

COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

WELCOME! We will be starting at 12:15pm

We would like to know who is with us today. Please fill out our demographic poll while we wait for the webinar to begin. Click the Q&A button at the top right of your screen to access the poll link.

Use Q&A button



to access the poll

The logo for York Region, featuring a stylized white bird or wing icon above the text "York Region" in a white serif font, set against a teal background.

York Region

COVID-19 Briefing Webinar

Webinar 4 in the COVID-19 Briefing Series
October 29, 2020

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Public Health Physician, York Region

Krista Richards
Health Promoter, York Region

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Public Health Nurse, 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

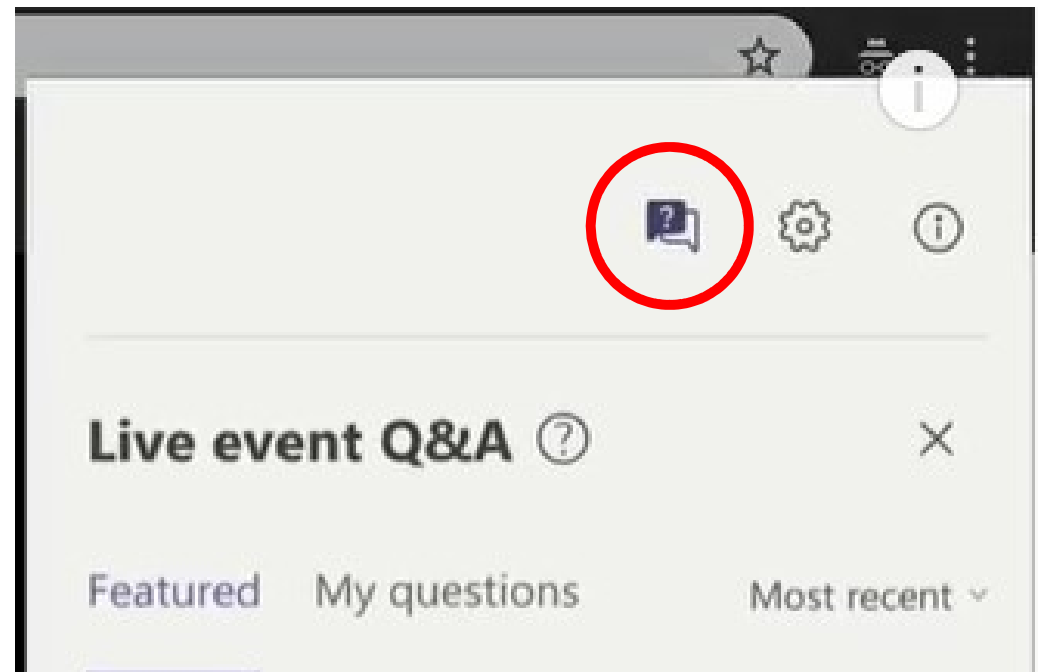
DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

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.



The background is a solid teal color with several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of teal. These shapes include large circles and triangles, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text 'POLL RESULTS' is centered on the left side of the image.

