



# Respiratory Diseases Update

Board of Health  
November 28, 2022

# Overview

1. Respiratory Season - Situation Report
2. Hospital Capacity Update
3. Disease Control Update
4. Vaccine Program Update

# RESPIRATORY SEASON - SITUATION REPORT

Erin Rodenburg, Epidemiologist

# Local Respiratory Virus Transmission Status

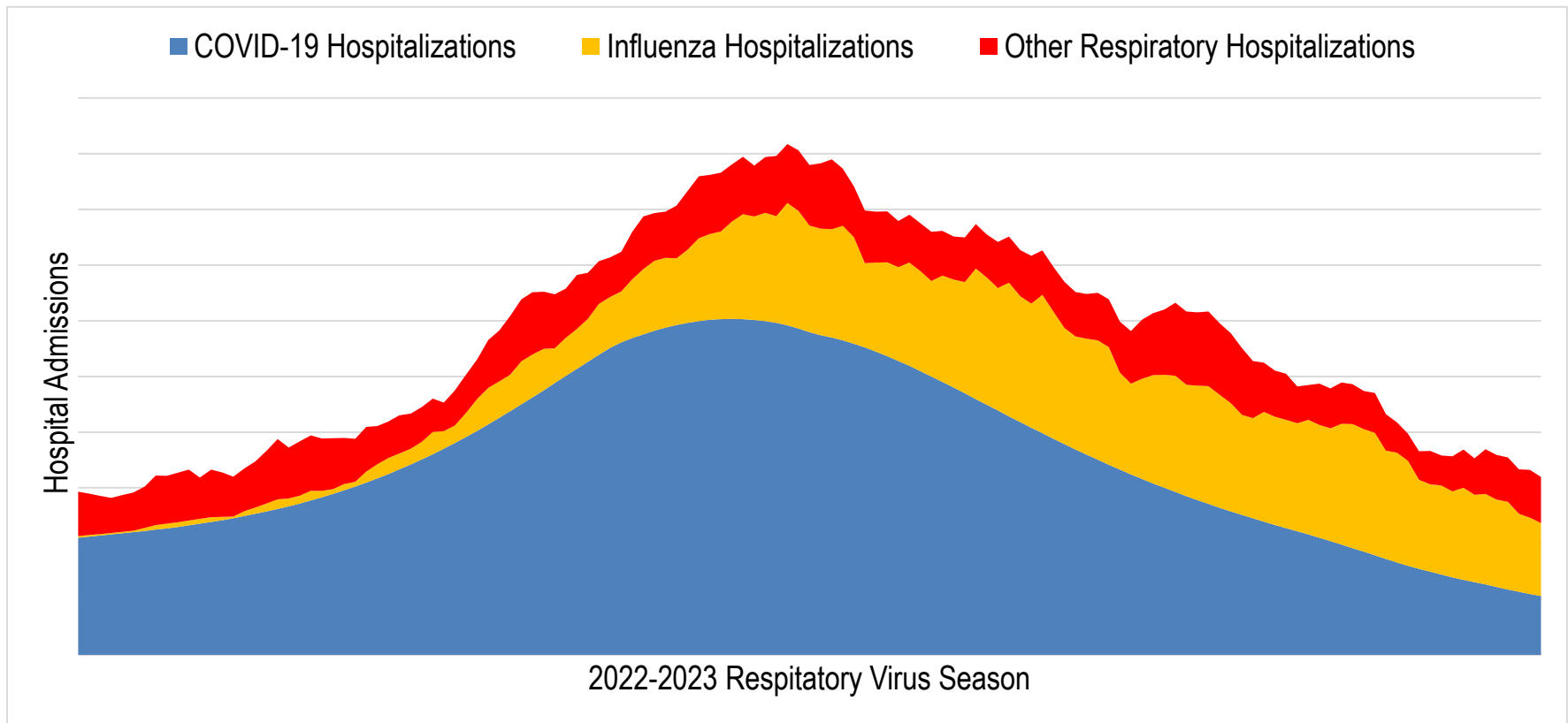
**Local COVID-19 Activity: Moderate & Decreasing**

**Local Influenza Activity: Moderate & Stable**

## Key Messages:

- COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, test positivity, wastewater signal and the number of active outbreaks are currently decreasing, while reported intensive care unit admissions continue to remain low. The Omicron subvariant BA.5 continues to be the dominant sub-variant.
- Influenza case detections and test positivity have recently stabilized.

