



Hamilton

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

BIA Advisory Committee

July 13, 2021

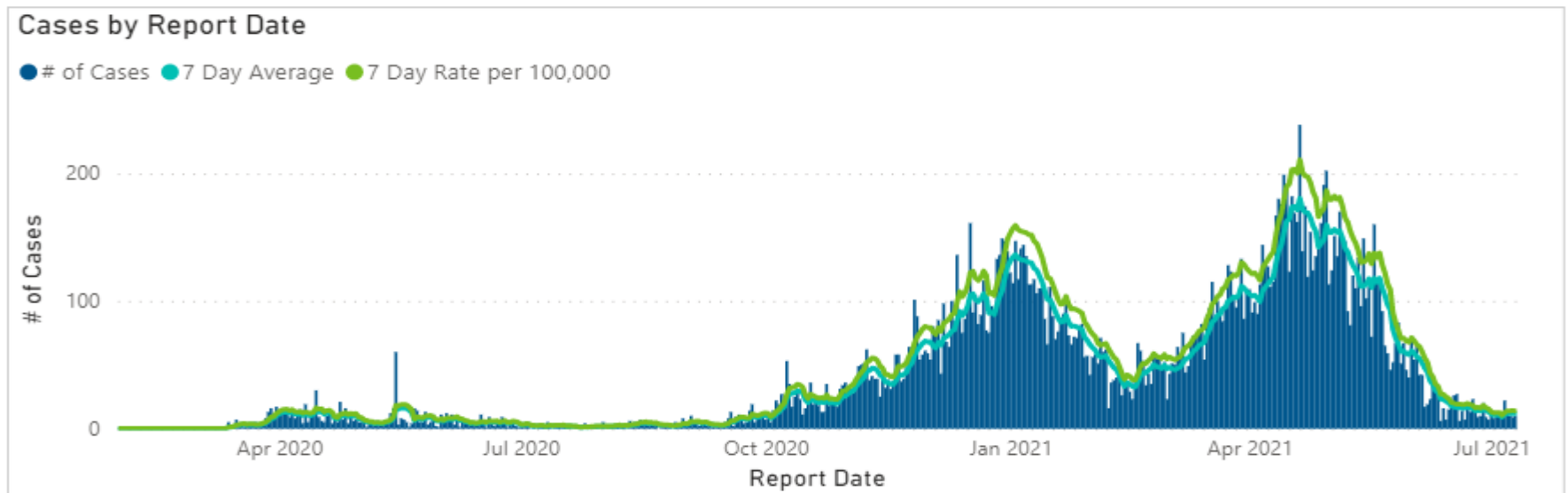


Overview

- Local epidemiology and forecasting updates
- Vaccination data & symptom management
- PHAC guidance for fully vaccinated individuals
- Overview of Step 2
- Overview of Step 3
- WorkWise campaign
- Rapid testing

Local epidemiology update

- Local data can be found on the CoH webpage “[Status of Cases in Hamilton](#)”
- Brief update as of July 12, 2021:
 - Number of new cases (7 day average) = 12
 - Current reproductive number = 1.05
 - Current # of outbreaks = 3
 - Average number of deaths per day = 0-1





Forecasting update

- Current forecasts continue to be positive. However, Delta variant continues to pose an unknown risk
- Forecasts indicate that current lower levels of Delta variant circulating could prevent a swell of 600 cases in August 2021 and can be maintained by:
 - Increased vaccination levels, particularly 2nd dose coverage
 - Maintaining public health measures such as masking, physical distancing and reducing contacts



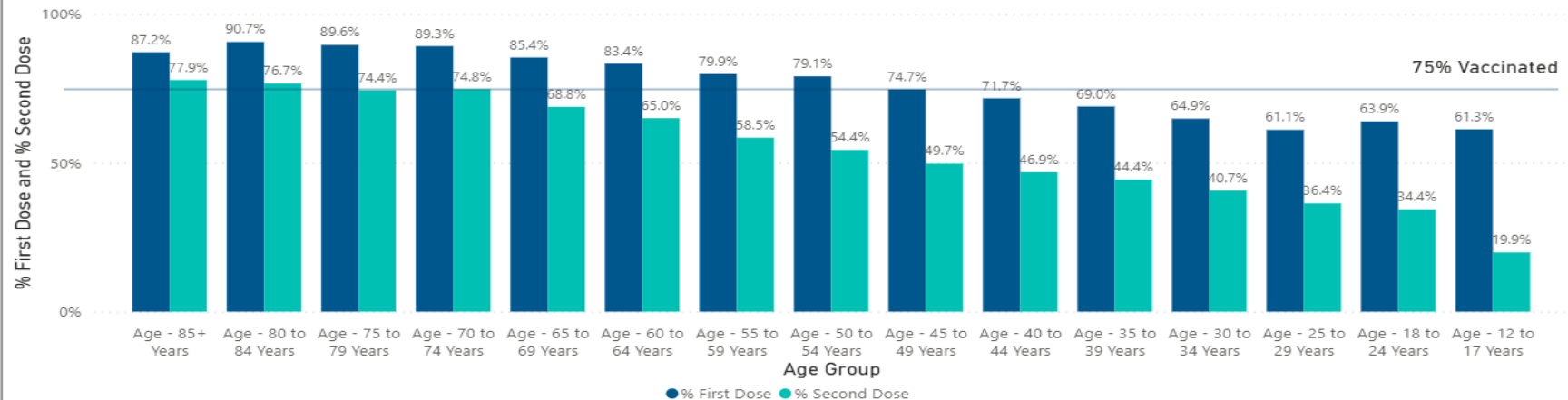
Vaccination Update

- Local data can be found on the CoH webpage: [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution](#)
- As of July 12, 75.1% of individuals 18+ had at least one dose administered in Hamilton and 52.9% were fully vaccinated.

