



Hamilton

# COVID-19 Situation Report & Organizational Update

Board of Health

February 14, 2022

# Overview

1. Overall Status
2. COVID-19 Situation Report
3. Scarsin Forecast
4. COVID-19 Vaccine Update
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# Overall Status

- While we are past the peak of the Omicron-driven wave, risk of transmission continues to be elevated
- Cases, hospitalizations and deaths predicted to remain above pre-Omicron levels into March 2022
- Increased spread anticipated as measures are lifted during Ontario's staged reopening creating a modest increase of cases and hospitalizations

# Overall Status

- Vaccination Status (As of February 10, 2022):
  - 90.0% of 12yrs+ with one dose, 87.5% with two doses
  - 50.2% of 5-11yrs with one dose
  - 63.8% of eligible 18yrs+ with 3<sup>rd</sup> dose
- As reopen, continue to exercise caution to preserve healthcare capacity and keep those who are most vulnerable safe

# SITUATION REPORT

Erin Rodenburg, Epidemiologist

# Phases of COVID-19 in Hamilton – Omicron Wave

## Phase 1: Pre-peak

December 1, 2021 – January 8, 2022 (1 month)

- 166 Hospitalizations
- 35 Intensive Care Unit Admissions
- 13 Fatalities
- Update to outbreak reporting: only high-risk settings
- Updates to testing eligibility
- Vaccine doses administered increased (3<sup>rd</sup> Doses)

## Phase 2: Peak

January 9, 2022 – January 24, 2022 (0.5 months)

- 187 Hospitalizations
- 31 Intensive Care Unit Admissions
- 46 Fatalities
- Return to in-person learning

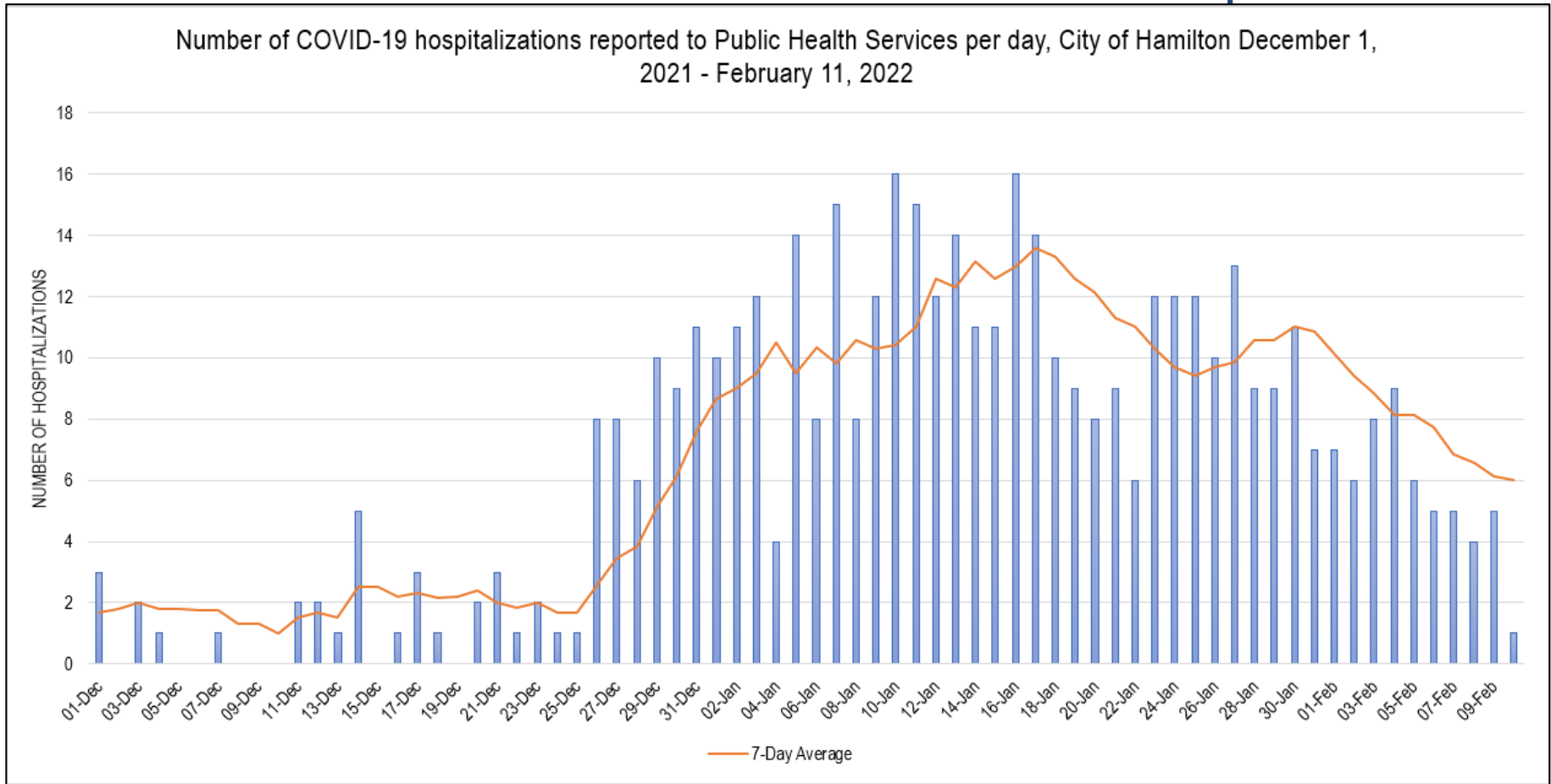
## Phase 3: Post-peak

January 25, 2022 – Present (0.5 months)

- 127 Hospitalizations
- 20 Intensive Care Unit Admissions
- 26 Fatalities
- Beginning of staged provincial reopening
- Continued strain on our healthcare systems