# Combined Respiratory Hospitalization Impact on Hamiltonians



## Key Messages

- COVID-19, influenza, and other respiratory viruses will have a combined impact on hospital admissions for Hamiltonians during the 2022-2023 respiratory virus season.

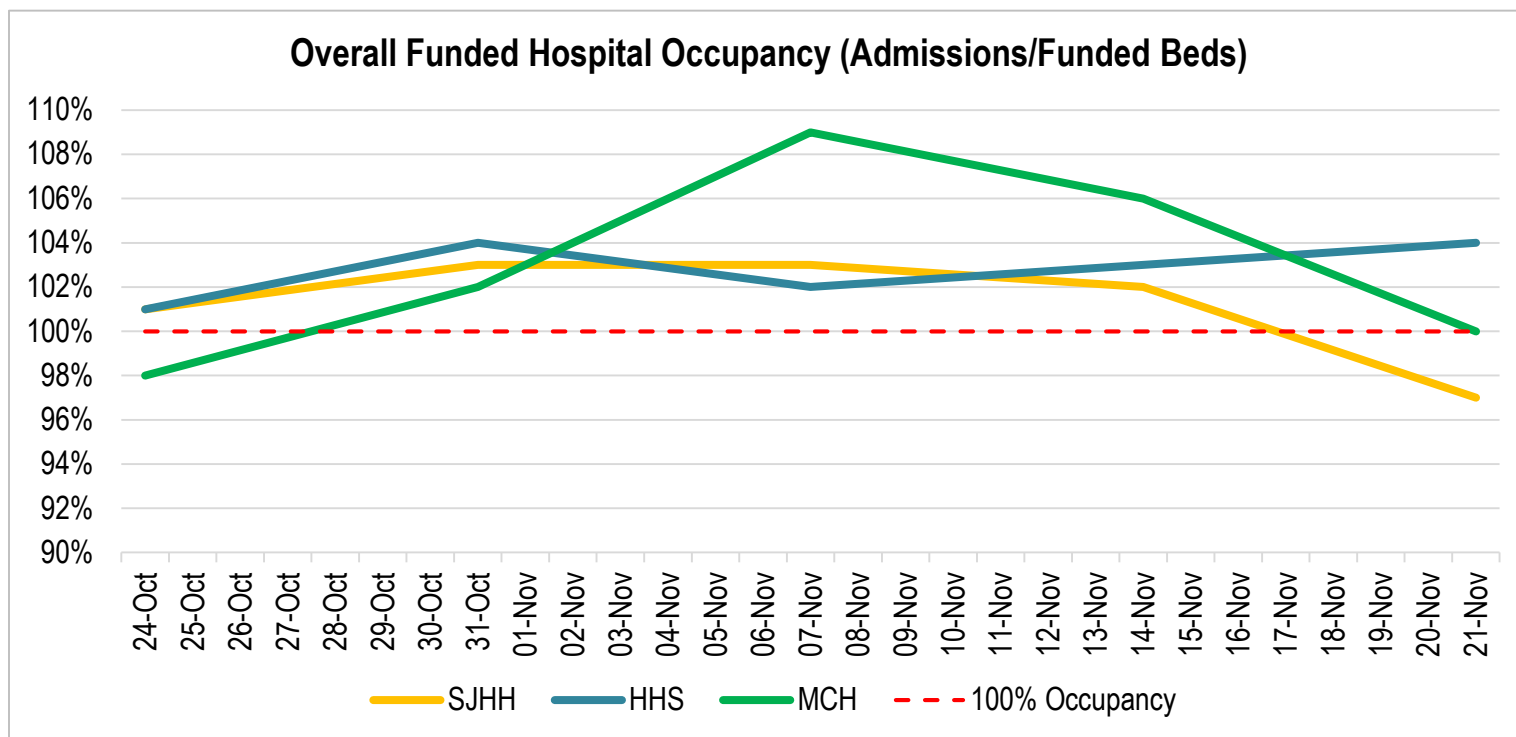
# Access to Respiratory Virus Information

