

**Welcome. The COVID-19 Briefing Webinar
will begin shortly.**



COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 9 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series
May 10, 2021; 12:15-1pm

Dr. Cindy Shen
Public Health Physician, York Region

Dr. Mehvish Mehrani
Public Health Physician, York Region



THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED

Please note this meeting will be recorded.

- During this meeting, you will have the opportunity to contribute or ask questions
- Questions will be gathered and sorted to avoid duplication and ensure the best response
- Although your name will not appear on the screen to attendees, producers and presenters may have access to that information
- If you have questions about the recording of this webinar, please contact HEOCLiaison@york.ca

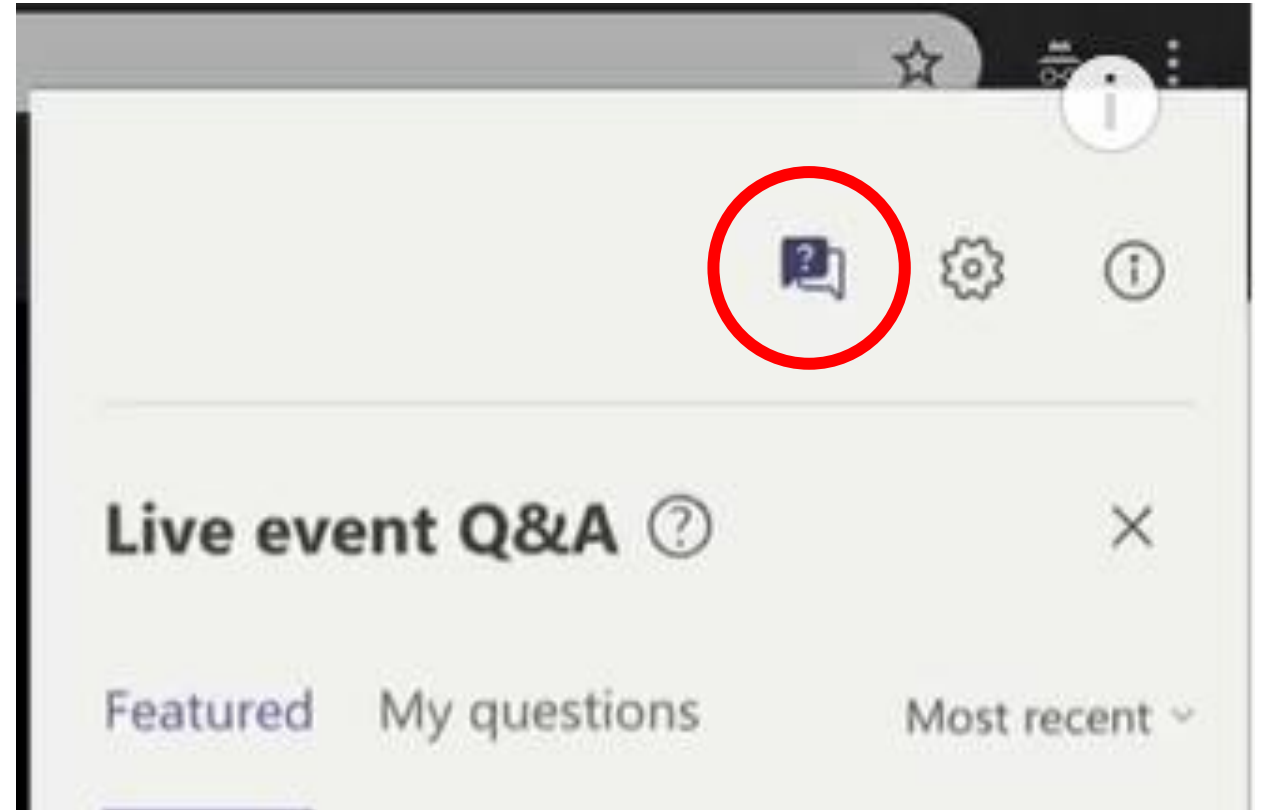
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

To ask a question:

Select **Q&A** on the right side of the screen.

Type your question in the compose box, and then select **Send**.

Questions will be screened by the moderator and posed to the presenters.