POLL RESULTS

CONTENT

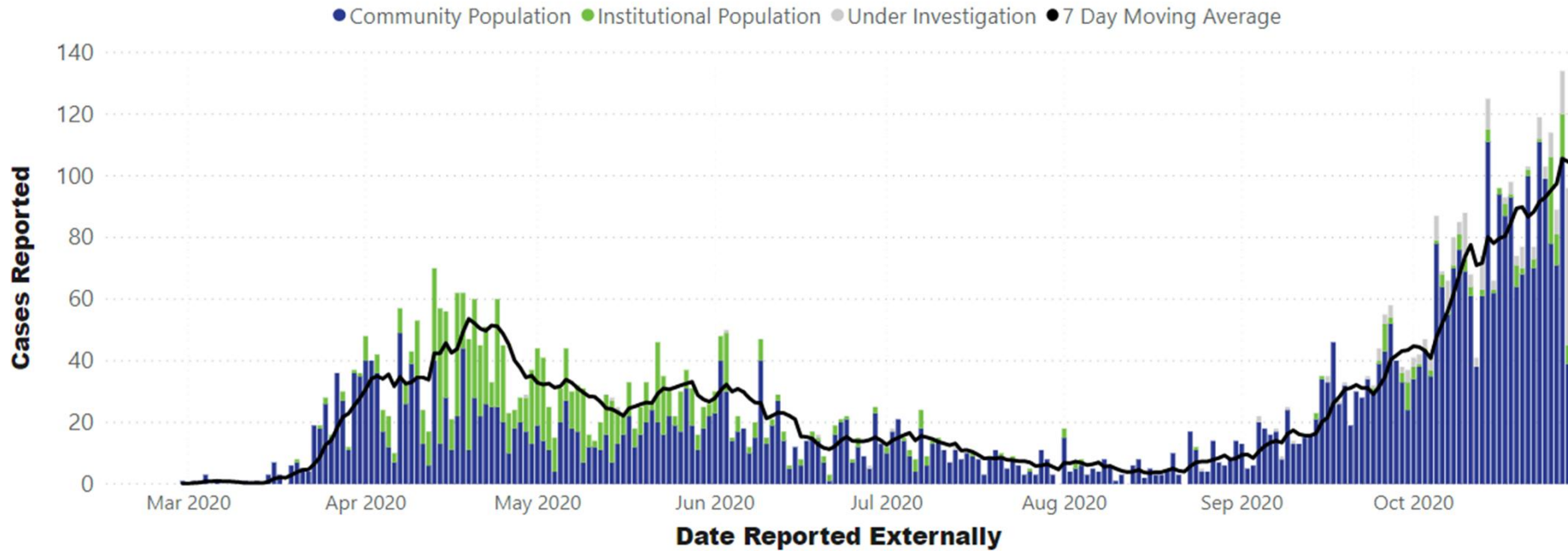
1. COVID-19 Epidemiological Updates for York Region
2. What's New from the Province?
3. Testing
4. Immunization Updates
5. Health Equity & COVID-19

The background is a solid teal color with several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of teal, creating a layered, abstract effect. The shapes include large circles and triangles that intersect to form a complex, modern design.

COVID-19 EPI UPDATES FOR YORK REGION

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COVID-19 IN YORK REGION

 Epidemic Curve of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in York Region ↶
As of 5:00pm
October 28, 2020

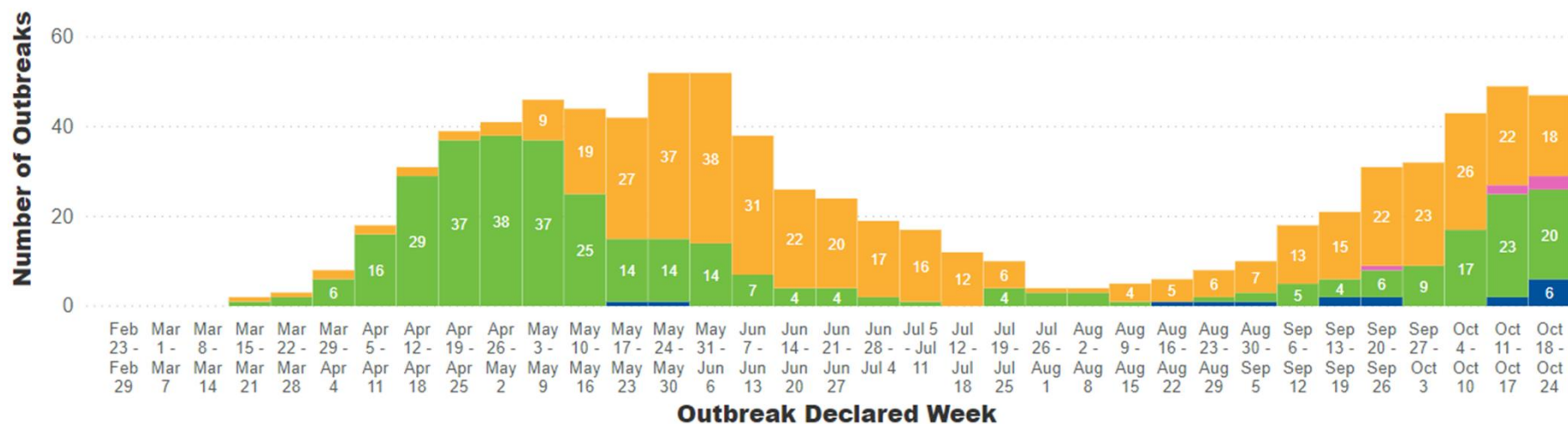


Data current as of October 28 at 5:00pm

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COVID-19 IN YORK REGION


COVID-19 Outbreaks in York Region
As of 4:00 PM
October 28, 2020

Confirmed Open Outbreaks Today



Data current as of October 28 at 5:00pm

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WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

