



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Public Health Sudbury & Districts: Update on COVID-19

November 26, 2021

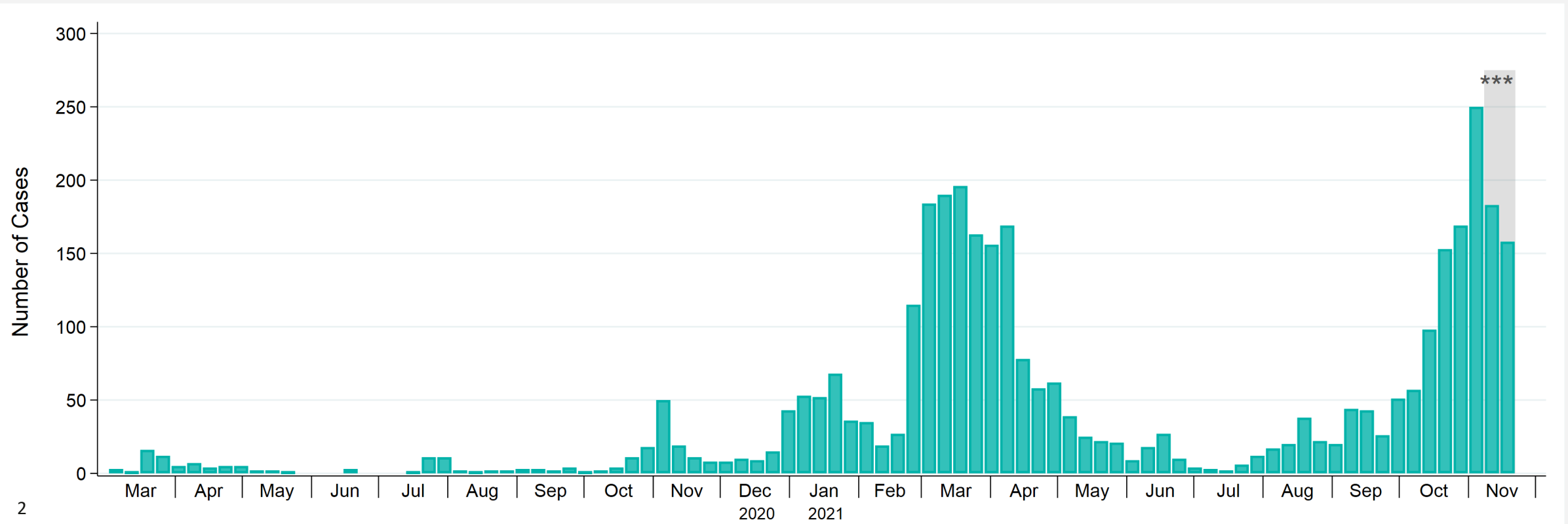
Key messages

- Continued high COVID-19 rates mean that Public Health Sudbury & Districts is among the **top three** most affected areas in Ontario.
- Measures announced November 8, 2021, have suppressed rapid case growth but rates remain unacceptably high for health and health system, in-person learning and a “reopened” community.
- There is **widespread** circulation of the virus – schools, workplaces, social settings, health care – requiring a widespread responses to limit mobility and face to face interactions
- Further **measured and responsible** protective measures announced today include:
 - *Instructions* under the *Reopening Ontario Act* to require work from home
 - Strong recommendations for COVID-19 protections in schools, businesses and organizations
 - Stricter protocols for some contacts of COVID-19 cases
- These **time-limited** additional measures combined with an ongoing commitment to **individual COVID-safe behaviours** will protect people, the health system, and in-person learning and are particularly important as we head into the holiday season

COVID-19 in Sudbury & Districts

- As of November 25, our region has seen **3 676 reported cases** of COVID-19.
- **One third** of all of the COVID cases to date have occurred since the start of October.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases, by week, Sudbury and districts



*** Infections occurring during this period may not yet be detected and/or reported. Data Source: Case and Contact Management System (CCM), accessed November 24, 2021