CONTENTS

- Epi updates
 - Case counts and outbreaks
 - Variant situation and updates
- Provincial updates
 - Stay at home order
 - Self-isolation recommendations
 - Directive and guidance updates
- Vaccine updates:
 - Eligibility, second dose interval
 - Vaccine coverage
 - VITT, J&J, Pfizer updates
 - Pregnancy, antibody testing
- Additional resources
- Q&A

EPI UPDATES

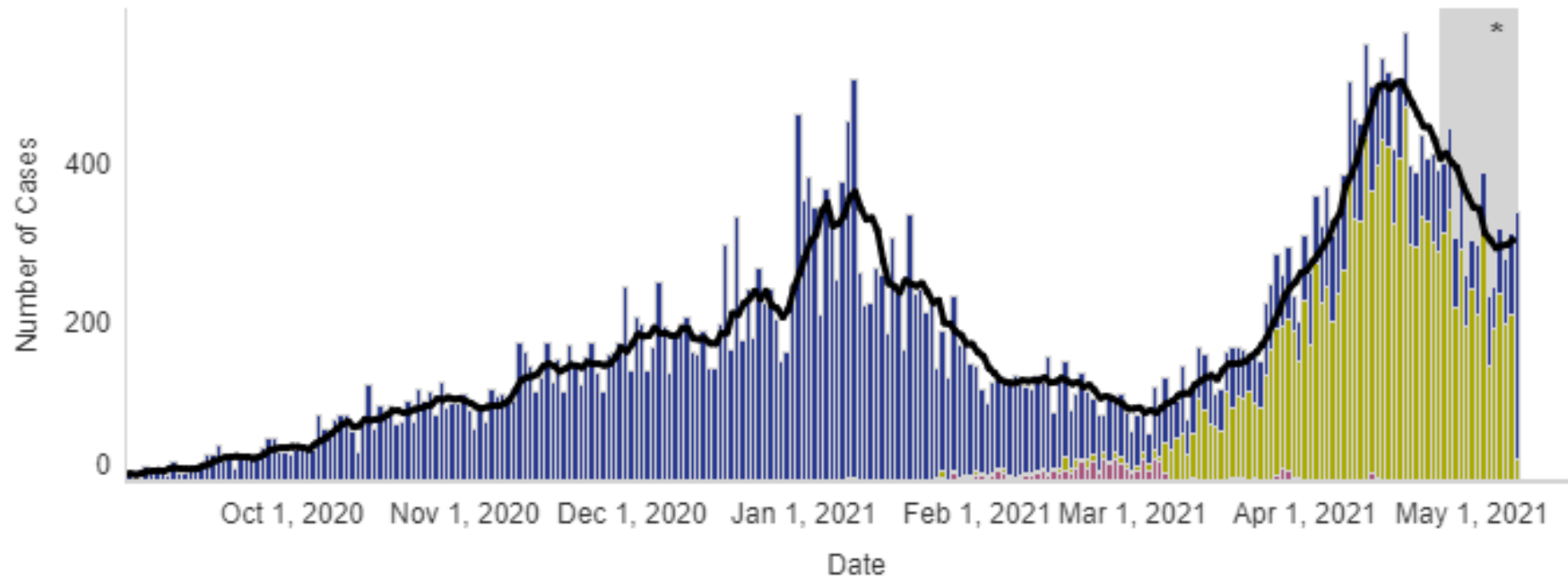
YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- CASE COUNTS

Epidemic Curve: Daily Cases in York Region

View Cases by:

Select Time Period:

Source of Infection:



- SARS-CoV-2 (Reference strain)
- Mutation Detected (Lineage not determined)
- Confirmed Lineage

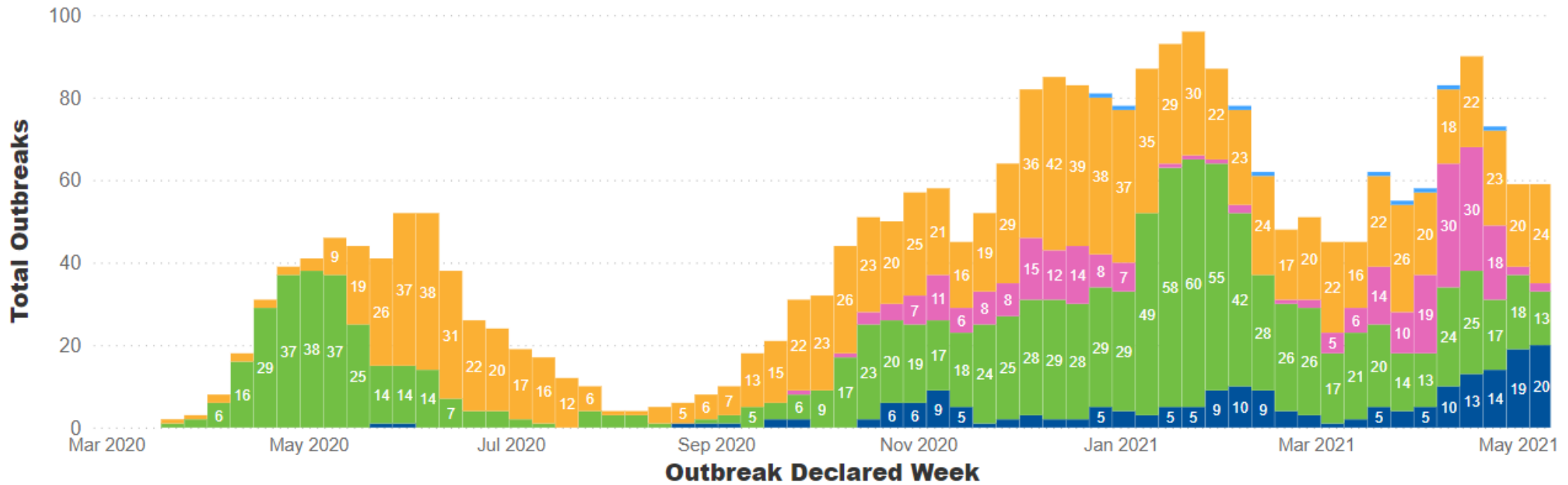
YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- OUTBREAKS