# Hospitalizations

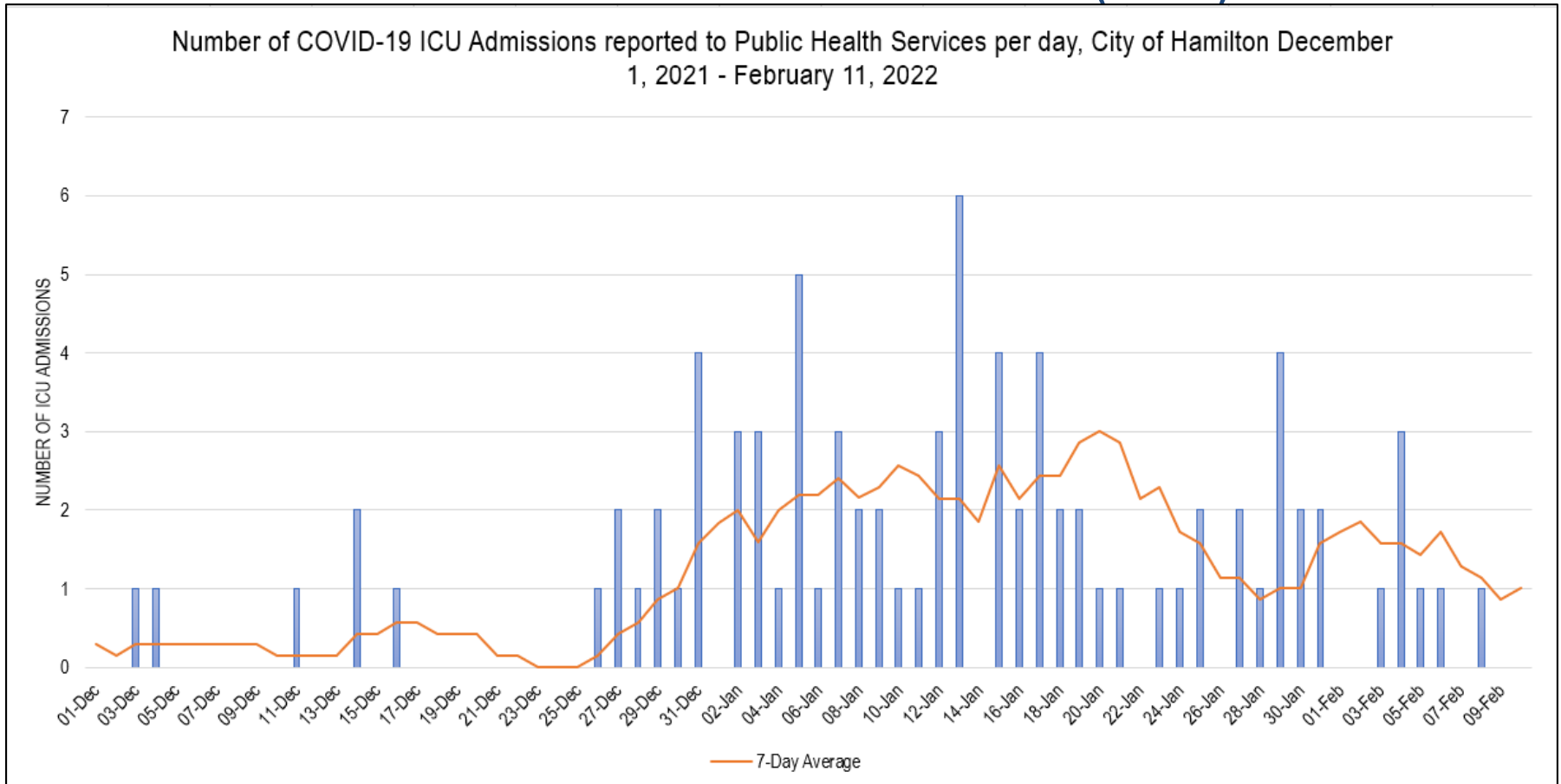
Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations reported to Public Health Services per day, City of Hamilton December 1, 2021 - February 11, 2022



## Key Messages

- COVID-19 Hospitalizations have been decreasing since the peak of the omicron wave
- As of February 11, 2022, there were approximately six new COVID-19 hospitalizations per day reported to Hamilton Public Health

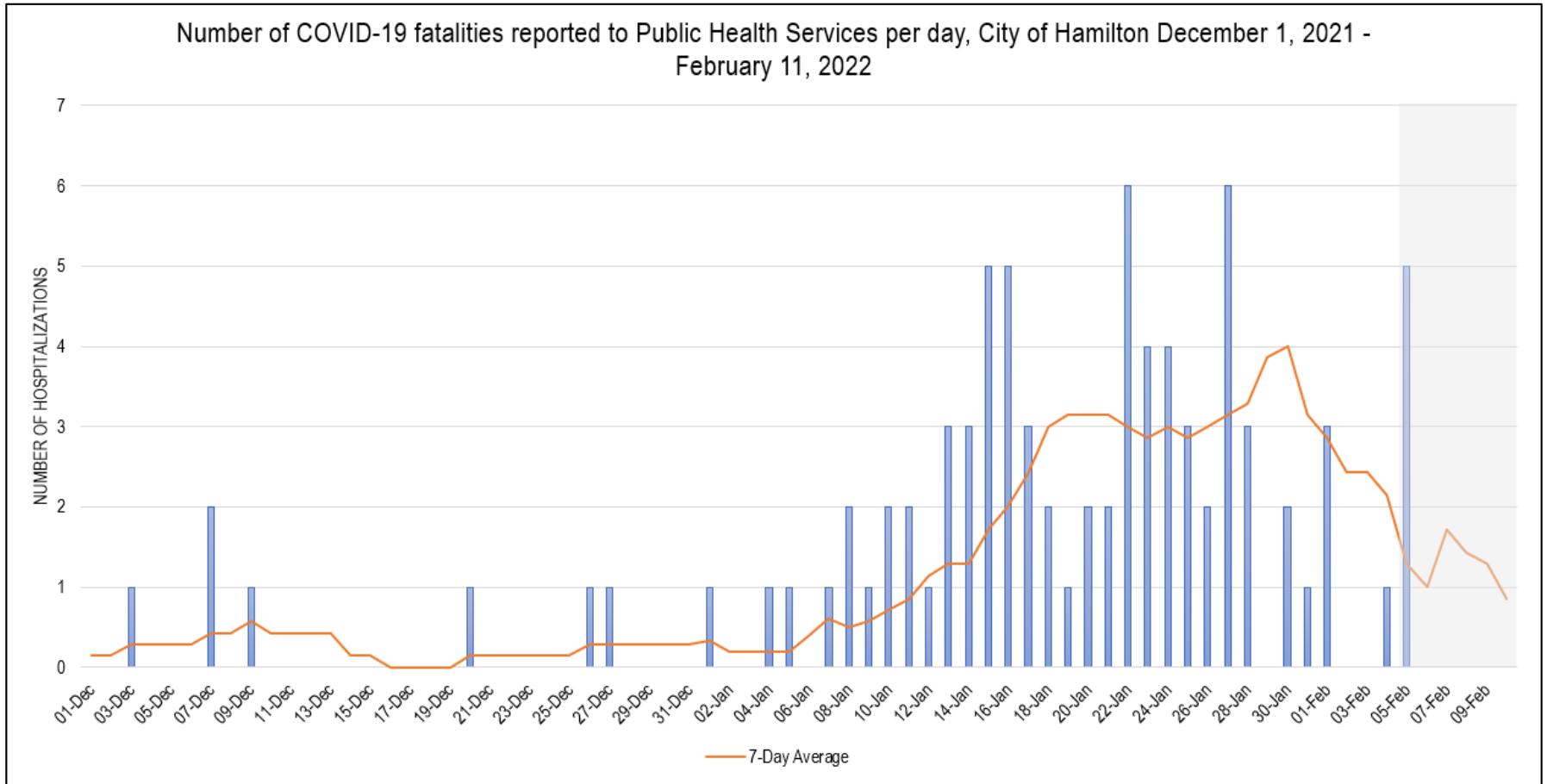
# Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Admissions



## Key Messages

- COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit admissions have begun to decrease since the peak of the omicron wave
- As of February 11, 2022, there was an average of one new COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit admission per day reported to Hamilton Public Health