York Region has moved to modified Stage 2 Restrictions

- Closure of:
 - Indoor food and drink service in restaurants, bars, nightclubs and food courts in malls
 - Indoor gyms and fitness centres
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments, indoor cinemas, performing arts centres and venues
- Prohibiting personal care services where face coverings must be removed for the service
- Limits for all social gatherings and organized public events
 - Indoor gathering limit of 10, outdoor limit of 25
- Team sports limited to training sessions

Additional restrictions include:

- Added precautions/restrictions at long-term care homes, retirement homes, and congregate care settings

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

Protective Measures

- Limit contact to people in your household
 - Avoid social gatherings and crowds
 - Avoid non-essential travel
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters with those outside your household
- Wear a mask if you must be within 2 meters of someone
- Hand washing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces
- Stay home if you have any symptoms (even mild ones) and get tested
- Download the COVID Alert app for free

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

Traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating is **not recommended** in areas currently within Modified Stage 2 restrictions, including York Region.

For more information, please see york.ca/newsroom



WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

COVID-19 Quick Reference Public Health Guidance on Testing and Clearance

Version 10; October 1, 2020

New Non-Test Based Clearance Approach

10 Day Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cases with mild to moderate illness AND NO *severe immune compromise	<i>Provided the individual is afebrile without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours.</i>
20 Day Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cases with severe illness (requiring ICU level support) or with *severe immune compromise.	

* Please refer to the Approaches to Clearing Cases table on Pg. 4 of the [Quick Reference Guidance on Testing and Clearance](#) for specific conditions associated with severe immune compromise.

Note: Close contacts of cases (i.e., those with high risk exposures) are still required to self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure to the case as it relates to the incubation period of the virus.

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms

Version 7; September 21, 2020

When assessing for the symptoms the focus should be on evaluating if they are **new, worsening, or different** from an individual's baseline health status (usual state).

- Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.
- Common symptoms, other symptoms, and atypical symptoms and signs (especially in older people, infants/children, and people living with a developmental disability)

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening (Version 3; October 5, 2020)

Symptom List #1	Symptom List #2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever and/or chills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sore throat
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cough or barking cough (croup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stuffy nose and/or runny nose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shortness of breath	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease or loss of smell or taste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise

New/worsening symptoms not related to other known causes or medical conditions

When a child should be advised to **self-isolate**:

- Presenting with **any** of the symptoms in List #1
- Presenting with **two or more** of the symptoms in List #2
- *Even if asymptomatic:*
 - Have been identified by PH as a close contact of a case of COVID-19
 - Have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
 - Have been instructed by PH or an HCP to self-isolate, have received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone in the last 14 days.

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE PROVINCE

COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management (October 1, 2020)

What to do with ill individuals not tested?

- **Is the individual a probable case?** (refer to case definition)
 - If yes, manage as a case and use clearance guidance
 - If not a probable case: **Is there an alternative diagnosis?**

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COVID-19 TESTING IN YORK REGION

PROVINCIAL TESTING GUIDANCE UPDATE

Any Ontarian presenting with at least one symptom or sign from the [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) should be considered for PCR testing for COVID19.

Clinicians should continue to use their clinical judgement during patient assessment and test facilitation, considering local epidemiology and exposure risks.

Generally, low risk, asymptomatic individuals should not be considered for testing. However, there are some exceptions:

1. Contacts of confirmed positive cases
 - Even if tests negative, would still need to complete 14-day isolation
2. Outbreak Investigation
3. High risk population e.g., part of targeted testing campaign as directed by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care, or by local public health

