



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	April 25, 2023
SUBJECT:	Streamlining of COVID-19 PowerBI Dashboards (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

Hamilton Public Health Services continues to review and adjust its COVID-19 reporting to focus on the most current and accurate information in accordance with changes in the Ontario Ministry of Health's case and contact management guidelines (https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/contact_mgmt/management_cases_contacts.pdf) for COVID-19.

Public Health Services will adjust the content and refresh the schedule of the COVID-19 Status of Cases and Vaccine Distribution dashboards on May 2, 2023. These dashboards will move to a weekly refresh schedule on Tuesdays (delayed by one day if a holiday Monday), allowing Public Health Services to shift resources to other public health programs and services. Public Health Services will continue to update the Influenza & Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV) dashboard on Tuesdays and the Respiratory Virus Transmission Status in Hamilton (<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data>) on Wednesdays.

Summary of Changes to the COVID-19 Status of Cases Dashboard

(<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#status-of-cases>)

Recent changes in the Ontario Ministry of Health's guidance for the management of COVID-19 cases and contacts scaled down data entry requirements for public health units.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

As a result, certain data in the Status of Cases Dashboard may be underreported and no longer considered accurate. Therefore, affected metrics will be removed and include:

- Cases by Outcome Status; and,
- Cases by Symptom Onset Date.

The Status of Cases Dashboard will also remove COVID-19 assessment centre data given the recent closure of the St. Joseph's Testing and Assessment Centre. Further, 'Change from Previous' metrics will be removed as they were more relevant when data was updated daily. The 'trends' tab on the Status of Cases dashboard will continue to be available to view how many cases, hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and fatalities are reported by date.

Summary of Changes to the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Dashboard

(<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#vaccine-distribution>)

Enhancements will be made to the Vaccine Distribution dashboard to align with public health guidance to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination. Staying up to date means that community members have completed their primary series and have received a booster dose since September 2022, and individuals at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection are encouraged to receive a Spring bivalent booster dose if it has been at least six months since their last dose of COVID-19 infection. As such, metrics relating to the number of doses received will be removed or revised:

- Total number of doses administered by dose number will be revised to combine all booster doses into one category, "Total Booster Doses Administered"; and,
- Case outcomes by vaccination status based on dose number will be removed.

The school vaccinations tab will also be removed. This data was first posted in 2021 and supported COVID-19 case, contact, and outbreak management in school settings. The relevance and utility of this data has shifted based on the Ministry of Health's guidance for the management of COVID-19 outbreaks.

In instances where the data that is removed from the local reporting is available from other sources, Public Health Services will provide links to ensure members of the community are able to access this information.

These updates align with the City of Hamilton's commitment to transparency in sharing relevant and timely data with the community.

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Should you have any questions related to the above information, please contact Catherine Holtz, Acting Manager of Epidemiology & Evaluation, Public Health Services, at Ext. 6708 or catherine.holtz@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

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