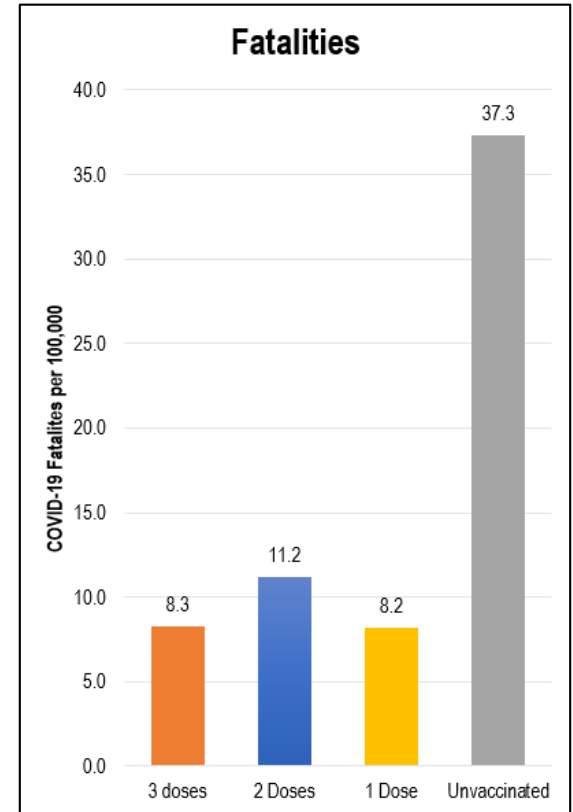
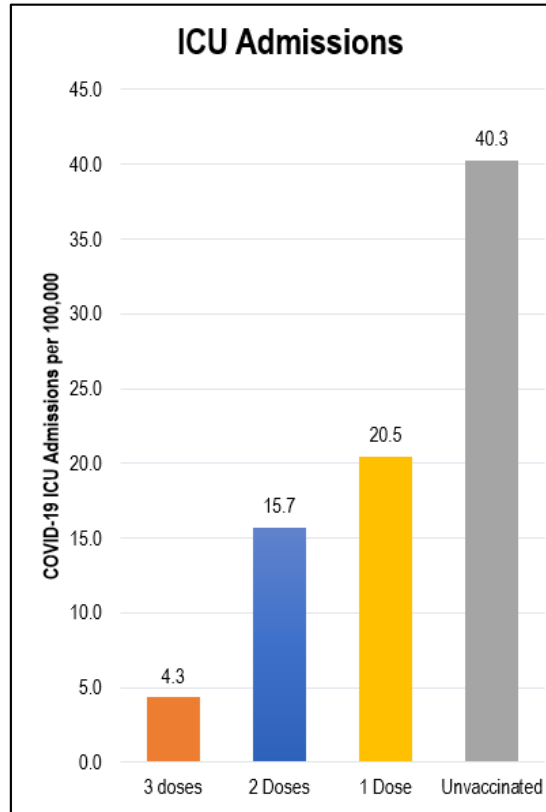
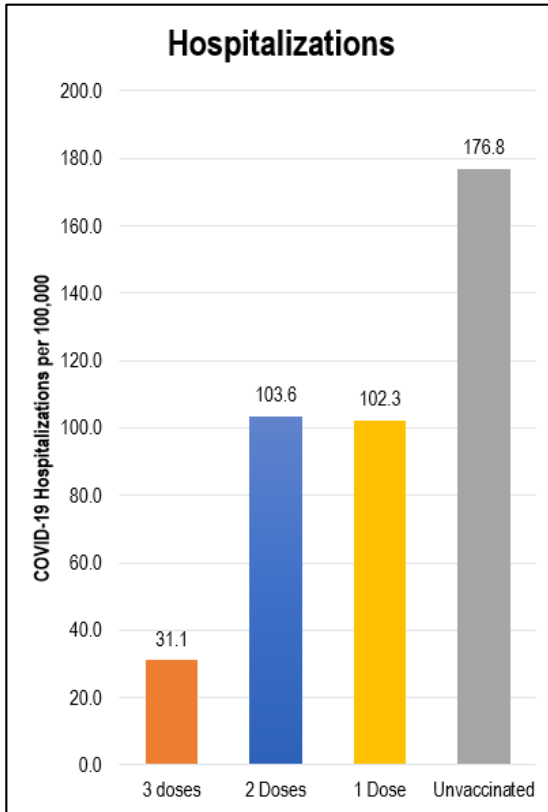


## Key Messages

- COVID-19 fatalities are being closely monitored; they remain high but are beginning to show early signs of decrease
- Note that COVID-19 fatalities can be impacted by up to seven days reporting lag

# Severity Indicators by Vaccination Status

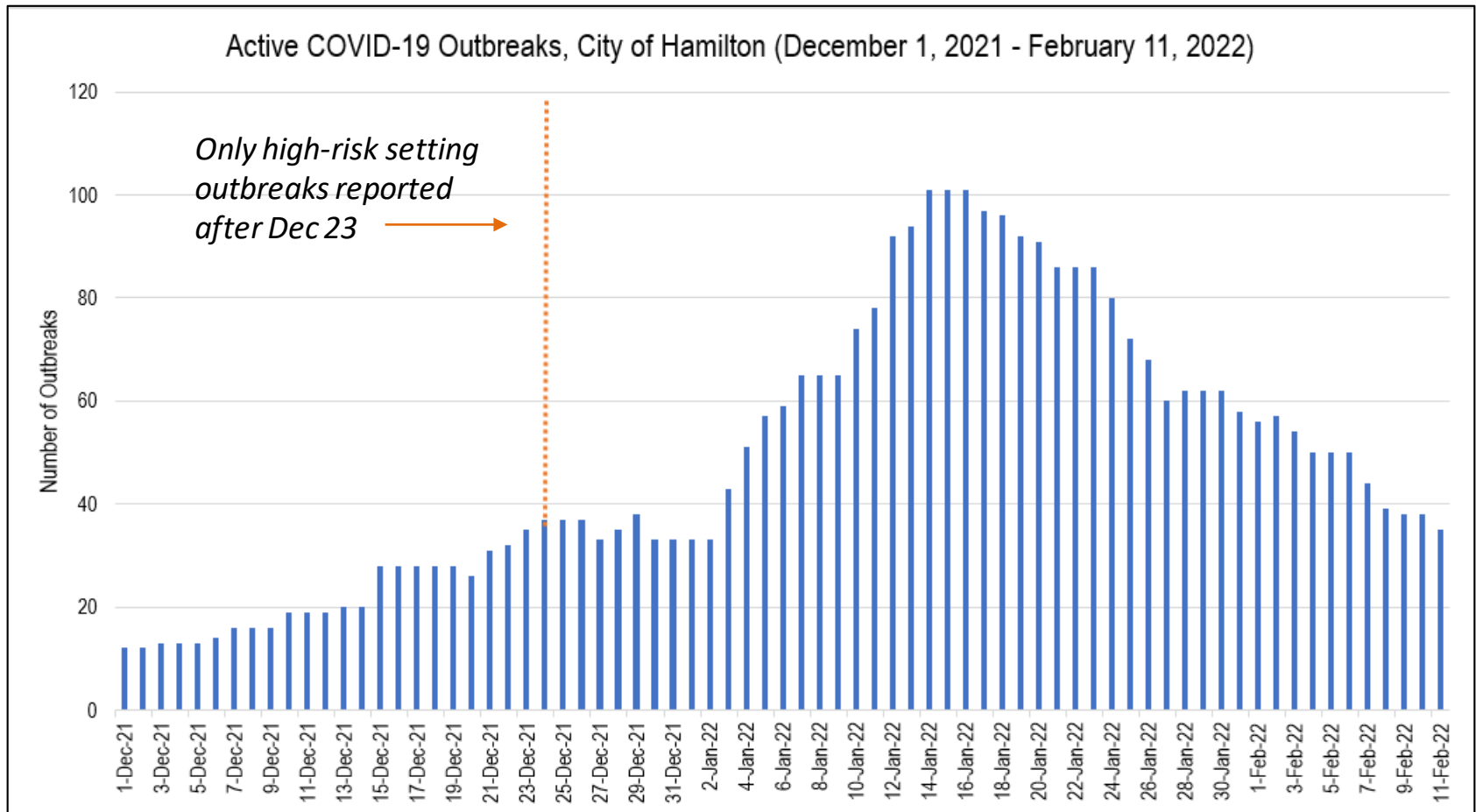
December 1, 2021 – February 11, 2022



## Key Messages

- The risk of severe outcome (hospitalization, intensive care unit admission or fatality) due to COVID-19 during the omicron wave is lower for those with COVID-19 vaccine doses compared to those who are unvaccinated
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of a COVID-19 vaccine provides the most protection against these outcomes, highlighting the continued importance of vaccination