COVID-19 Outbreaks in York Region

As of 5:00pm
May 8, 2021

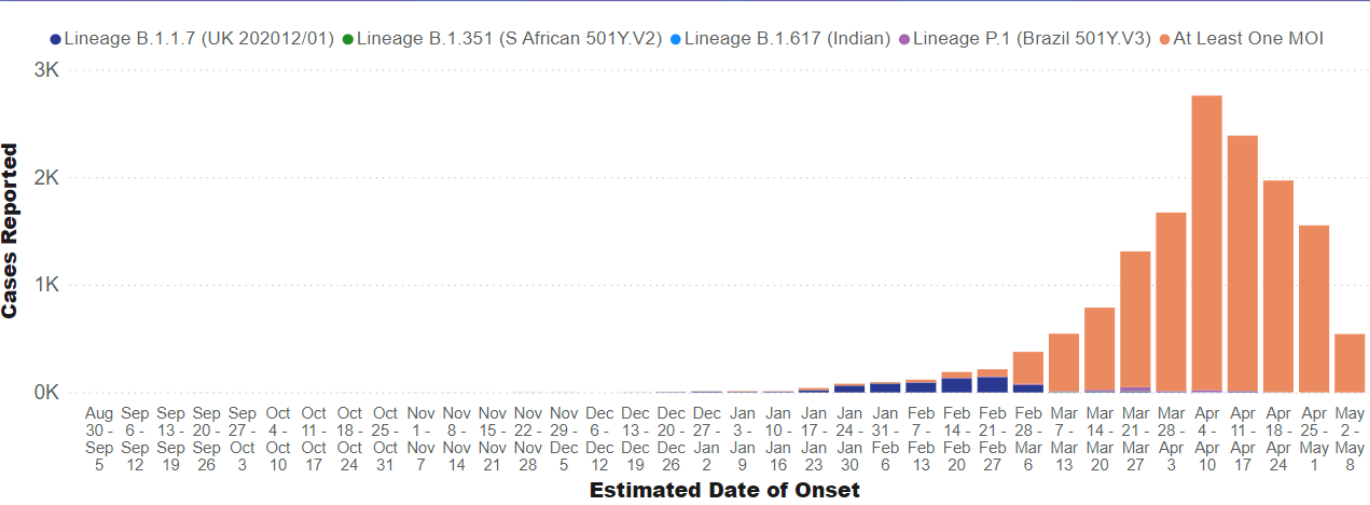
Confirmed Open Outbreaks Today



YORK REGION EPIDEMIOLOGY- VARIANT SITUATION

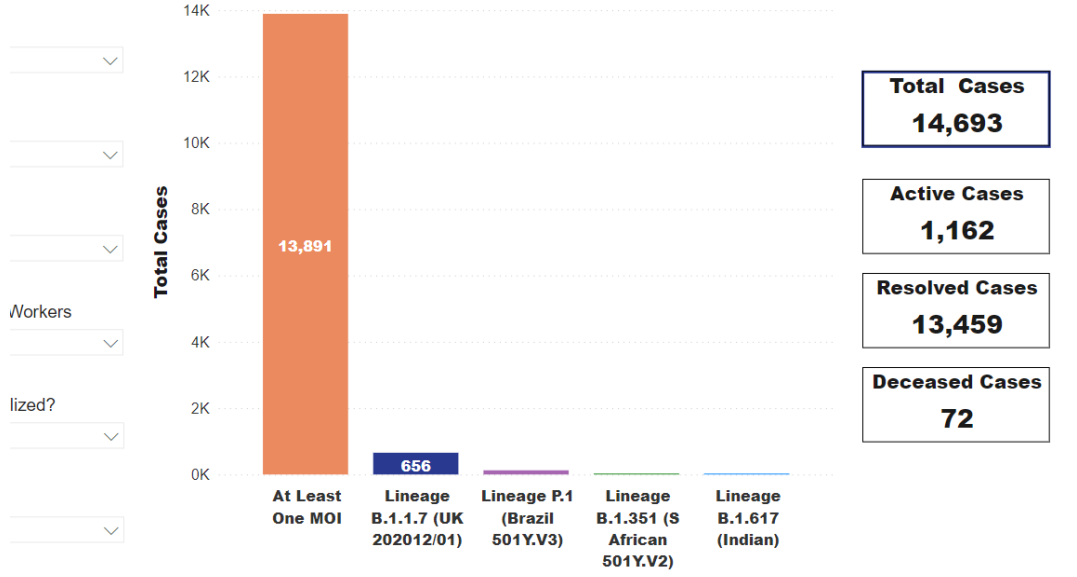
York Region Epidemic Curve of Confirmed VOC/MOI Cases in York Region

As of 9:00am May 9, 2021



COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC) & Mutations of Interest (MOI) in York Region

As of 9:00am May 9, 2021



COVID-19 B.1.617 Variant of Interest (VOI)

- VOI: genetic markers that have been associated with changes to receptor binding, reduced neutralization by antibodies, reduced treatment efficacy, potential diagnostic impact, or predicted increase in transmissibility or disease severity
- B.1.617 was first detected in India in October 2020.
- In Canada, the B.1.617 lineage has been reported in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, and Manitoba.
- Two key spike protein mutations: L452R, E484Q
- Potential reduction in neutralization by some EUA monoclonal antibody treatments and slightly reduced neutralization by post-vaccination sera

Variants of Concern:

PHO

Resource

FACT SHEET

Comparing SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs)* as of March 31, 2021

This table compares characteristics of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Variants of Concern (VOCs). This table is current as of March 15, 2021 and will be updated as more information becomes available.

	B.1.1.7	B.1.351	P.1
Public Health England name	VOC-202012/01	VOC-202012/02	VOC-202101/02