- Respiratory Virus Transmission Status (updated Wednesdays):
  - <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#transmission-status>
- COVID-19 Status of Cases Dashboard (updated Tuesdays and Fridays):
  - <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#status-of-cases>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard (updated on Tuesdays and Fridays)
  - <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#vaccine-distribution>
- Upcoming: Influenza-focused dashboard and new Open Data resource tracking active outbreaks

# HOSPITAL CAPACITY UPDATE

Dr. Brendan Lew, Resident Physician

# Health System Capacity: Acute Care Occupancy

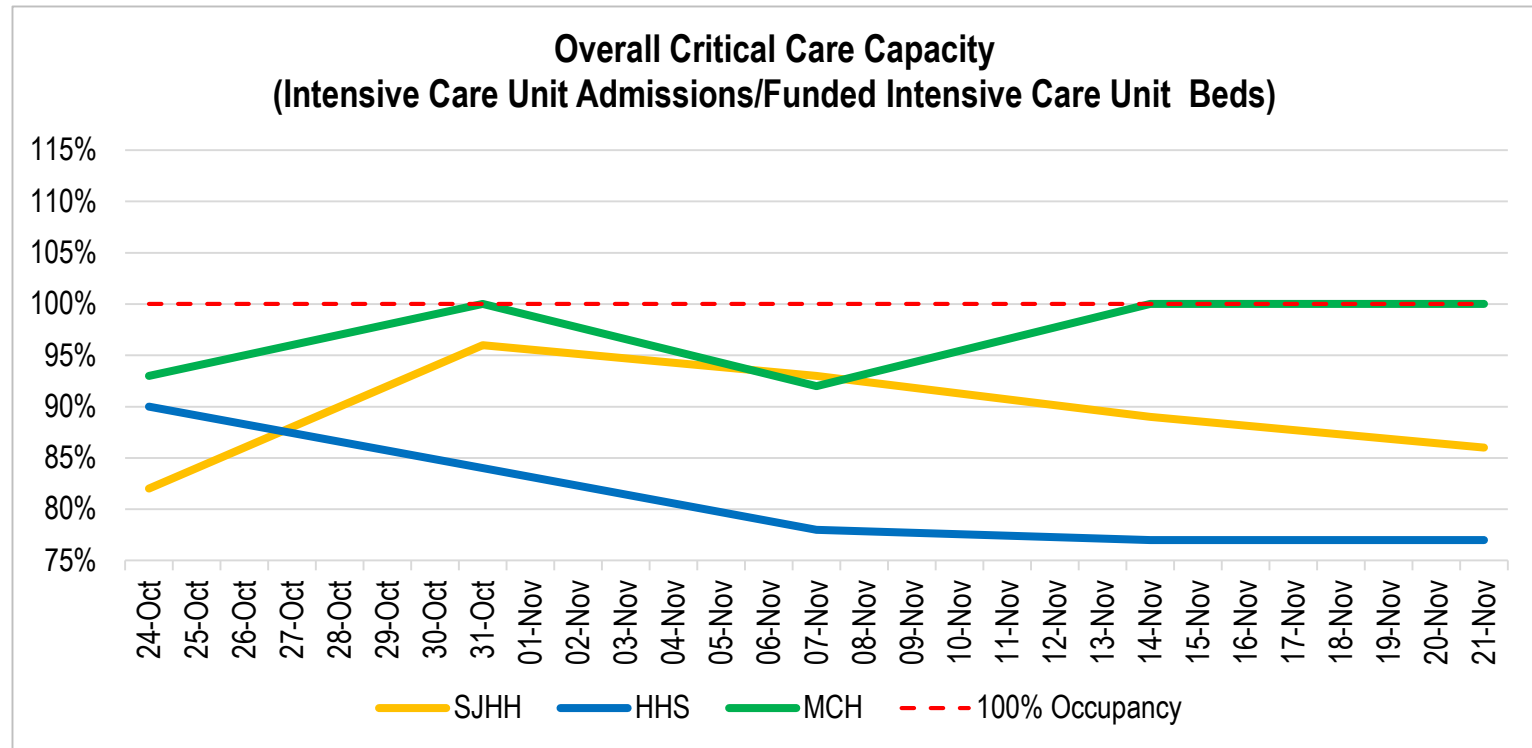


## Key Messages

- Increasing patient volumes/acuity and staffing challenges are creating significant capacity pressures in Hamilton's hospitals.
- Note:** SJHH: St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, HHS: all Hamilton Health Sciences sites, excluding McMaster's Children's Hospital, MCH: McMaster Children's Hospital. Dates provided are for 2022.