COVID-19 TESTING IN YORK REGION

Assessment Centres – *Symptomatic, high risk (even if asymptomatic)*

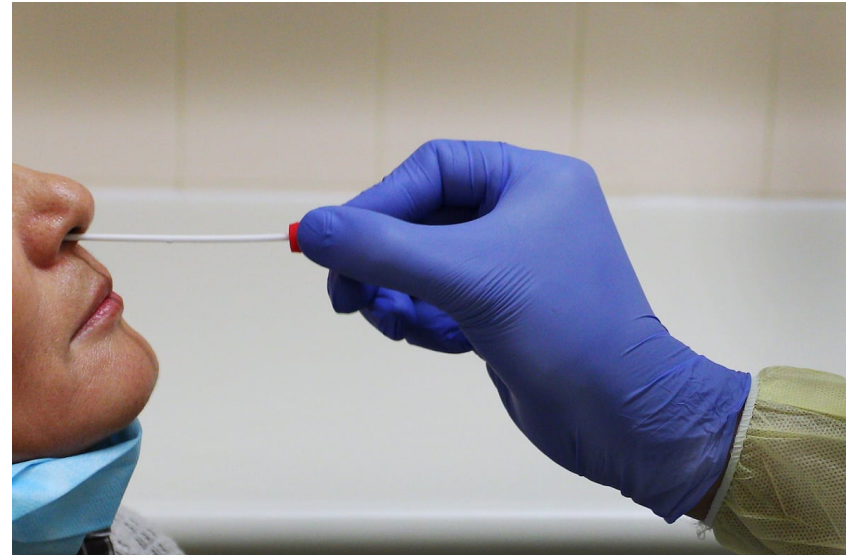
- [Markham-Stouffville Hospital](#)
- [Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital](#)
- [Mackenzie Health Urgent Care Centre \(Vaughan\)](#)
- [Southlake Regional Health Centre \(Newmarket\)](#)

Pharmacies – *Other asymptomatic testing*

For up-to-date information on testing sites:

[**Ontario.ca/covidtest**](https://ontario.ca/covidtest)

Those tested can [access test results online](#).



COVID-19 TESTING IN YORK REGION

Primary care providers can conduct testing for COVID-19 if:

- They take necessary droplet and contact precautions; **AND**
- They can isolate the patient in a single room/area away from others; **AND**
- They can provide patient with surgical/procedure mask (if tolerated); **AND**
- They can implement appropriate disinfection procedures

Requisition forms are available from Public Health Ontario

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

COVID-19 Virus Test Requisition

For laboratory use only
Date received: yyyy / mm / dd PHOL No.:

ALL Sections of this form must be completed at every visit

1 - Submitter Lab Number (if applicable):

Ordering Clinician (required)
Surname, First Name:
OHIP/CPSO/Prof. License No.
Address:
Postal code:
Phone: (###) ###-#### Fax: (###) ###-####

cc Hospital Lab (for entry into LIS)
Hospital Name:
Address (if different from ordering clinician):
Postal Code:
Phone: (###) ###-#### Fax: (###) ###-####

cc Other Clinician or ICP:
Surname, First name:
OHIP/CPSO/Prof. License No.:
Address:
Postal code:
Phone: (###) ###-#### Fax: (###) ###-####

2 - Patient Information
Health Card No.: Medical Record No.:
Last Name:
First Name:
Date of Birth: yyyy / mm / dd Sex: M F
Address:
Postal Code: Patient Phone No.: (###) ###-####
Investigation / Outbreak No.:

3 - Travel History
Travel to:
Date of Travel: yyyy / mm / dd Date of Return: yyyy / mm / dd

4 - Exposure History
Exposure to probable, or confirmed case? Yes No
Exposure details:
Date of symptom onset of contact: yyyy / mm / dd

5 - Test(s) Requested
 COVID-19 Virus Respiratory viruses check ONLY if required for hospitalized patient or those in group setting

6 - Specimen Type (check all that apply)
Specimen Collection Date: yyyy / mm / dd (required)
 NPS in UTM If possible:
 Throat Swab in UTM BAL
 Other (Specify): Sputum

7 - Patient Setting / Type
 Assessment Centre Family doctor / clinic Outpatient / ER not admitted
Only if applicable, indicate the group:
 Healthcare worker Institution / all group living settings
 Inpatient (hospitalized) Confirmation (for use ONLY by a COVID testing lab). Enter your result (NEG/POS/ or IND)
 Inpatient (ICU / CCU) For clearance of disease
 First Nations / Inuit Other (Specify):
 Unhoused / shelter
 ER - to be hospitalized
 Deceased / Autopsy

8 - Clinical Information
 Asymptomatic Symptomatic
Date of symptom onset: yyyy / mm / dd
 Fever / temperature, if known: Pneumonia
 Pregnant / also check if in labour: Cough
 Other (specify): Sore Throat

CONFIDENTIAL WHEN COMPLETED
The personal health information is collected under the authority of the Personal Health Information Protection Act, s.36(1)(c)(iii) for the purpose of clinical laboratory testing. If you have questions about the collection of this personal health information please contact the PHO laboratory Manager of Customer Service at 416-235-6556 or toll free 1-877-604-4567. Form No. F-SD-SCG-4000 (04/13).