# Active Outbreaks



## Key Messages

- COVID-19 outbreak activity in the omicron wave peaked in mid-January, 2022
- The number of active COVID-19 outbreaks in recent weeks has been consistently decreasing

# SCARSIN FORECAST

Ruth Sanderson, Epidemiologist

# Scarsin Forecast Key Messages

- Forecast provides an update of the base scenario, taking into consideration Ontario's staged reopening
  - Assumes Omicron's severity is approximately 36% of Delta
- Community and workplace mobility remain low, indicating lower contact rates; workplace mobility has increased
- Risk of transmission continues to be elevated; cases, hospitalizations and deaths will remain above pre-Omicron levels into March 2022
- As measures are removed and contact rates increase, spread may increase slightly in the short term

# Overall Mobility, Hamilton

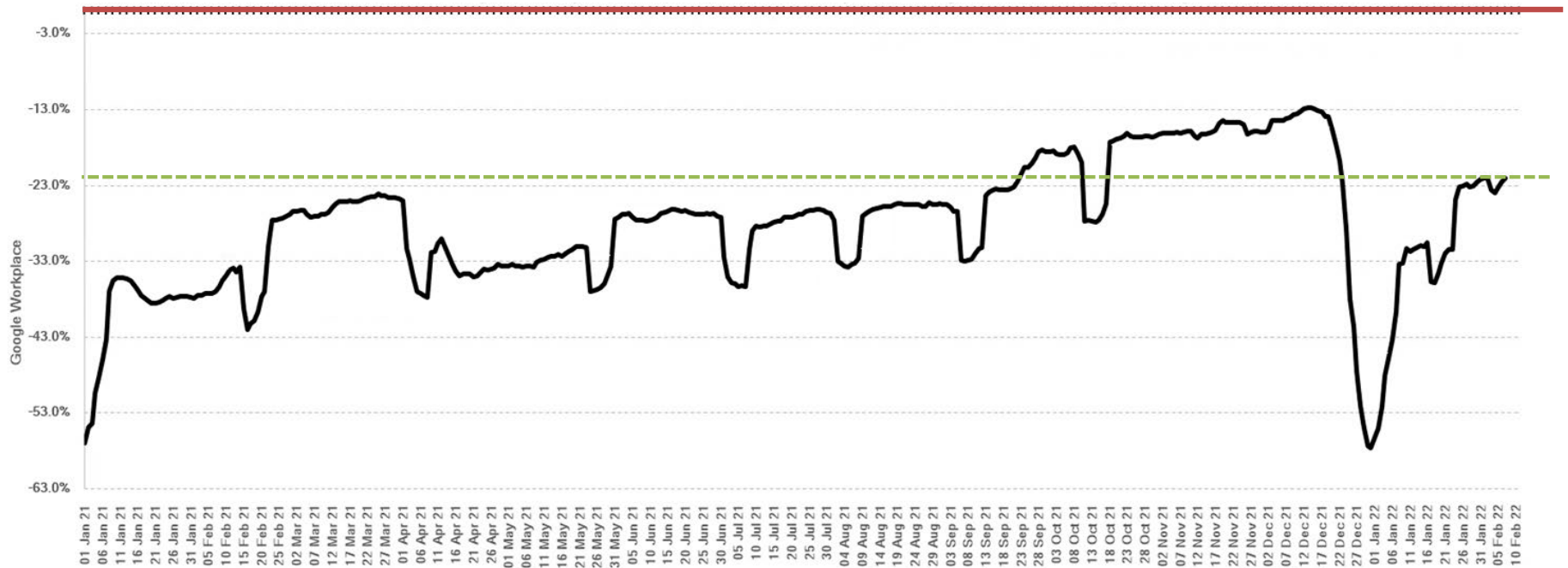


Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 11, 2022

## Key Messages:

- Community mobility has remained low for the past month; at 28% below pre-pandemic levels on February 8, 2022. Levels are similar to this time last year and below pre-holiday levels
- Reduced community mobility may indicate that Hamiltonians are limiting their contacts

# Workplace Mobility, Hamilton



Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 11, 2022

## Key Messages:

- Workplace mobility has increased to 22% below pre-pandemic levels on February 7, 2022
- Workplace mobility has not returned to pre-holiday levels; this may indicate Hamiltonians continue to limit their contacts

# Overview of Scenario and Assumptions

## Base Scenario

Severity for Omicron set at approximately 36% of Delta

### Scenario Assumes:

- Omicron severity is approximately 36% severity of Delta
- Public health measures aligned with Ontario's reopening plan
- Accounts for schools' March Break and universities' Reading Week
- Transmission rates were increased to model the potential impact of staged reopening
- Waning 2<sup>nd</sup> dose immunity incorporated
- Vaccinations updated to align with Hamilton actuals and planned targets adjusting for decreasing trend in dose throughput

### Limitation:

- Challenging to model the spread of COVID-19 due to major changes in testing practices late December 2021, which led to significant undercounting of the actual amount of infection occurring