# Health System Capacity: Intensive Care Unit Occupancy



## Key Messages

- When looking at performance metrics regarding Hamilton's intensive care unit capacity, it is evident that they continue to face occupancy pressures. McMaster Children's Hospital sees sustained intensive care unit pressures.
- Note:** SJHH: St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, HHS: all Hamilton Health Sciences sites, excluding McMaster's Children's Hospital, MCH: McMaster Children's Hospital. Dates provided are for 2022.

# DISEASE CONTROL UPDATE

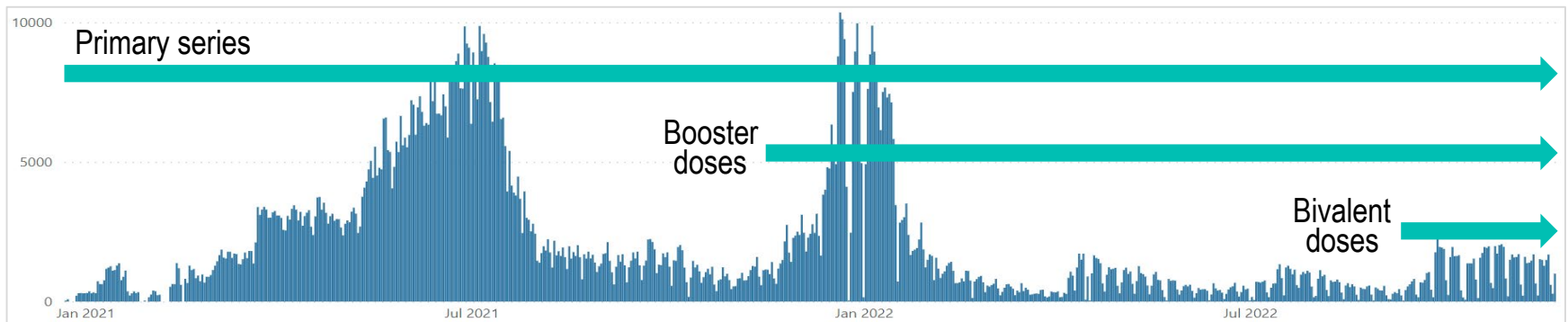
# Public Health Measures

- As the risk to Ontarians increases, emphasizing a multilayer approach:
  - Masking in indoor public settings, including schools and childcare settings due to the additional risk of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza
  - Stay up to date with your vaccinations
  - Screen for respiratory symptoms daily
  - Stay home if you feel unwell
  - Always practice good hand hygiene and regularly clean surfaces – which is especially important for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and flu viruses
- If you are at high risk and become ill, there are treatments available, including Paxlovid for COVID-19, Tamiflu for flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) prophylaxis for high-risk infants

