialists in knowledge translation, who will convey scientific concepts into informative materials. These experts have worked extensively in this field for decades and can engage networks to reach various communities within the city. TPH will support these individuals with materials, messages and logistics requirements in order to facilitate an impactful connection with these communities.

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Community Liaison: Subject Matter Expert Taskforce

Taskforce Members:

- *Dr. Akwatu Khenti* (Chair) – CoT Strategic Advisor/Consultant
- *Dr. Michael Finkelstein* – City of Toronto Associate Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health
- *Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey* – City of Toronto Deputy Associate Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health
- *Nicole Welch* – City of Toronto, Director, Toronto Public Health
- *Aina-Nia Ayo'dele Grant* – City of Toronto, Director, Toronto Public Health
- *Dr. Candice Todd* - naturopathic doctor with expertise on health promotion and disease prevention
- *Dr. David Burt* - immunologist with leadership in vaccine development
- *Dr. Isaac Odame* - physician with expertise on sickle cell disease
- *Dr. Kwame McKenzie* - psychiatrist and Black mental health and health equity policy
- *Dr. Upton Allen* - infectious disease expertise; lead investigator on COVID at Sick Kids
- *Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman* - expertise in vaccine allergies
- *Celina Caesar-Chavannes* - expertise in clinical trials
- *Francis Jeffers* - expertise in vaccine marketing
- *Trevor Aldridge* - expertise in regulatory aspects of vaccine approvals

City of Toronto's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign - Community Liaison Continued...

Community Liaison

- SDFA is the lead, with support from TPH, SSHA and Strategic Communications

Community Engagement Planning Framework

- Leverage TO Supports: Targeted Equity Plan to expand engagement and activities in implementing the City's immunization community engagement
- Collaborate with the community to enhance promotion and accountability throughout the immunization deployment process

Community Engagement Planning Goals

- Taking a resident-centered design approach to vaccine promotion through community championing
- Using general COVID educational sharing and testing promotions to socialize residents to vaccine receptivity
- Acknowledging and recognizing ethno-racial diversity and inclusion
- Building trust and confidence in City's efforts to save lives and the recognition of systemic racism. Therefore, prioritizing life-saving efforts in Indigenous, Black and racialized group