Impact of Delta Variant

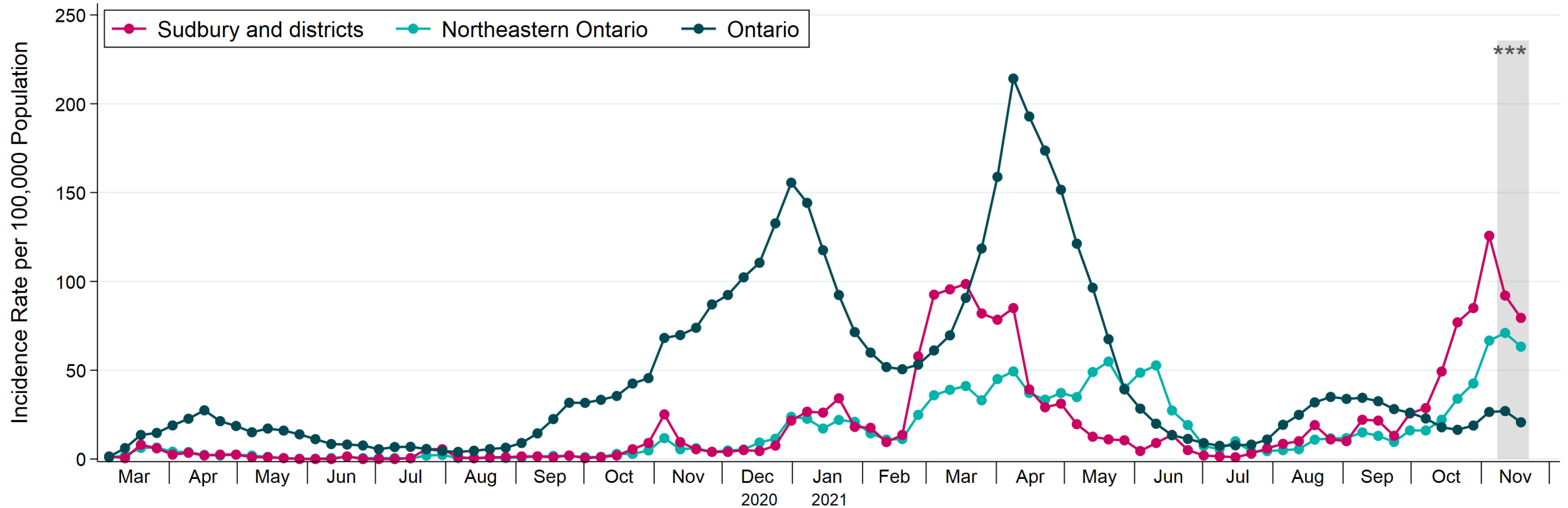


100%
Delta Variant

- Since September 1, 2021, **ALL** laboratory samples undergoing whole genome sequencing have been positive for Delta
- The Delta variant is **highly transmissible**, which means that it can spread and impact our health and health system despite high levels of vaccination.
- These risks can be mitigated by increasing **vaccine uptake** and **public health measures** such as capacity restrictions, masking, distancing, testing, remote work, and staying home if even mildly unwell.

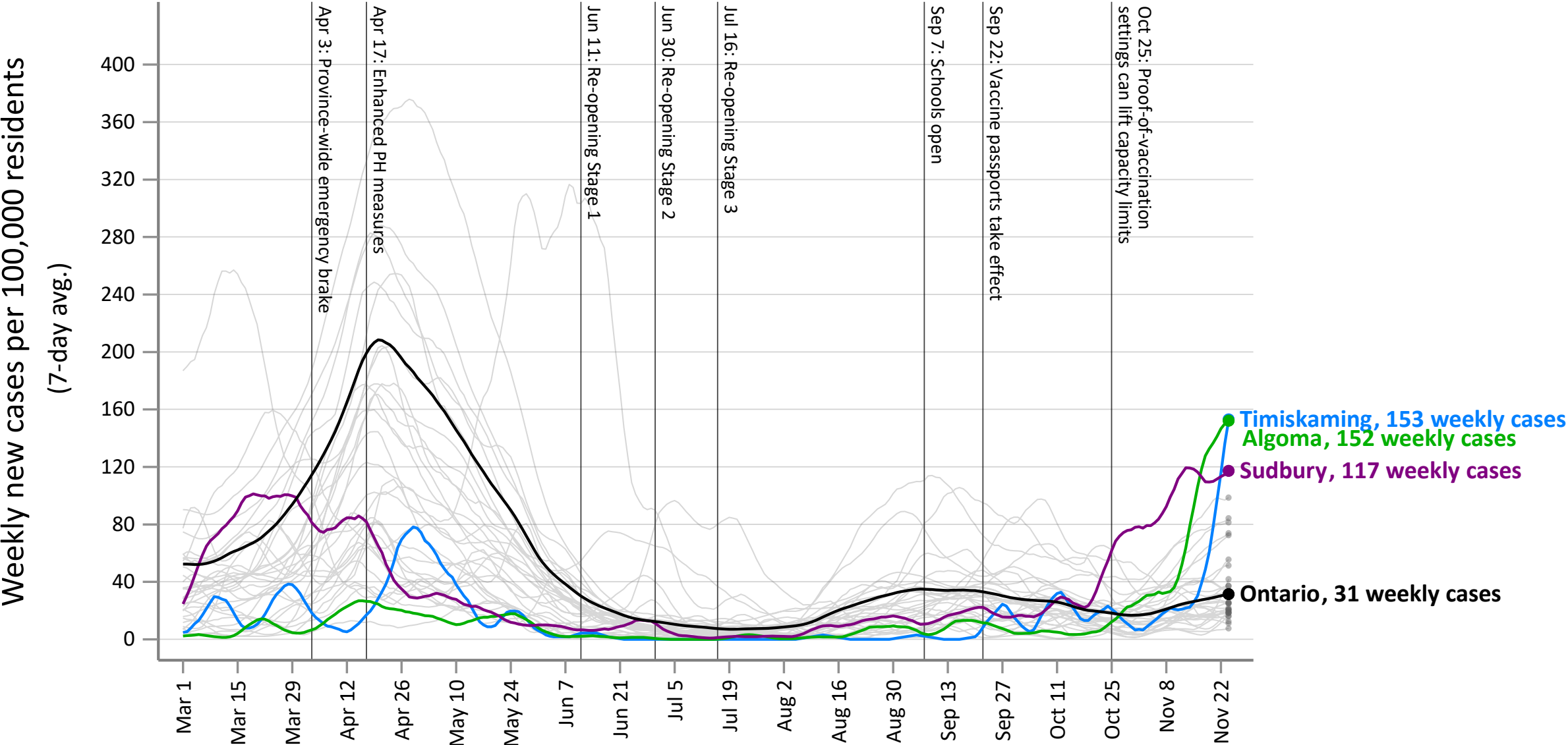
Comparing Public Health Sudbury & Districts with the Northeast and Ontario