Ontario

NEW TESTING MODALITY UPDATES

- **Saliva Testing:**

- PHO has added saliva as an acceptable specimen type for COVID-19 PCR testing in patients for whom testing using another specimen type is not possible/not tolerated. It can complement non-NP swabs
- Only a limited number of laboratories are accepting saliva samples for COVID-19 PCR testing
- For more information on the saliva test please refer to PHO's document on [The Use of Saliva as an Alternate Specimen for SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) PCR Testing](#)

- **Point of Care Testing**

- Being evaluated in Ontario
- Shorter turnaround time, but lower sensitivity

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IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

FLU IMMUNIZATION – VACCINE INVENTORY UPDATE

- York Region Public Health currently has flu vaccine supply for both QIV and HD-TIV products
 - Flucelvax distributed to pharmacies by Ministry contracted third party distributors (not public health)
- Flu vaccine distribution is underway – doses received incrementally from the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies Services (OGPMSS)
 - All HCP offices may not yet have received vaccines due to extremely high demand of orders
- All levels of government are advocating to get additional flu dose allocation.

Reminder: HD-TIV and QIV can both be used for patients 65 years and older. Health care providers are being reminded not to delay flu vaccination of your patients by waiting for a particular product. **The most important thing is to vaccinate your patients as soon as possible.**

Order using: [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#) which is posted on our website: york.ca/vaccineinventory

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE REMINDER

- Pneumovax (Pneu-P-23): Seniors aged 65+ yo and those who meet the high-risk eligibility criteria
- Prevnar-13 (Pneu-C-13): Children from infancy to age 4 and those 50+ yo who meet the high-risk eligibility criteria
- For more information on the high-risk eligibility criteria or dosing interval considerations for pneumococcal vaccines please refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.](#)

Order using: [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#)

IMMUNIZATION RESOURCES FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

York Region Public Health

- Communications to HCPs on immunization and vaccine inventory can be found on York Region's [Vaccine Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) page, including:
 - [High Dose Influenza Vaccine and Shingles Vaccine Available to Order](#)
 - [Expired Health Card Validation and Immunization Services](#)

Ministry of Health

- [Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19](#)
- [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#)

Public Health Ontario

- [Influenza Vaccines for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season](#)
- [Influenza Antiviral Treatment](#)

National Advisory Committee Immunization

- [Guidance on the use of influenza vaccine in the presence of COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for influenza vaccine delivery in the presence of COVID-19](#)
- [Recommendations on the Duration of the Post-vaccination Observation Period for Influenza Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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HEALTH EQUITY & COVID-19

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS & COVID-19

A number of key populations were identified as particularly vulnerable, experiencing unprecedented challenges and requiring tailored support and care:



Persons living with disabilities



Young Adults
(40 and under)



Residents without stable housing



Low income residents



Seniors



Newcomers

CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Social Isolation

- Increased need for mental health supports, move to virtual platforms helped to remain connected but left out those without equipment or skills

Digital Inequities

- Challenges with internet access, greater risk of exposure to inaccurate Public Health information online within lower health/digital literacy population

Access to Public Health

- Public understanding of Public Health role in COVID-19 not well understood, barriers to accessing Public Health unit to receive information or seek clarification

COVID-19 Information

- Service providers would benefit from a direct link to Public Health to convey messaging, reliance on digital media for information and updates, challenges in the ability to adhere to guidelines

FUTURE HEALTH EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS



Highlight **community assets** identified during the emergency response for future collaboration and potential channels for direct public health action (e.g. pop-up testing sites)



Support **policy advocacy** with community groups and partners to address health inequities that have been further highlighted during the pandemic



Knowledge translation opportunities for internal/external partners

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Q&A PERIOD

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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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- Instagram
- Pinterest
- e-News
- Mobile App

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

LINKS TO BOOKMARK

- **York Region's webpage**

- york.ca/healthprofessionals - is a health care provider specific page
- york.ca/covid19data - our York Region data dashboard
- york.ca/covid19 - for video updates from York Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kurji

- **Public Health Ontario's COVID-19 page**

- <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus> → evidence briefs, synopsis of key articles, etc.

- **Ministry of Health's webpage for health care providers, specifically**

- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx#symptoms

REMINDER: HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PHONE & WEB RESOURCES



- If you have any questions, call the dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday)
- After hours call 905-953-6478

THANK YOU

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

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