Nextstrain clade	20I/501Y.V1	20H/501Y.V2	20J/501Y.V2
Location first detected	United Kingdom (Kent)	South Africa (Eastern Cape)	Brazil (Manaus)
Detected in multiple countries?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Detected in Ontario?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Increased transmissibility?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Increased disease severity?	Yes	Unknown [†]	Unknown [†]
Impact on molecular tests?	Yes [‡]	No	No
Impact on antigen tests?	No	No	No
Impact on serological tests?	Unknown [†]	Unknown [†]	Unknown [†]
Immune escape?	No	Yes	Yes
Impact on vaccine effectiveness?	No	Yes ^{§,¶}	Potential impact [¶]
Spike mutations (key mutations in bold) [#]	Δ69-70[‡] , N501Y^{**} D614G, P681H/R	L18F, K417N , E484K , N501Y , D614G, A701V	L18F, K417T , E484K , N501Y , D614G

Abbreviations: Δ, deletion; VOC, variant of concern

For additional information on VOCs and interpreting this table, please refer to PHO's [Companion Guide to Variants of Concern \(VOCs\)](#)

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

- Individuals are required to remain at home with exceptions only for essential purposes
- No indoor or outdoor organized public events and social gatherings
- Remote work with limited exceptions where on-site work is necessary
- Limit capacity for all businesses or facilities, some with additional restrictions
- Limit for religious services, rites or ceremonies
- For more information on enhanced public health and safety measures visit [York Region's Public Health Safety Measures Page](#).