Incidence rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population, by week and geographic region



*** Infections occurring during this period may not yet be detected and/or reported. Data Source: Case and Contact Management System (CCM), accessed November 24, 2021 and Population Projections 2020, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, accessed April 21, 2021

Total new cases per 100,000 residents per week across PHUs

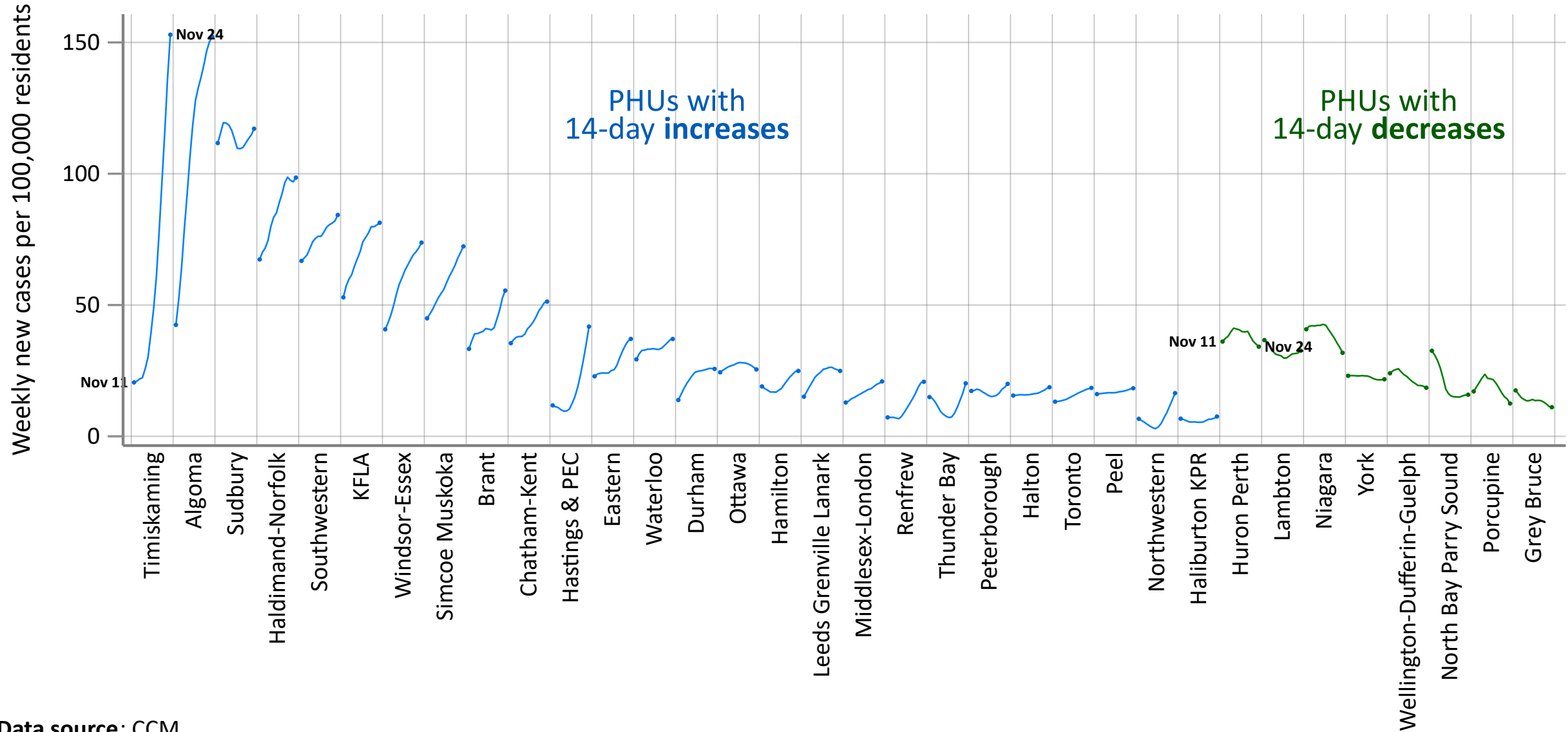


November 26, 2021

Data for the most recent day have been censored to account for reporting delays. Data source : Case and Contact Management System (CCM), accessed November 24

Average weekly cases across Public Health Units

14-day trend (November 11 to November 24)



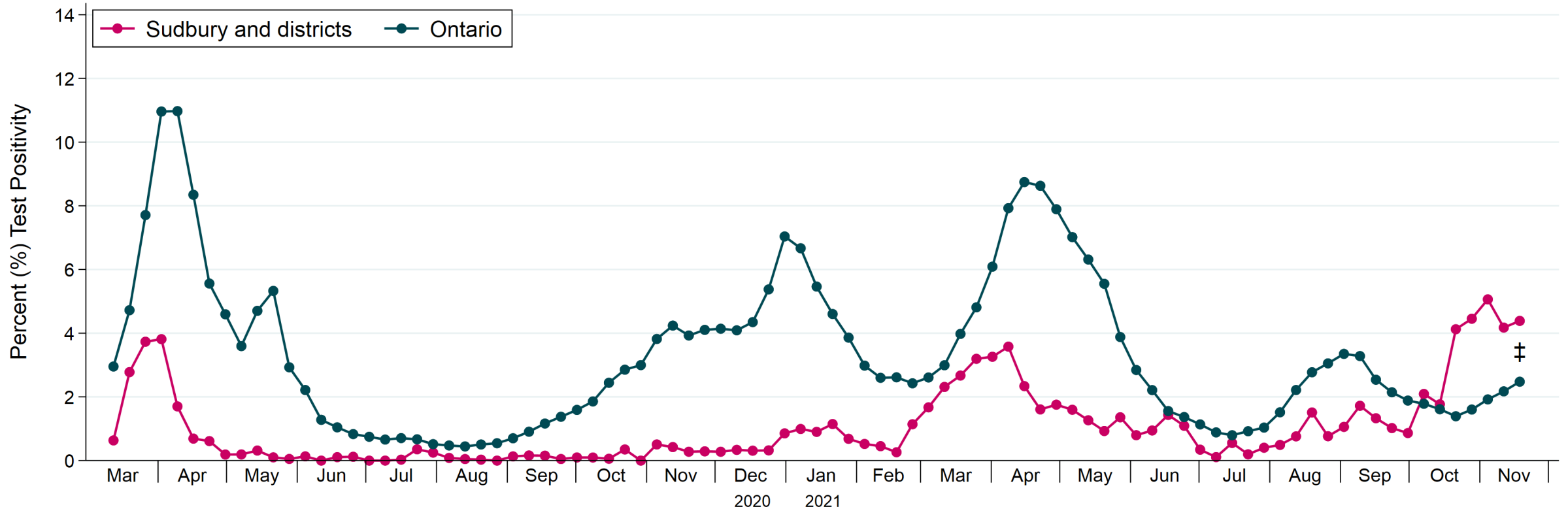
Data source: CCM

Data note: Data for the most recent day have been censored to account for reporting delays