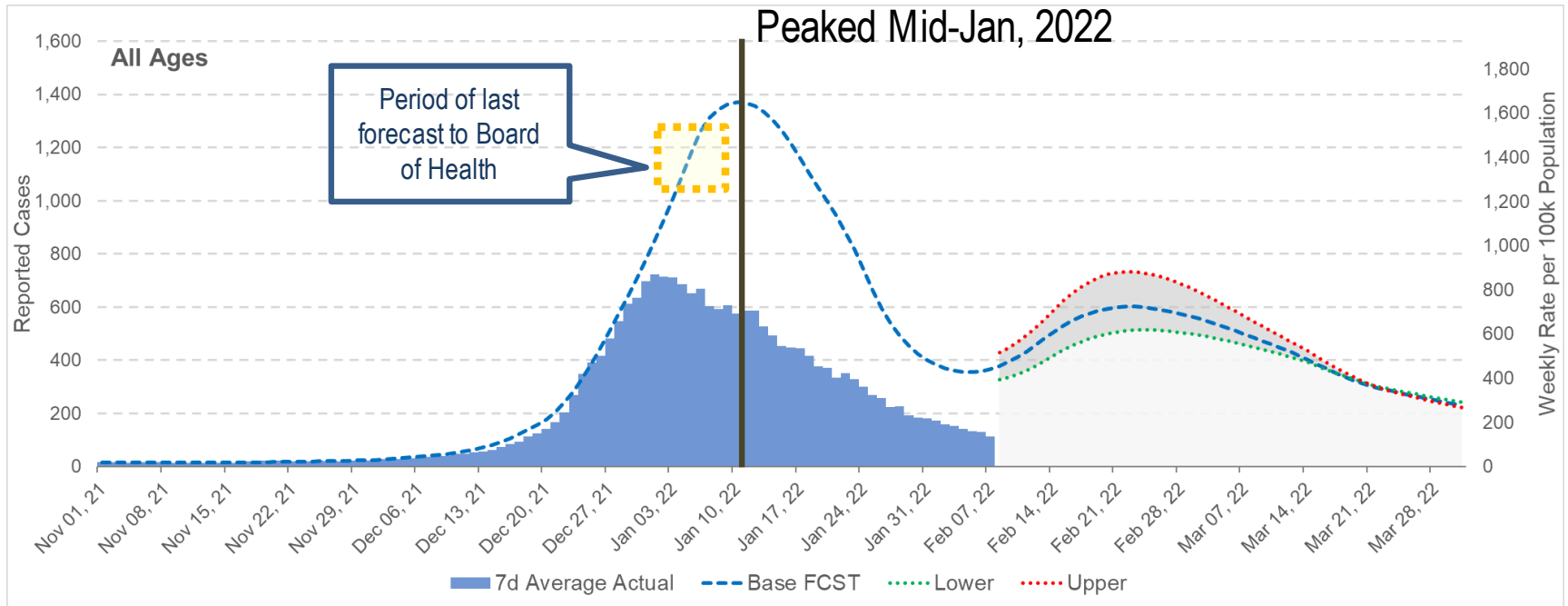
### Updated Data:

- Vaccination/case/hospital/death data retrieved Tuesday, February 8, 2022



# Scarsin Cases Forecast

## COVID-19 Cases Among Hamiltonians



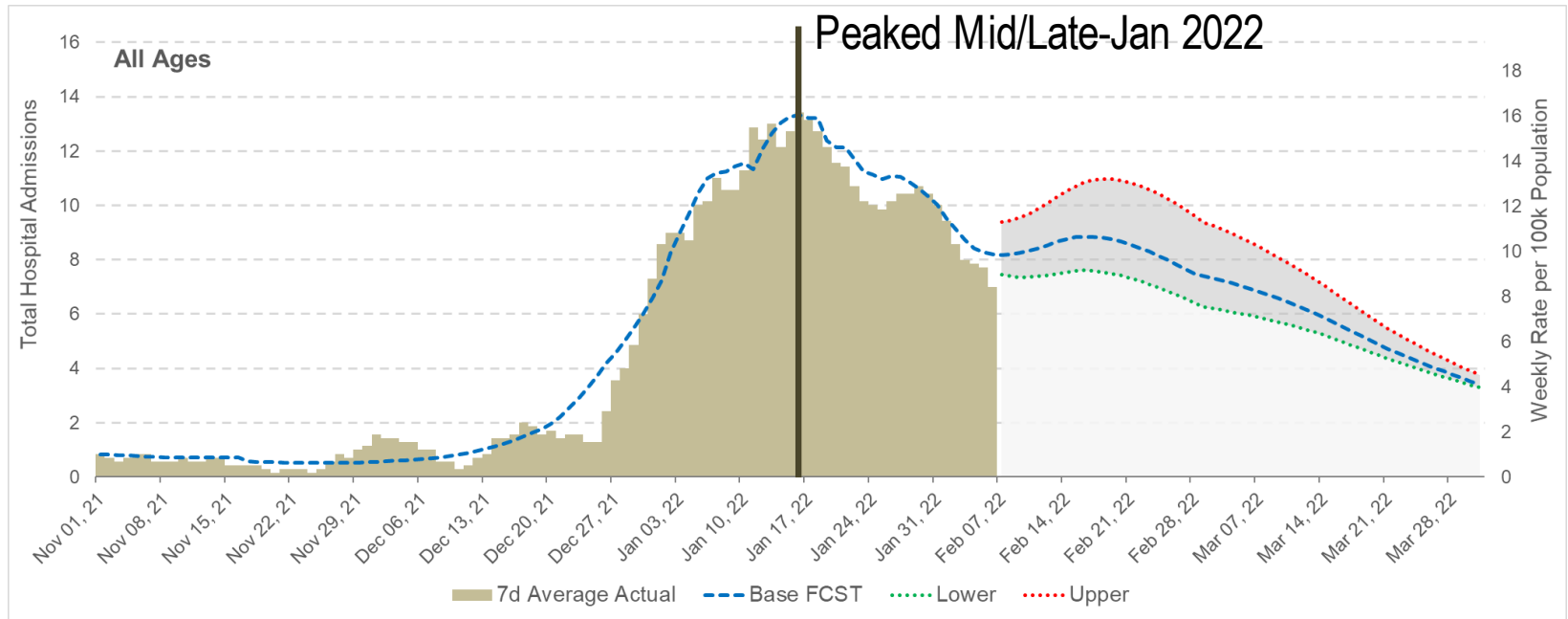
Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 9, 2022

### Key Messages:

- While cases have peaked, the forecast indicates that as public health measures are lifted, and contacts increase, Hamilton may experience an increase in cases in February 2022
- Potential for over 20,000 additional cases between February 14 to March 31, 2022

# Scarsin Hospitalizations Forecast

## COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Among Hamiltonians



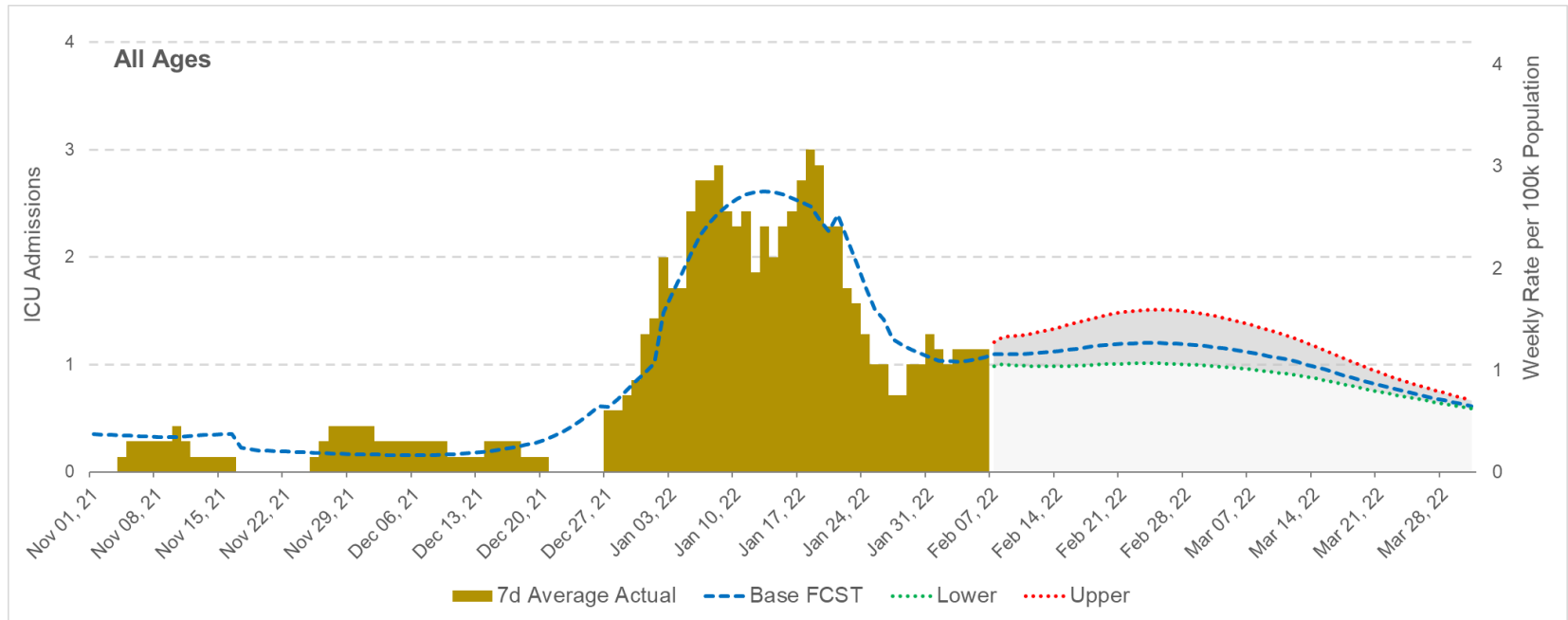
Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 9, 2022