SELF ISOLATION

Self-isolation for:

- Confirmed/[probable case](#) e.g. symptomatic close contacts (even if fully vaccinated)
- Asymptomatic close contact of confirmed/probable case (follow PHU advice)
- Anyone symptomatic while test result is pending (even if mild symptoms or fully vaccinated)
- Household members of symptomatic individuals until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result or is provided an alternative diagnosis by a healthcare professional

Resources:

- [When to Self-isolate for Household Members \(PHO, April 15\)](#)
- [How To Care For A Child Who Needs To Self-Isolate \(PHO, March 25\)](#)
- If isolation is not possible in your own home, and criteria are met, the [York Region Voluntary Isolation Centre](#) can be an option

PROVINCIAL GUIDANCE/DIRECTIVE UPDATES

- [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario \(May 6\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance \(May 6\)](#)
- [Directive 3 for Long-term Care Homes \(May 4\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-term Care Homes in Ontario \(May 4\)](#)
- [Directive 2 for Health Care Providers \(April 20\)](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

PROJECTED TIMELINE OF PHASE 2

Phase 2	Primary Priority		Secondary Priority	
	APR	MAY	JUN	
Older Adults	Over 75			
	Over 70			
	Over 65			
	Over 60			
Health Conditions	Individuals with health conditions			
	Highest Risk & Caregivers	High Risk & Certain Caregivers	At Risk Health Conditions	
Congregate Settings	High Risk Congregate Living Settings			
Hot Spots	COVID-19 Hot Spot Communities			
	Highest Risk Communities	Remaining Hot Spot Communities		
Cannot-Work-From-Home	Essential Workers who cannot work from home			
		Certain education workers in Group 1	Group 1	Group 2

COVID-19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY IN YORK REGION

As of Monday, May 10, COVID-19 Vaccine appointments in York Region are available to:

- 40 years of age and older who live in York Region
- 18 years of age and older who **live or work** in 16 high priority communities
- Individuals who cannot work from home and listed in Group 1 and Group 2 of the Provincial COVID-19 Vaccination Plan
- Individuals with highest, high and at-risk health conditions
- All health care workers (including those who work from home)

Week of May 17

- 30 years of age or older who live in York Region

Week of May 24

- 18 years of age and older who live in York Region

Please ask your patients to visit york.ca/covid19vaccine regularly and follow [York Region social media channels](#) to receive updates on vaccine eligibility

AT RISK HEALTH CONDITIONS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATION

- Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders
- Stroke and cerebrovascular disease
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Liver disease
- All other cancers
- Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy
- Spleen problems, such as asplenia
- Heart disease
- Hypertension with end organ damage
- Diagnosed mental disorder
- Substance use disorders
- Sickle cell disease
- Thalassemia
- Immunocompromising health conditions
- Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community

Those with the highest risk and high-risk health conditions were already eligible.

HIGH PRIORITY COMMUNITIES (HOT SPOTS)

- Determined by high historic and ongoing rates of COVID-19 transmission, hospitalization, and death
- 16 hotspots identified in York Region
 - L0J, L3L, L4H, L4J, L4K, L4L, L6A, L3T, L6B, L6C, L6E, L3S, L4B, L4C, L4E, L9N
- Targeted approaches with vaccination
- Continual importance to promote and support vaccination

FIND PATIENTS IN HOT SPOT COMMUNITIES

There is a new EMR search that will help primary care providers to quickly identify patients in hot spot communities who are now eligible to for the COVID-19 Vaccine by postal code

The search can be found and [downloaded](#) on the [eHealth Centre for Excellence community portal](#)

Support guides for TELUS PSS, OSCAR and QHR Accuro EMRS are available:

- [Telus PSS Support Guide](#)
- [Oscar Support Guide](#)
- [QHR Accuro Support Guide](#)



ELIGIBILITY FOR SHORTENED SECOND DOSE APPOINTMENT

York Region Public Health and our partner led clinics will now be providing the following patients with their second dose within as close to a 21-28 day timeframe as possible:

- People who have had a solid organ transplant
- People who received a stem cell transplant
- People with cancer of the blood, bones or lymph nodes who are undergoing active treatment*
- People with malignant solid tumours undergoing active treatment*
- Hemodialysis or Peritoneal dialysis, urban Indigenous Populations, high-risk health care workers (new)

**Active treatment is defined as chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy; not those receiving only radiation or hormonal therapy.*

COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE IN YORK REGION

Total number and proportion of York Region age groups who have received at least one dose:

Data reflective up until end of May 7, 2021

	Total Number	Proportion
80 years of age and older	44,558	91.6%
75-79 years of age	30,690	89.8%
70-74 years of age	44,391	83.6%
65-69 years of age	51,005	80.2%
60-64 years of age	57,746	73.0%
55-59 years of age	56,471	60.5%
50-54 years of age	50,946	55.1%
45-49 years of age	44,666	51.3%
40-44 years of age	37,083	48.7%
35-39 years of age	27,301	36.6%

Total number of vaccines administered to York Region residents	517,933
Total number of York Region residents who have received at least one dose	492,230