# VACCINE PROGRAM UPDATE

# Vaccine Program Update – Data

## Daily Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered in Hamilton (December 23, 2020 to November 21, 2022)

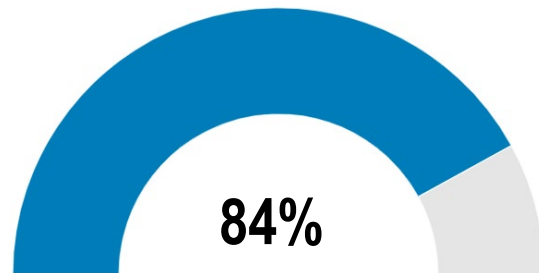


- Over **1.4 million** COVID-19 vaccine doses administered, most at public health clinics\* (**37%**) and pharmacies (**29%**)
- More recently, most doses administered in pharmacy, e.g. **52%** since April 1, 2022

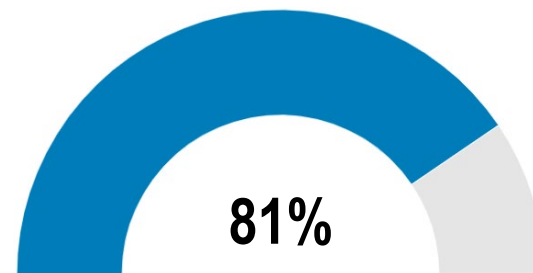
\*Operated by public health and community partners under Hamilton Public Health Services authorized organization, excluding hospital and primary care clinics

# Vaccine Program Update – Data

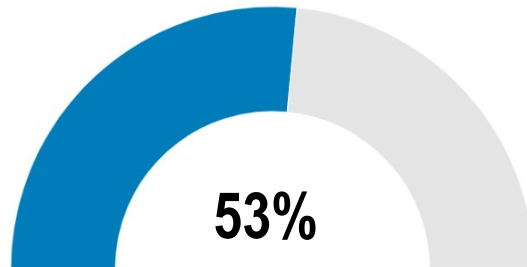
## Hamilton's COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage (as of November 21, 2022)