November 26, 2021

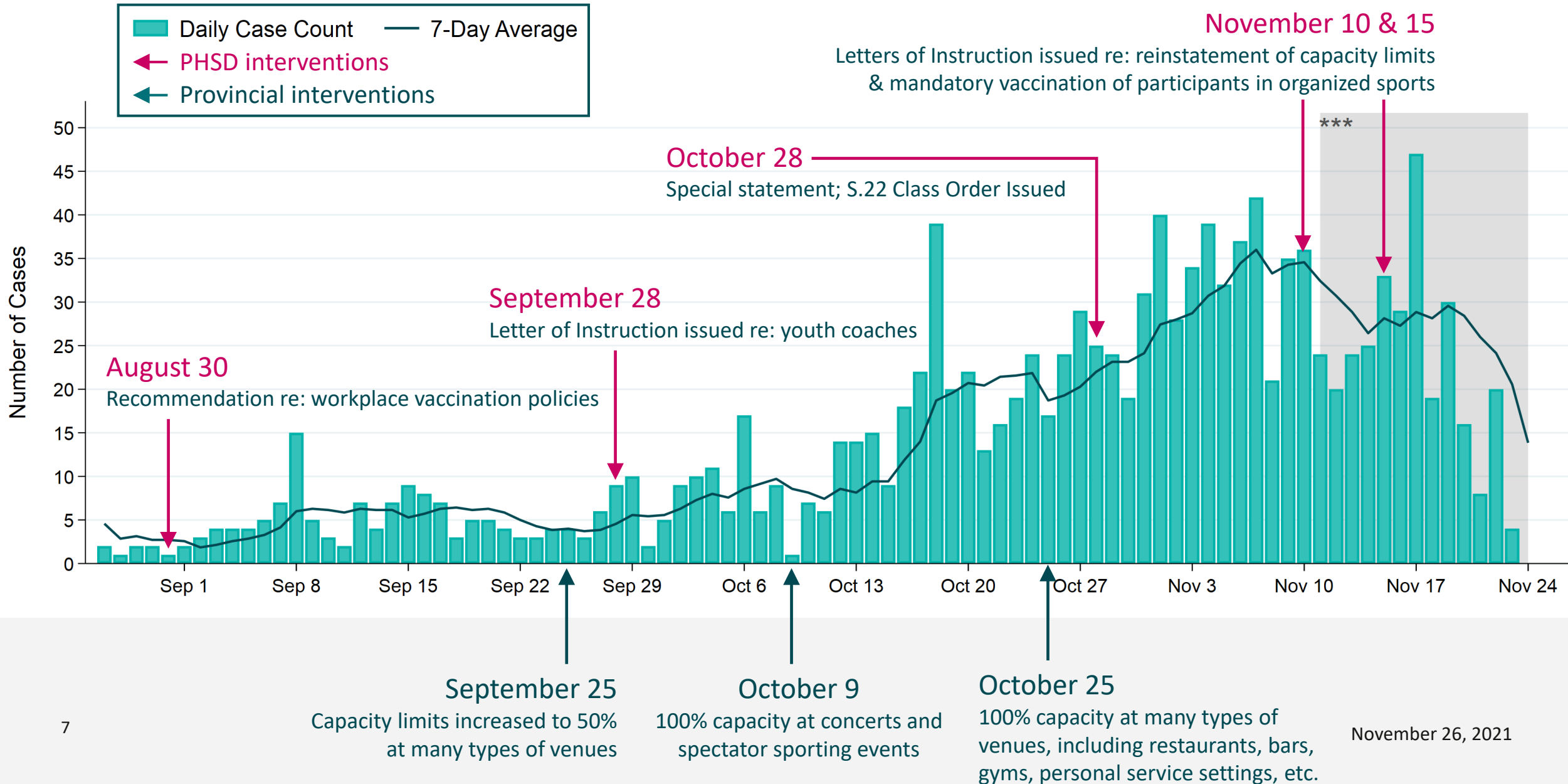
Percent Positivity

Percentage (%) of COVID-19 tests that are positive, by week and geographic region