York Region @YorkRegionGovt

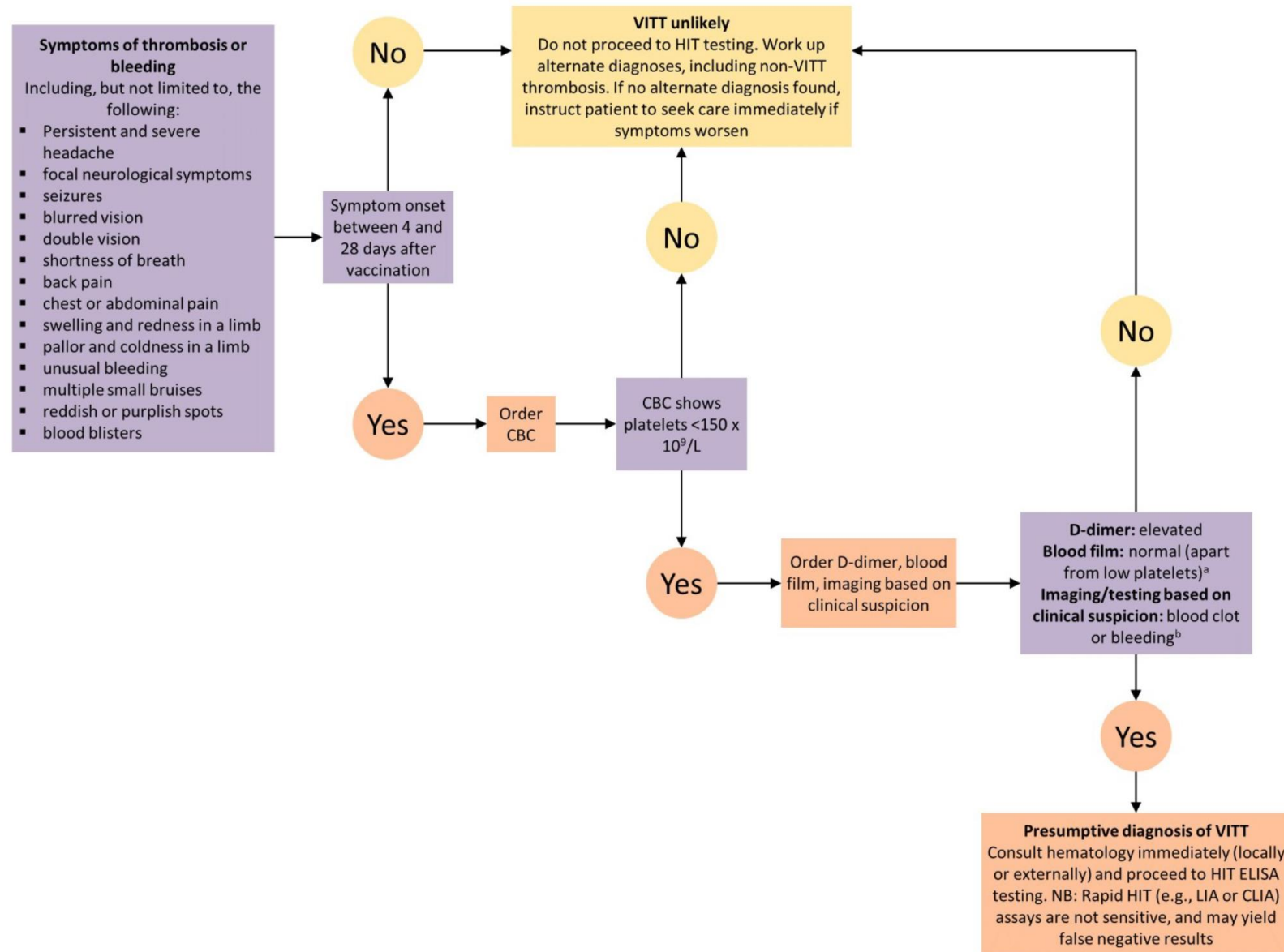
#YorkRegion reaches 50% of eligible adult population vaccinated with first dose and over 500,000 vaccines in arms! This milestone is a testament to the dedication of many individuals and partners. Thank you!
bit.ly/3vROc6j