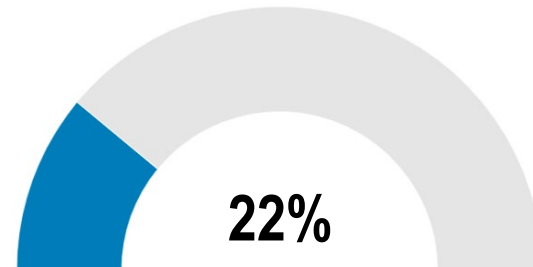
At least one dose



Completed primary series



Received a booster



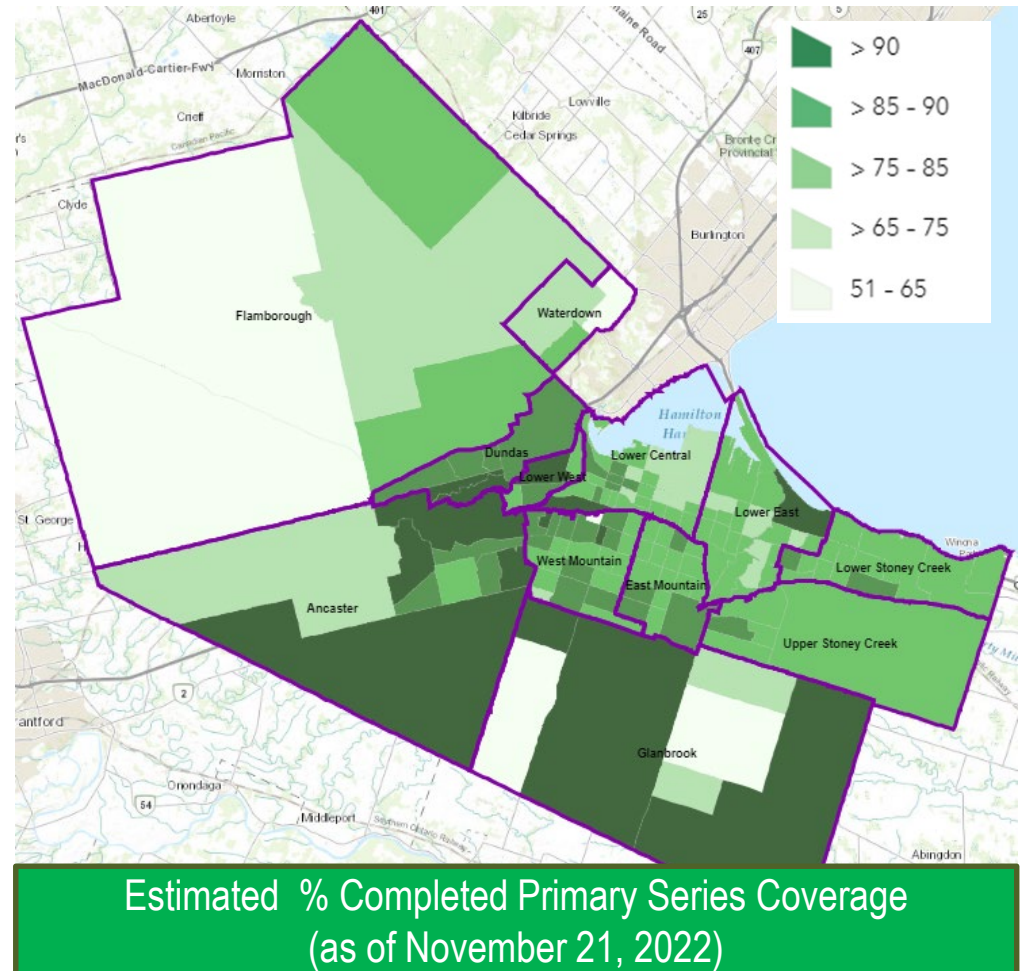
Received a booster in the last six months

Note: Population aged 6+ months eligible for primary series, 5+ years for a booster

# COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage by Geography

## % Completed Primary Series

- Most areas in Hamilton have achieved at least **75%** coverage for completion of primary series, and many are above **90%**
- Pockets of lower coverage continue to exist in some rural areas and lower parts of the Hamilton