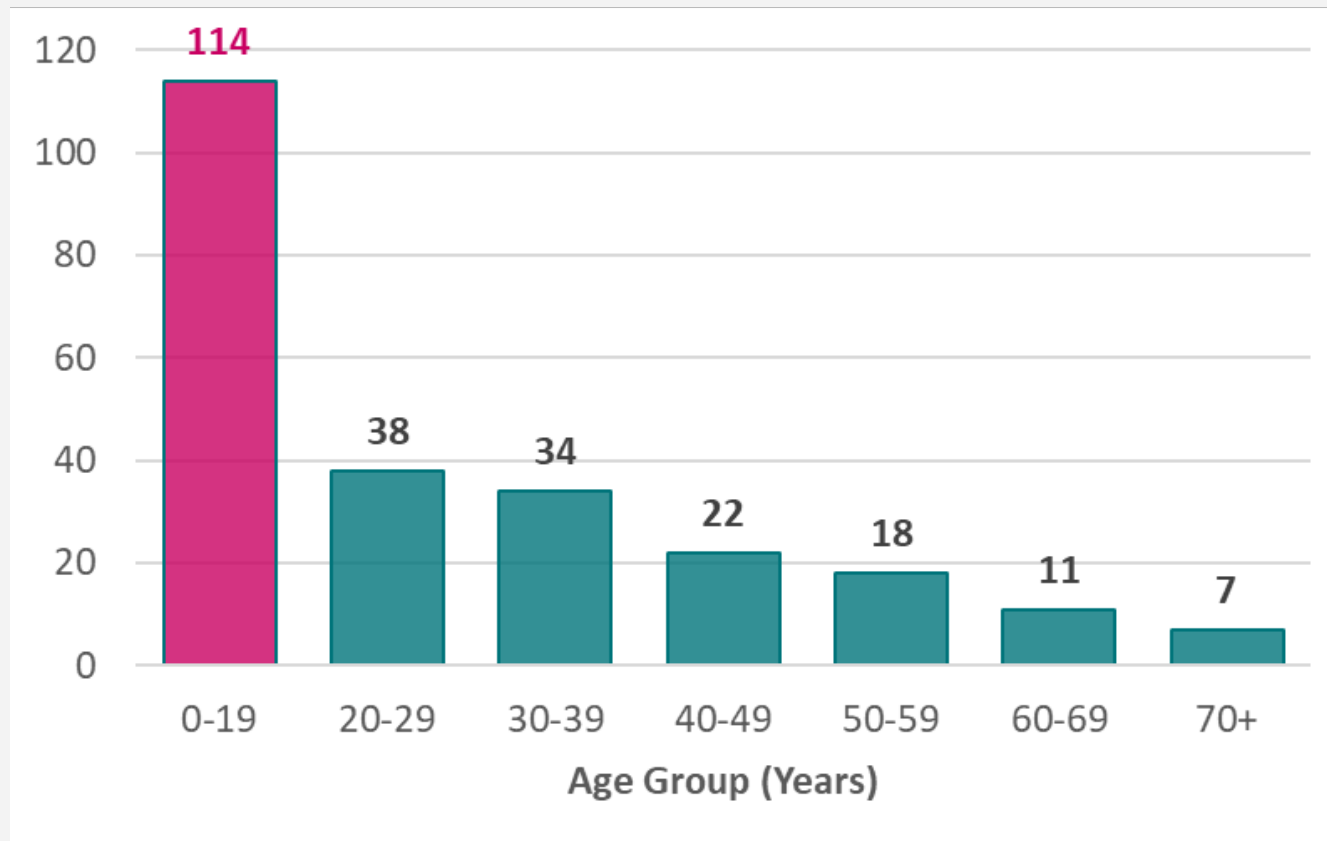
‡ Preliminary Data. Data source: COVID-19 Testing Report (SAS Visual Analytics), Ministry of Health, November 23, 2021

Recent case counts and public health measures



Some groups are more impacted

COVID-19 cases in the past 7 days, by age group, Sudbury and districts, November 25



As of November 25, there were...

43 schools

with at least 1 active case

101 active cases

among students at those schools

116 school cohorts dismissed

in the previous 7 days

17 active outbreaks

in schools, busses and daycares in the previous 7 days

The Impact of Vaccine Coverage on Case Rates

Highest local case incidence rates among those in their **30's**, as well as those **less than 19 years of age** for the 28-day period ending November 24.