853 views 0:04 / 0:08

VACCINE CLINIC APPOINTMENTS

- Confirm you meet the current eligibility; **if you do not meet eligibility you will be turned away**
- Appointments should be booked for **first dose appointments only**
- Vaccines are by **appointment only** (no walk-in appointments)
- **Do not book appointments at multiple clinics**
- One family member or caregiver may accompany eligible residents to their appointments
- A health card is not required to book an appointment through [York Region's booking system](#)
- A health card is required when booking through the [Provincial Booking System](#)
- Proof of age and residence will be required on the day you receive your vaccine; Health care workers are asked to bring proof of employment (i.e. photo ID or letter from employer)
- Before you attend a COVID-19 vaccine clinic, it's important you [prepare for your COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) Following Adenovirus Vector COVID-19 Vaccination (Ontario Science Table, May 7 2021)



Benefit vs. Risk

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD: 1 per 26,000 – 1 per 127,000 doses administered
incidence of VITT (Canadian estimate as of April 28, 2021: 1 per 100,000 doses)

Johnson & Johnson: 1 per 500,000 doses administered
incidence of VITT

Risk of being in ICU among COVID-19 cases 1 in 100 Canadians

There have been over 1.1 million cases of COVID-19 in Canada so far, and COVID-19 has killed over 24,000 Canadians

Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) Following Adenovirus Vector COVID-19 Vaccination (Ontario Science Table, May 7 2021)

UPDATE: Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)

- The Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is a single dose viral vector vaccine authorized for use in Canada
- On May 3rd, [NACI](#) updated their guidance to recommend the use of the Janssen vaccine for individuals 30 years of age or older without contraindications, if the individual does not wish to wait for the mRNA vaccine and the benefits outweigh the risk for the individual
- Public health benefit-risk analyses for the use of the Janssen vaccine may vary between jurisdictions based on their unique circumstances, including local COVID-19 epidemiology
- As a single dose vaccine, the Janssen vaccine may be better suited for populations that are harder to schedule for a second dose (e.g., mobile populations and certain hard to reach populations)
- Canada has received 300,000 doses of the one-dose vaccine, held by Health Canada while investigating potential quality control issue

UPDATE: Pfizer for Adolescents

- On May 5, [Health Canada](#) authorized use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age
 - The study included 2260 adolescents 12 to 15 years of age who were randomised equally to receive 2 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or placebo 21 days apart. Young adults 16 to 25 years of age served as a reference group
- Based on cases reported from at least 7 days after dose 2, efficacy of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was 100% (95% CI: 75.3-100.0%). No severe COVID-19 cases were reported in the study
- Adverse reactions reported within 7 days after any dose, included fatigue, headache, fever and/or chills, muscle and/or joint pain, and pain, swelling, and/or redness at the injection sites

VACCINES & PREGNANCY

Pregnant individuals are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine following the provincial government amendment of pregnancy risk level to “highest risk” under the Ontario Vaccine Distribution Plan

- One essential caregiver is also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time the pregnant individual

Pregnant individuals are encouraged to consult with their health-care provider and receive a vaccine as soon as they are able. It is recommended pregnant individuals have a discussion with their treating health-care provider or with a health-care provider familiar with their pregnancy, that includes:

- A review of the potential risks and benefits of the vaccine
- A review of the risk of acquiring a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy, review of the potential risks/consequences associated with a COVID-19 infection during pregnancy
- An acknowledgment of the limited evidence from clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines in the pregnant population
- [Special Populations Vaccination in Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#) - Patient Decision-Making Tool

SOGC Consensus Statement (reaffirmed May 4):

- Pregnant individuals should be offered vaccination at any time during pregnancy or while breastfeeding if no contraindications exist. Given that pregnant people are at increased risk of morbidity from COVID-19 infection, all pregnant persons should be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- The SOGC supports the use of all available COVID-19 vaccines approved in Canada in any trimester of pregnancy and during breastfeeding in accordance with regional eligibility.
- The decision to be vaccinated is based on the individual’s personal values, as well as an understanding that the risk of infection and/or morbidity from COVID-19 outweighs the theorized and undescribed risk of being vaccinated during pregnancy or while breastfeeding. Individuals should not be precluded from vaccination based on pregnancy status or breastfeeding.