### Key Messages:

- Forecast indicates new hospital admissions have peaked
- Forecast indicates that the recent decrease may reverse in a small swell due to reopening
- Anticipate approximately 300 hospitalizations among Hamiltonians from February 14 to March 31, 2022

# Scarsin Intensive Care Unit Admissions Forecast

## COVID-19 Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Admissions Among Hamiltonians



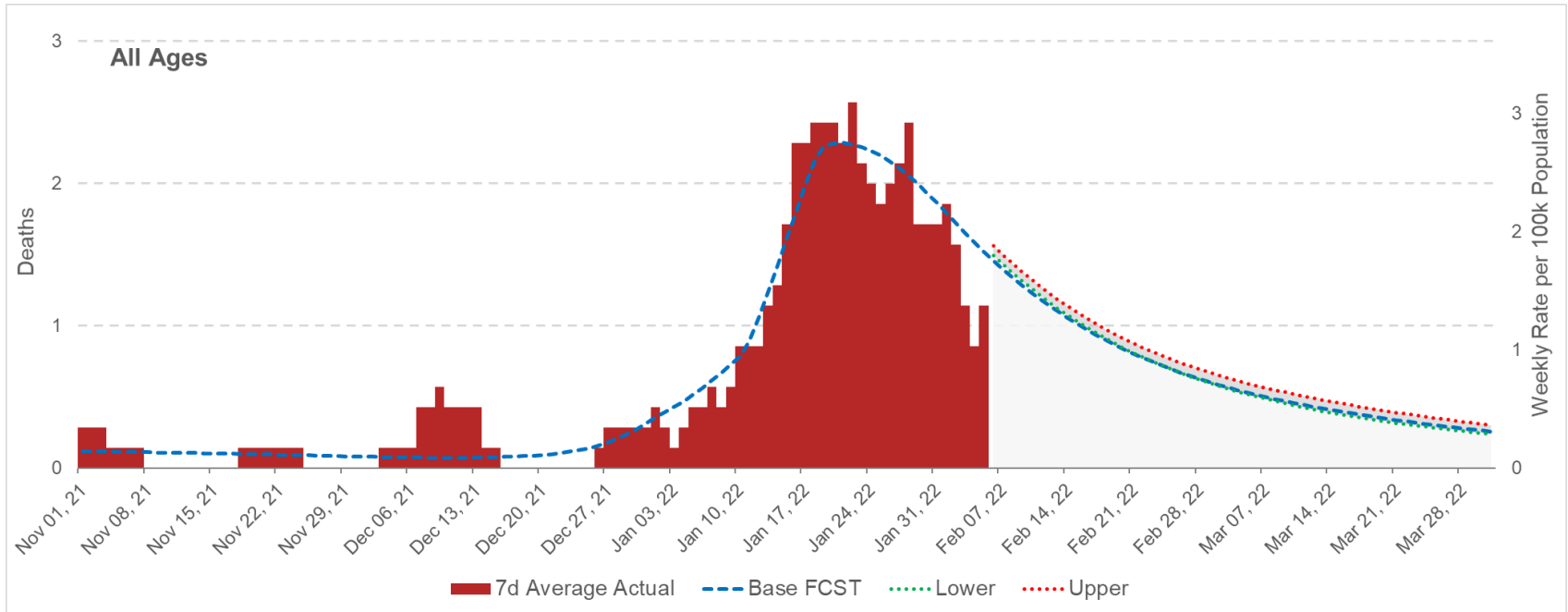
Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 9, 2022

### Key Messages:

- Forecast predicts intensive care unit (ICU) admissions have peaked; Forecast approximately 50 new hospital intensive care unit (ICU) admissions among Hamiltonians from February 14 to March 31, 2022
- Anticipate 82% of ICU admissions will be in those 60+ years and an additional 15% will be in those aged 20-59 years

# Scarsin Deaths Forecast

## Deaths Due to COVID-19 Among Hamiltonians



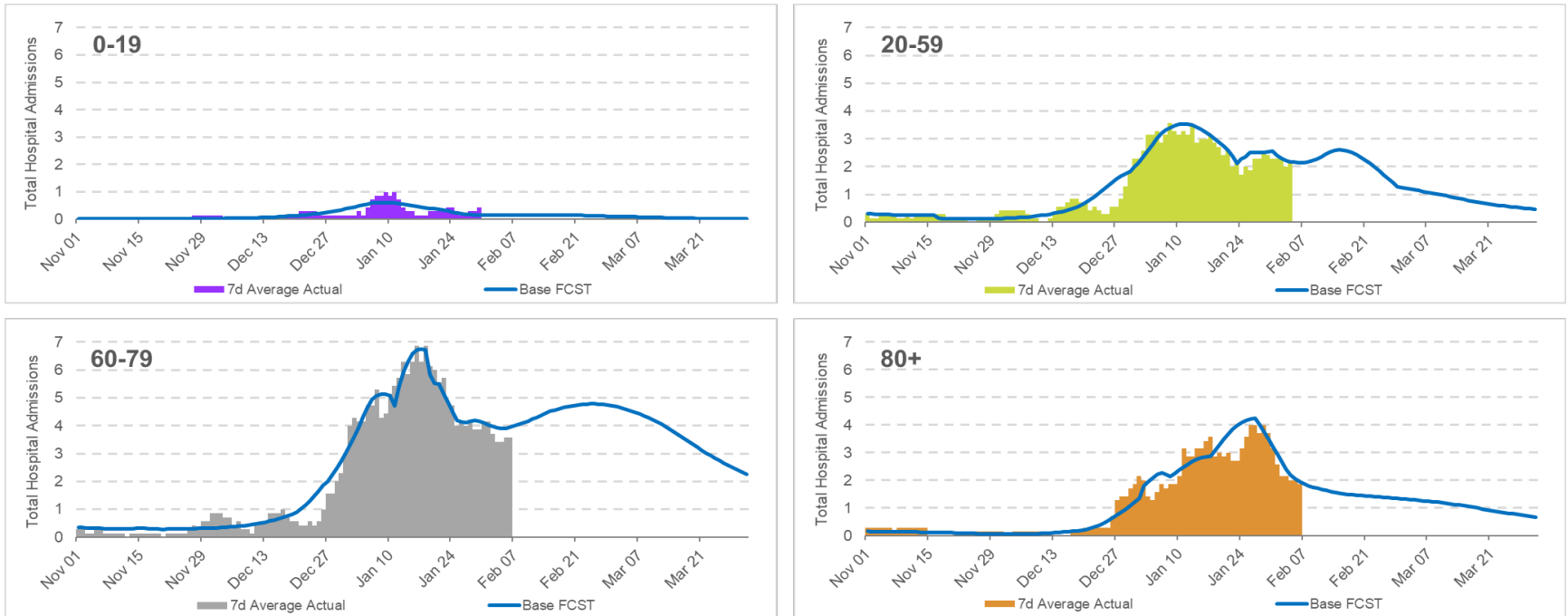
Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 9, 2022