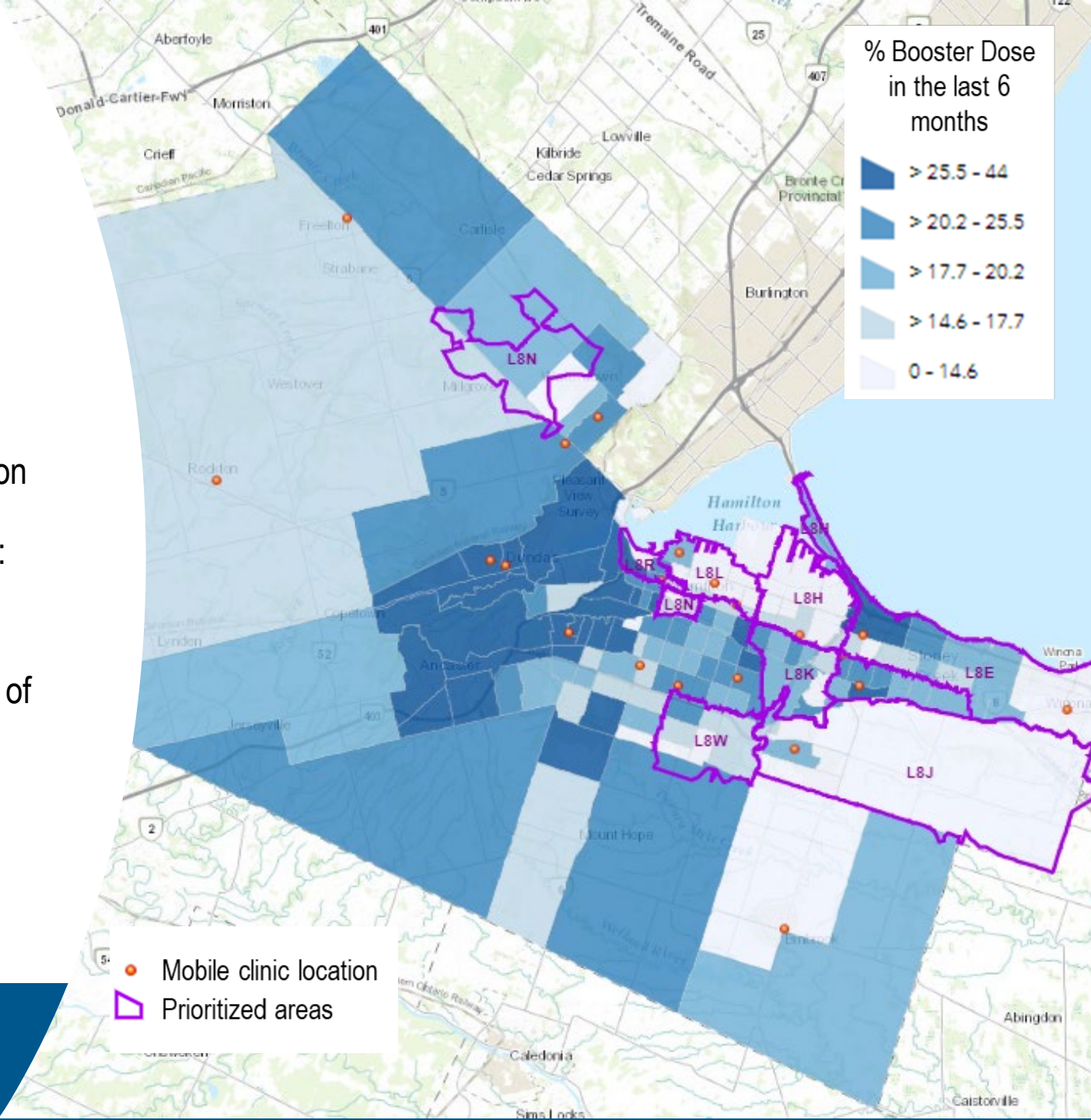




# COVID-19 Vaccine by Geography

Several areas in Hamilton are identified as having higher needs, based on:

- Lower COVID-19 vaccine coverage
- Higher concentration of racialized population
- Higher material deprivation





# Vaccine Program Update – Where to Get Vaccines

- Continued transition to vaccine administration through standard channels
  - COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at pharmacies
  - Public Health offering COVID-19 vaccines at mobile vaccination clinics and Lime Ridge Mall
    - Lime Ridge Mall clinic scheduled to close December 21, 2022
    - Planning for second mobile vaccination clinic
  - Flu vaccines continue to be available through pharmacies and primary care

# Vaccine Program Update – Ensuring Access & Equity

- Hamilton Public Health Services' mobile clinics placed to serve populations at higher risk of experiencing barriers to vaccination
  - Review of Forward Sortation Areas (FSAs) and census tracts with lower vaccination rates and greater risk of experiencing barriers due to social determinants of health
- Vaccine Ambassadors continue work to build confidence, build trust, and share information
  - Promoting Hamilton Public Health Services' mobile clinics through established networks
  - Coordinating event-based GO-VAXX clinics with community partners

# Key Messages

- Get the flu shot and stay up-to-date with your vaccinations including a COVID-19 booster if it's been more than 6 months
- Hamiltonians are recommended to take protective measures to reduce serious health consequences from respiratory infections:
  - Strongly recommend wearing a mask when indoors and/or when unable to physically distance from others
  - Stay home when you are feeling unwell
  - Speak to your healthcare provider to know in advance if you're eligible for treatment and where to access that treatment if needed



Hamilton

# QUESTIONS?