ANTIBODY TESTING AND COVID 19 VACCINES

- Antibody testing is not currently recommended to assess for immunity to COVID-19 following COVID-19 vaccination or to assess the need for vaccination in an unvaccinated person
- Since vaccines induce antibodies to specific viral protein targets, post-vaccination serologic test results will be negative in persons without history of previous natural infection if the test used does not detect antibodies induced by the vaccine

ASTRAZENCA DISTRIBUTION BY PRIMARY CARE

- Survey was sent to primary care offices to assess readiness for AstraZeneca distribution
- Currently, have 40 primary care offices administering AstraZeneca
- Participating primary care offices are encouraged to join the [Primary Care Vaccination Community of Practice](#) to learn and support colleagues

If you did not receive the survey and would like to administer AZ, please email heocliaison@york.ca. If you would like to immunize at a mass immunization clinic, please email vaccineopsscheduling@york.ca

Additional Resources

OTHER VACCINE RELATED RESOURCES

Public Health Ontario

- [What you need to know about mRNA Vaccines](#)
- [What you need to know about Viral Vector Vaccines](#)
- [Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFIs\) for COVID-19](#) - December 13, 2020 to May 1, 2021
- [Building Confidence in Vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 Real-World Vaccine Effectiveness](#) - What we know so far

Ministry of Health (Updated in April 2021)

- [Administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Administration of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Ontario eConsult Service: <https://econsultontario.ca>



Access to COVID-19 Advice through eConsult

The Ontario eConsult Service, accessed on the OTNhub and a part of the **Ontario eServices Program**, is a secure web-based tool, that allows physicians and nurse practitioners timely access to specialist advice.

The Ontario eConsult Service, accessed on the [OTNhub.ca](https://www.otnhub.ca), offers easy and timely access to specialist advice, including questions related to COVID-19.

The following specialties are now available through the **BASE™ Managed Specialty** option through the COVID-19 and Public Health specialty categories:

-  COVID-19 Infectious Diseases
-  COVID-19 Vaccine - Public Health
-  COVID-19 Vaccine - Allergy/Immunology
-  COVID-19 and Autoimmune Disorders
-  COVID-19 and Pregnancy



Check out our guide on sending Vaccine Allergy questions

The COVID-19 specialties are the only groups that allow for population-based, non-patient specific clinical questions, in addition to the ability to ask patient-specific eConsult questions.

"Very helpful, in this time of closed offices and social distancing, to be able to ask a question and confirm definitive management of a case."
- eConsult user and Primary Care Provider



Send an eConsult today 

- Need a refresher on how to submit an eConsult? Watch our [video](#) or contact us at eConsultCOE@toh.ca for support.
- To sign up for eConsult, visit www.otnhub.ca or complete our [Intake Form](#) and a member from our team will assist you.

For more information visit www.eConsultOntario.ca or contact us eConsultCOE@toh.ca

LINKS TO BOOKMARK

Centre for Effective Practice

- [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) -practical evidence for primary care

York Region

- [york.ca/healthprofessionals](#) - health care provider specific page
- [york.ca/COVID19](#) - general COVID-19 page

Public Health Ontario

- [Report of Adverse Event Following Vaccination](#) - form

Ministry of Health

- [COVID-19 Guidance for the Health Care Sector](#) - Provincial COVID-19 guidance
- [COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources](#) - Provincial vaccination guidance

Q&A PERIOD

YORK.CA/HEALTHPROFESSIONALS

- CANCER
- COVID-19
- DENTAL
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- FOOD SAFETY
- HEALTH AT WORK
- HEALTH INFORMATION LINE
- HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
- Announcements and Resources
- Cannabis
- Child Growth and Development
- COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals
- Early Years Support Services Registry
- Ebola Virus Disease for Health Professionals
- E-Newsletter for Health Care Professionals
- Health Statistics and Reports
- Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Management
- Information for Dental and Healthcare Providers
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Opioids
- Quitting Smoking
- Tuberculosis
- Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals



Announcements and Resources

York Region provides important public health updates and offers events and resources, like the Public Health Matters newsletter, to support health care providers



COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals

York Region Public Health continues to provide support for health professionals related to COVID-19 (formerly referred to as novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV)



Cannabis

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, weed or pot, can be consumed for medical and non-medical purposes. Find out more about legalization and the health effects of cannabis use in adults and youth.



Child Growth and Development

Find tools and resources for parents to help children grow and develop. When parents know what to expect at each stage of development, it can be easier to meet their child's needs and understand their behaviour.



E-Newsletter for Health Care Professionals

Sign up to receive the quarterly Public Health Matters E-Newsletter for health care professionals.



Early Years Support Services Registry

This is a resource for health, early learning and child care professionals in York Region who wish to refer a young child or their family for support services. It provides information about programs and services available including details regarding eligibility and

NEWSROOM

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Campaigns & Projects



Radon: Test Your Home

You can't see, taste or smell radon but it is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Learn more about radon and the York Region study.

[More Campaigns & Projects >>](#)

Contact Us

Health Connection

EMAIL

THANK YOU

Remember to sign up to [Public Health Matters](#) for:

- Today's slides
- Follow up Q&As and
- Future webinar information