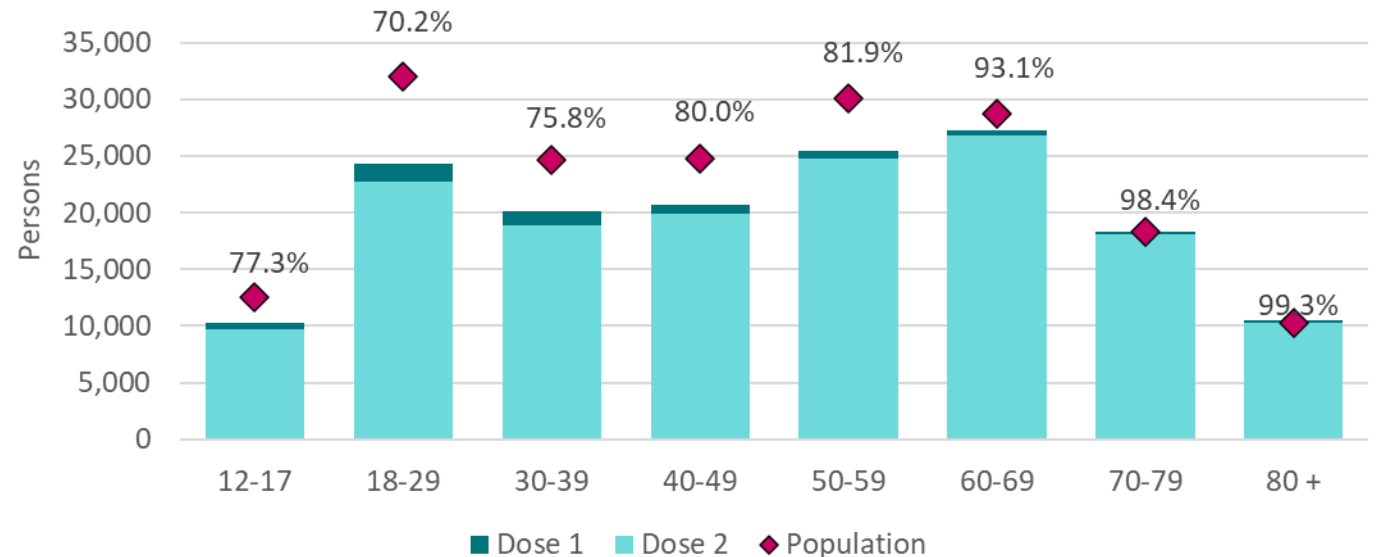
Lowest dose-2 vaccine coverage rates among those in their **20's** and **30's** as of November 16.

28-day Incidence Rate / 100k Pop

Age (groups)	Incidence Rate
19 and under	603.0
20s	541.5
30s	621.0
40s	497.3
50s	218.9
60s	212.0
70s & 80s & 90s	191.8
Total	415.6

Dose 2 Coverage by Age Group

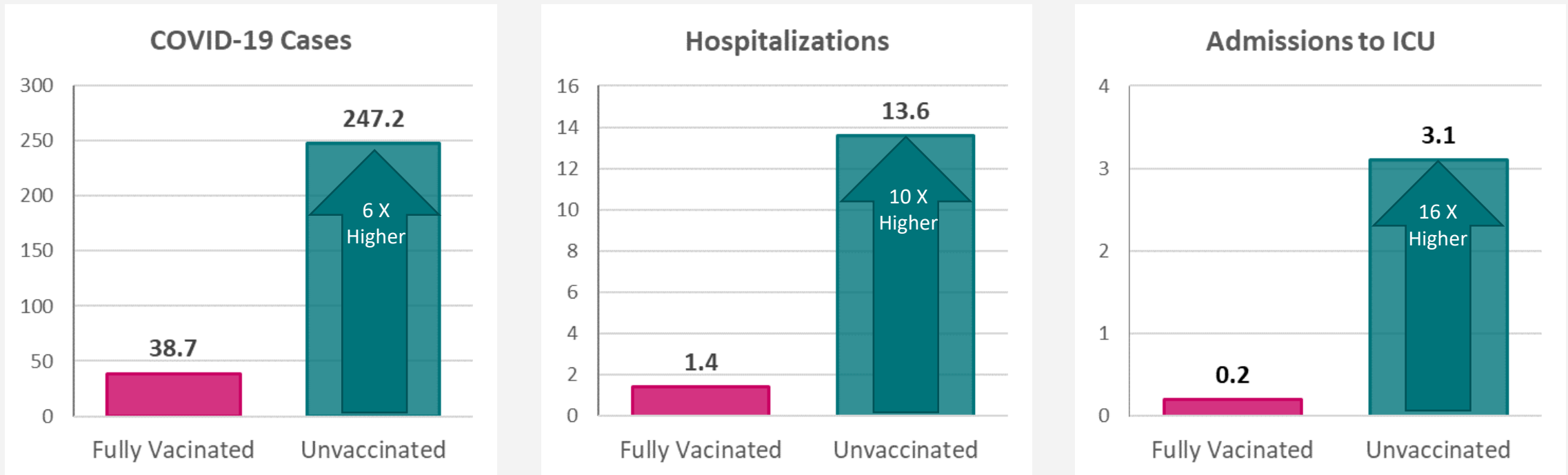
November 24, 2021



Vaccines Are Working ...