### Key Messages:

- Forecast predicts 25 deaths among Hamiltonians from February 14 to March 31, 2022
- Anticipate most deaths 93% will occur in those aged 60 years and older (61% in those aged 80 years and older)

# Scarsin Hospitalizations Forecast

## COVID-19 Hospital Admissions by Age Group, Hamiltonians



Data Source: Scarsin Decision Support System retrieved Feb 9, 2022

### Key Messages:

- Peak shapes differ by age group
- While only 13% of cases are predicted to be in those 60+ years, 79% of predicted new hospital admissions will be among those 60+ years specifically, those aged 60-79 years make up 61% of predicted hospitalizations

# Scarsin Forecast Summary

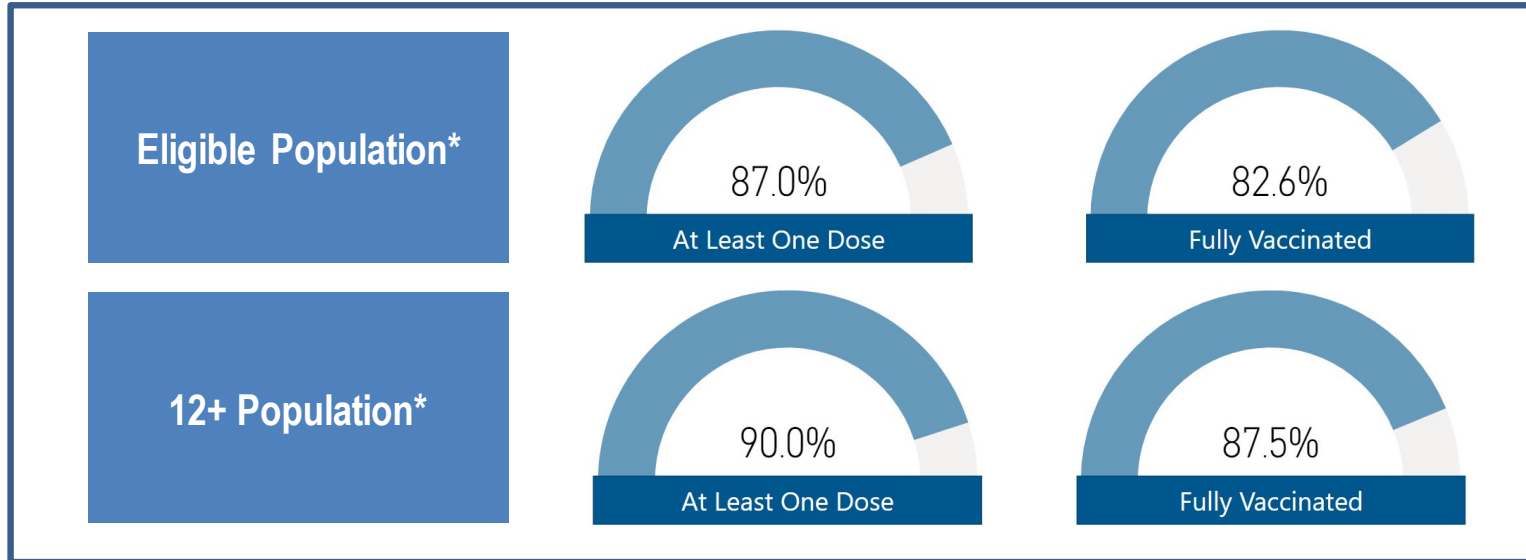
- Hamilton is past the peak of this Omicron-driven wave
- Risk of transmission will remain elevated into March 2022
  - Anticipate increased spread with increased contact rates creating a modest increase of cases and hospitalizations as measures are lifted during Ontario's staged reopening
- Severe outcomes are anticipated to continue to occur mostly among those aged 60+ years
- Continue to exercise caution and work together to keep those who are most vulnerable safe

# COVID VACCINE UPDATE

Melissa Biksa, Manager – COVID-19 Vaccine

# COVID-19 Vaccine – Overall Coverage

Estimated as of End Of Day February 10, 2022



3<sup>rd</sup> doses administered to **64%** of people currently eligible\*\*,  
and **55%** of 18+ year old population residing in Hamilton

Note: Includes Hamilton residents and individuals vaccinated in Hamilton who cannot be assigned to a health unit region.

\*The eligible population includes individuals born in 2016 or earlier. The 12yrs+ population includes individuals born in 2009 or earlier.

\*\*Defined as being 18+ years of age and at least 84 days from administration of second COVID-19 dose.

Sources: IntelliHealth (COVAXon Data Load); IntelliHealth (Population Projections, 2020).



# COVID-19 Vaccine – Pediatric Population

Estimated as of End Of Day February 10, 2022

- Over **21,400 1<sup>st</sup> doses** given to pediatric population (**50.2% coverage**)
  - Encouraging increase in 1<sup>st</sup> dose uptake during first half of January 2022
- Over **9,900 2<sup>nd</sup> doses** given to pediatric population (**23.3% coverage**)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> doses now account for vast majority of daily doses administered
- Geographic variation in coverage
  - Highest in Dundas, Ancaster, Glanbrook, Lower West
  - Areas with lower coverage had the greatest change over past several weeks, narrowing the gap

Note: Includes Hamilton residents and individuals vaccinated in Hamilton who cannot be assigned to a health unit region.

The pediatric population includes individuals born 2010 to 2016.

Sources: IntelliHealth (COVAXon Data Load); IntelliHealth (Population Projections, 2020).