Estimated COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage by Age Groups in Hamilton

The chart below describes vaccination progress by age group in Hamilton.

% Vaccinated by Age Group



Data Source: IntelliHealth (COVAXon Data Load).

Vaccination, workplace and symptom management

- Information specific to workplaces and vaccination can be found on the CoH webpage: [COVID-19 Vaccination and Workplaces](#)
- **Workplaces/Businesses should continue to encourage all workers to follow direction from provincial screening tools**
- Certain screening criteria would allow workers to return to onsite work following vaccination if they are:
 - Experiencing mild symptoms within 48 hours after vaccination (e.g. headache, fatigue, muscle ache, joint pain)
 - Required to be at work
 - Do not have known exposure to confirmed COVID-19 case in last 14 days



Fully vaccinated status & work guidance

- New guidance for fully vaccinated individuals (> 14 days since 2nd dose). Can attend work even if:
 - Received a COVID-19 exposure alert from the cell phone app
 - Have travelled outside of Canada
 - Are living with someone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results

Fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case require a Public Health assessment to determine need to self-isolate

Fully Vaccinated and PHAC guidelines



Government
of Canada

- New guidance has been developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC):
 - [Vaccinated Against COVID-19? What does it mean to me?](#)
- New guidance permits individuals to discard certain public health measures depending on setting/activity and risk-status
- We are still waiting for provincial adoption of PHAC guidance



Step 2 – Overview

Key messages:

- Public Health measures from Step 1 to Step 2 remain in effect e.g. physical distancing, screening, contact tracing, face masks safety plans etc.
- Fully vaccinated individuals must follow all current regulations

Major changes for Step 2 related to:

- Opening of additional businesses (e.g. PSS, non-essential retail, outdoor performing arts, live music, amusement parks etc.)
- Increased capacity limits (non-essential 25%, essential 50%)
- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events for up to 25 people (indoors 5 people)

Step 2

- Businesses are required to **post**:
 - Prepare **safety plans** & post in visible place
 - Post **face covering** requirements
 - Post **passive screening** requirements
 - Post **capacity limits** (*required for: retail, restaurants, PSS, photography studios and services, meeting or event spaces and entertainment venues)

Businesses are required to **screen**:

- All employees and visitors actively
- All patrons passively & patrons actively if required:
 - Meeting or event spaces
 - Restaurants, bars & nightclubs (dine in)
 - Facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities
 - Personal fitness & sports trainers
 - Personal care services
 - Teaching and instruction, driving instruction
 - Media industries (i.e. photography studies)

Province moving into Step 3 as of Friday July 16, 2021

Indoor dining

- No limits per table, subject to physical distancing
- No dancing at restaurants

Nightclubs/restobars (dancing venues)

- 25% capacity or up to max 250 people

Sports & rec

- Max 50% capacity indoors
- Indoor spectators 50% capacity or 1000 pple

Retail

- Essential and Non-Essential capacity limited to number of people that can maintain a physical distance of 2 metres

Concerts, cinemas & theatres

- Up to 50% indoors (max 1000 pple for seated events)
- Up to 75% outdoors (max 15, 000 pple for events with fixed seating).

Personal care services

- Includes services requiring removal of face covering
- Capacity limited to number that can physically distance

Museums, casinos, amusement parks etc.

- 50% capacity indoors
- 75% capacity outdoors



WorkWise Campaign

WorkWise Hamilton

- Campaign created in partnership with the Hamilton COVID Concierge Team and Hamilton Public Health Services
- Supports local workplaces with information and resources needed to 'WorkWise' and assist them as we transition between Steps
- Webpage contains:
 - Work-related resources and information
 - Links to upcoming webinars
 - Workplace safety checklist/ interactive quiz
 - Suggestions for how workplaces can share innovations that have enabled them to WorkWise

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Rapid Antigen Testing – Overview

- Rapid testing is an additional public health layer that businesses can adopt
- Rapid testing should NOT be used for individuals
 - With symptoms
 - Who are close contacts
 - Who have previously been infected and recovered from COVID-19
 - To diagnose COVID-19
- Rapid testing does not:
 - Replace public health measures such as symptom screening, physical distancing and so forth
 - prevent someone from getting COVID-19
- Any positive test from rapid testing must be confirmed with laboratory-based PCR testing within 24 hours

More information can be found on the CoH webpage: [Rapid Antigen Testing](#)..

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Rapid Antigen Testing- process for enrolling

- More information for businesses looking to participate in the rapid screening program is available on the Concierge webpage: [Vaccines & Rapid Testing](#) & Hamilton Chamber of Commerce webpage: [Hamilton Rapid Testing](#)
- Free COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Testing Kits for business with fewer than 150 employees from the HCC (and through Ministry for larger organizations)
- Prior to placing an order, business are required to:
 - Watch a 5-minute instructional training video on self-collection for COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Testing
 - Complete a Provincial Antigen Screening Program form upon first pick up
 - Complete a Terms of Use Agreement upon first pick up



Hamilton

THANK YOU

Additional Questions

Visit the City of Hamilton's COVID-19 website at [Hamilton.ca/coronavirus](https://hamilton.ca/coronavirus)

Visit the Concierge Workwise website at <https://hamiltoncovidconcierge.ca/workwise/>

Contact us with your questions at (905) 974-9848 or phscovid19@Hamilton.ca