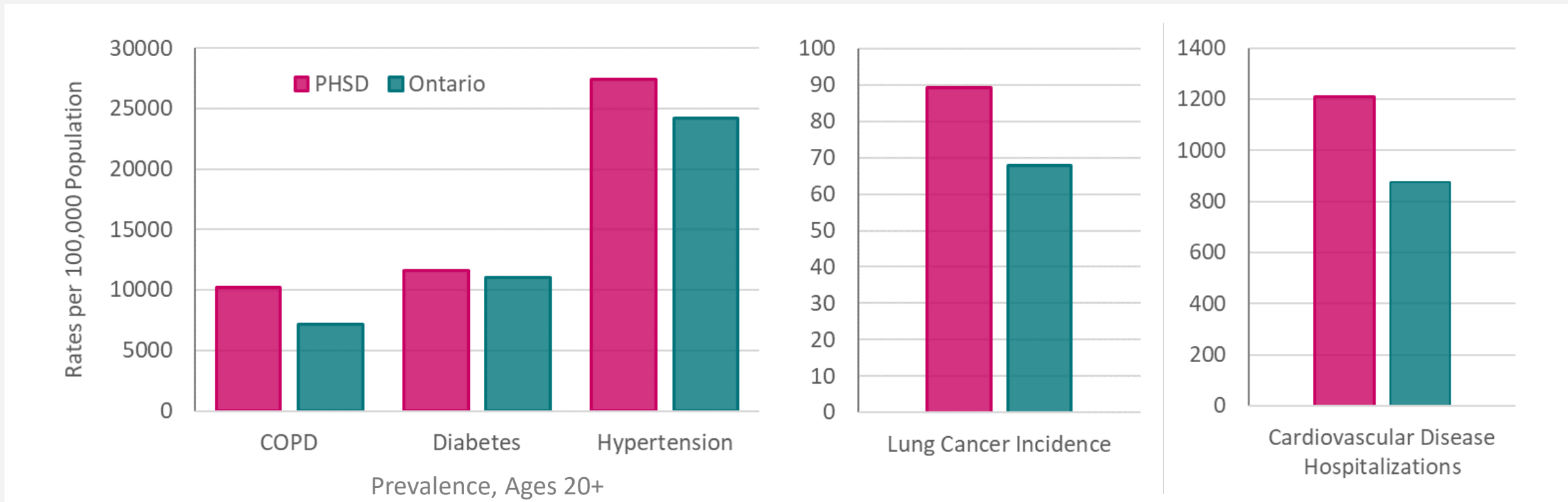
Vaccination decreases the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19, as well as the risk of hospitalization or ICU admission for COVID-19.

Rates per 100,000 Population Inhabitants, by Vaccination Status, Ontario, September 30 – October 29



Our community is vulnerable due to higher underlying rates of chronic disease

Age-standardized rates of various chronic disease outcomes, Sudbury and districts vs. Ontario



Taking further action to limit the spread of the virus and protect community health and the health system

Community Measures

- Additional instructions issued under the provincial *Reopening Ontario Act* require **Greater Sudbury businesses and organizations to** ensure that **any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely**, unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.
- Strong **recommendations to businesses and organizations on conduct appropriate to our current COVID-19 risk circumstances**
 - Every available precaution should be taken, and business conducted in the most COVID-safe ways possible—for example, implementing vaccination policies, strengthening masking requirements, and ensuring physical distancing, in addition to daily symptom screening for employees and patrons, staying home even when mildly ill, and getting tested if individuals have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Limit outings and avoid in-person gatherings, both social and professional. Public Health has developed a *Workplace Checklist* to help businesses plan COVID-safe gatherings, whether they be virtual or in-person.
- **Enhanced case and contact management protocols** in community
 - In certain high-risk situations, Public Health will require contacts from the community to self-isolate and seek testing regardless of their vaccination status (e.g. contact of a “breakthrough” case, household member who is a case, associated with a vulnerable setting).

Taking further action to limit the spread of the virus and protect community health and the health system

School and Childcare Measures

- **Rapid antigen test (RAT)** screening is being deployed in local schools with elevated community case rates.
- Implementation of **protective/conservative contact management protocols** for schools/childcare:
 - Students and staff in dismissed cohorts who are fully vaccinated (or previously COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days) may return to school but are **not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities** for 10 days following the dismissal date.
 - Children and youth who are not fully vaccinated (or previously COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days), and are living with someone who is isolating because they are an unvaccinated contact of a case, are now required to **stay-at-home** and away from school and daycare and not gather with others outside of the household unless they are fully vaccinated
- Enhanced **health and safety measures** in schools
- Public Health is strongly recommending that, if proof of vaccination cannot be provided, **COVID-19 screening with rapid antigen tests (RAT)**, be implemented for students and coaches prior to participation in **high-contact, indoor, extracurricular sports and activities**.
- **Vaccination for children aged 5 to 11** beginning in our communities on November 26.

Key messages recap

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