# COVID-19 Vaccine – Operational Update

- Scaling back large-scale clinic operations due to downward trend in uptake
  - Centre on Barton closed as of February 14, 2022; Limeridge, mobile clinics, & community options remain
  - Resources transitioned to support on-site, school-based, & pop-up clinics
- Areas of current focus:
  - School-based clinics for 5-11 yr old population
  - 4<sup>th</sup> dose clinics for residents of seniors' congregate setting
- Booster eligibility expanded to high-risk 12-17 yr-olds

# COVID-19 Vaccine – Program Evolution

- Working to increase coverage
  - Surpassed 90% 1<sup>st</sup> dose coverage (12yrs+),
  - Nearing 90% 2<sup>nd</sup> dose coverage (12yrs+)
  - School-based clinics for 5-11-year-old population
  - Mobile clinics and GO-VAXX in lower coverage areas to promote uptake
- Planning for future ‘steady state’ of vaccine rollout
  - Working with community partners to utilize traditional vaccination channels

# COVID-19 Vaccine – Confidence

## Child COVID-19 Vaccine Info Session

February 24 | Airtimes at 4 and 9pm



### PANELISTS



**Dr. Jeff Pernica**  
Head, Division of Infectious Disease  
& Associate Professor,  
McMaster Children's Hospital &  
McMaster University



**Tracy Akitt**  
Clinical Leader of Child Life  
and Family Engagement Lead,  
McMaster Children's Hospital



**Dr. Elizabeth Richardson**  
Medical Officer of Health  
City of Hamilton



**Dr. Mike West**  
Family Physician  
Hamilton Family Health Team

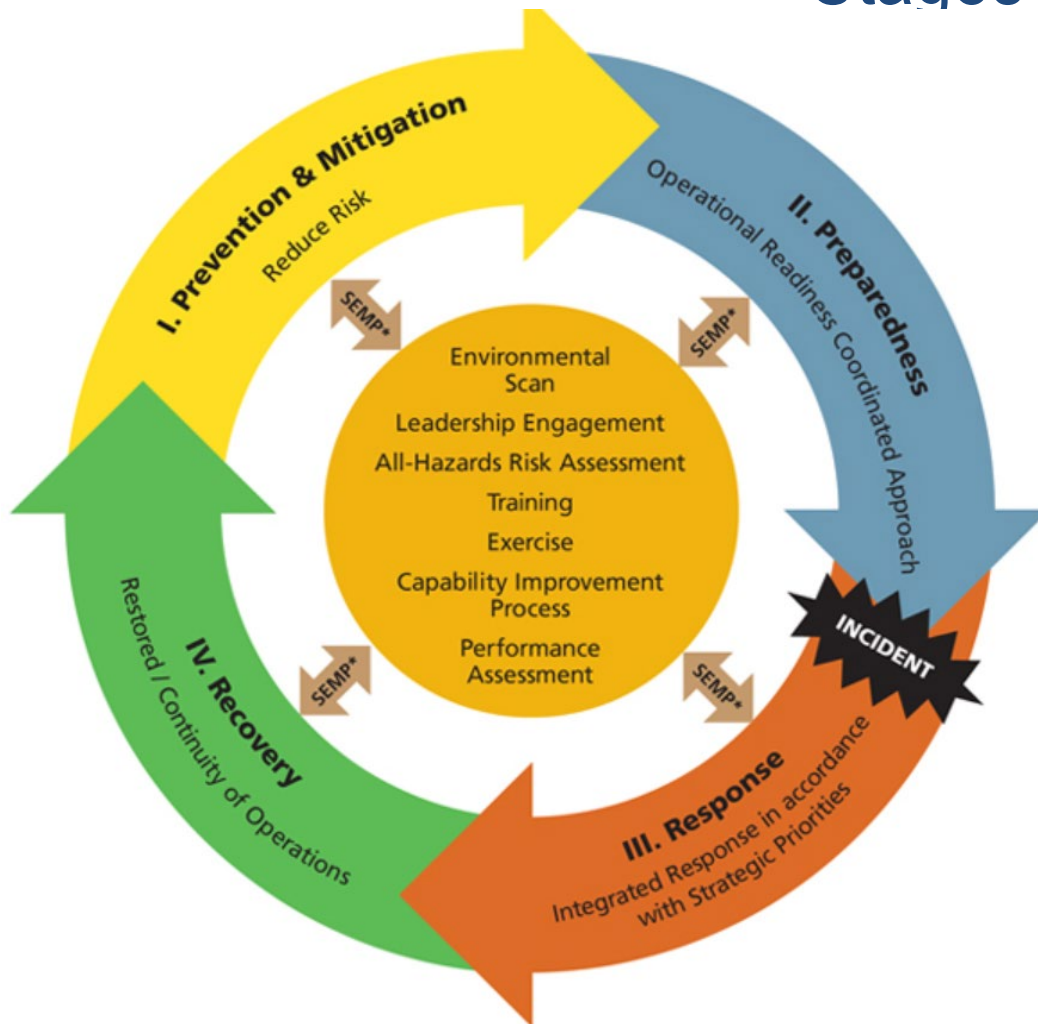
Watch on the City's Youtube Channel  
[www.youtube.com/insidcityofhamilton](http://www.youtube.com/insidcityofhamilton)  
Watch on Cable 14, on TV or Online  
[www.cable14now.com](http://www.cable14now.com)



# ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health

# Stages of Emergency Response



## **Recovery**

- The process of restoring a community to a pre-disaster level of functioning
- Includes short (days), medium (months), and long-term (years) efforts
- Requires specific resources that surpass the normal operating structure
- Efforts should aim to create a more resilient community

*Ontario Provincial Emergency Response Plan, 2019*

# “Deficits of Care” in Public Health

- Across the province, approximately 75% of public health resources diverted to COVID-19 response in 2020 & 2021
- Many mandated public health programs and services have been reduced or put on-hold for now two years
- Has created Public Health equivalent to “surgical backlog” in health care
- Will have a significant and measurable effect on health of the population for years to come

# Examples of “Deficits of Care” in Hamilton

Since March 2020...

No immunization screening for school students or vaccine clinics for grade 7 students

Fewer high risk Healthy Baby Healthy Children clients receiving services

No dental assessments or screening in schools

Growth in dental treatment needs for low income children, adults and seniors

Priority programs needed with schools to support mental health & well-being

Need to resume full capacity of inspections for food safety, safe water, special events, and more



# Priority Community Health Needs

Health Equity

Mental Health & Addictions

Child & Youth Health & Development

Climate Change

Broad issues requiring a collaborative, long-term community response

# Recovery

- Assess deficits of care and needs in program areas most impacted by the pandemic and/or public health restrictions
- Scenario-based planning for potential future COVID-19 situations
- Use a phased, priority-based approach
- Continue discussions with Province about funding for COVID-19 and deficits of care work
- 2022 priorities:

Addressing  
Deficits of  
Care

Staff  
Wellness

COVID-19  
Response  
& Steady  
State

# 2022 Public Health Priorities

## Priorities

### COVID Response

- Continue disease control & response
- Continue vaccine program
- Evolve from emergency response to sustained monitoring, prevention & response
- Incorporate lessons learned into infectious disease programs

### Deficits of Care

- Prioritize and invest in programs where public health services can have greatest impact
- Focus on priority community health needs and addressing deficit of care
- Use CQI lens to apply lessons learned through COVID response

### Staff Wellness

- Support and retain public health staff, considering the significant impact on mental health and wellness due to the length of emergency response and deployment

## Goals

# Next Steps

- Recovery will likely take one to three years as we settle into new roles and address the deficits of care
- COVID-19 response and vaccination will require extra resources for 2022 at a minimum (e.g. vaccine clinic)
- Ongoing assessment and prioritization of programs and services
- Programs that have the greatest impact on priority community health needs and address deficits of care will be prioritized for recovery
- Some areas will require temporary investment over and above usual resources in order to address the deficits
- Incorporate lessons learned into building back better



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?