



**Public Health
Santé publique**
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Public Health Sudbury & Districts: Update on COVID-19

Technical Brief
December 8, 2021

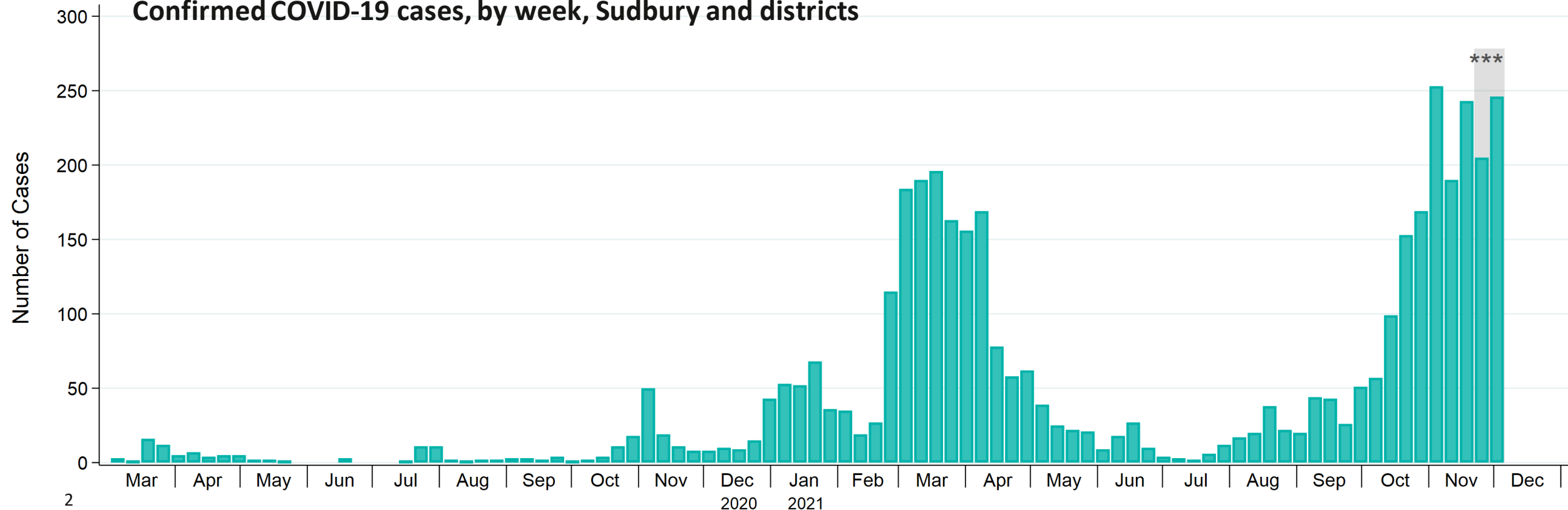
Key messages

- Continued high COVID-19 rates mean that Public Health Sudbury & Districts is in the **top two** most affected areas in Ontario (based on data from the last 14 days).
- Measures announced November 8 and November 26, 2021, have suppressed rapid case growth but case rates remain stubbornly high.
- There continues to be **widespread** circulation of the virus – in schools, workplaces, social settings, health care – requiring ongoing widespread responses.
- Recent modelling from Ontario's Science Advisory Table paints a **stark picture of case growth** even without the Omicron variant.
- There is a need to double down on **public health measures** to blunt transmission, along with protecting as many people as possible through **vaccination**.
- New protective **public health measures** are needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for the Omicron variant:
 - **Expansion** of measures such as work-from-home and capacity limits, currently in place in Greater Sudbury will apply across the districts of Manitoulin and Sudbury
 - **New Instructions** under the *Reopening Ontario Act* introduced will impact gathering limits, workplaces, sports, food/drink establishments, retail, and more
- 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 December 8, our region has seen **4 203 reported cases** of COVID-19
- **About one third (32%)** all of the COVID cases to date have occurred since the start of November

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

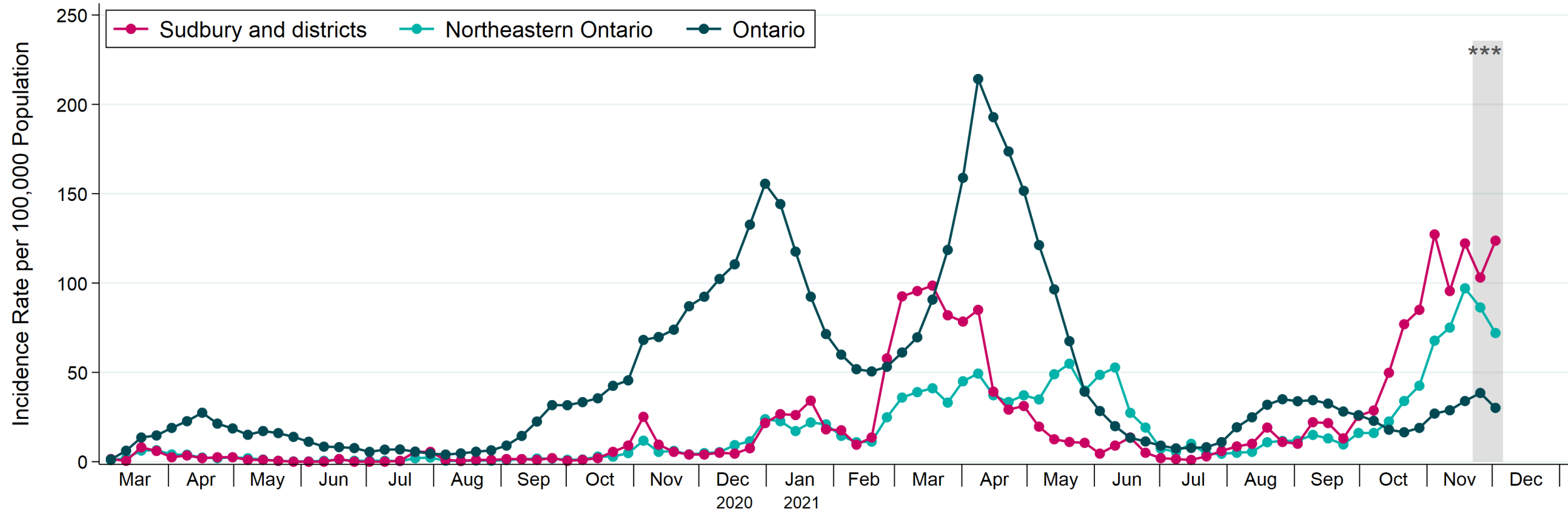


100%
Delta Variant

- 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.

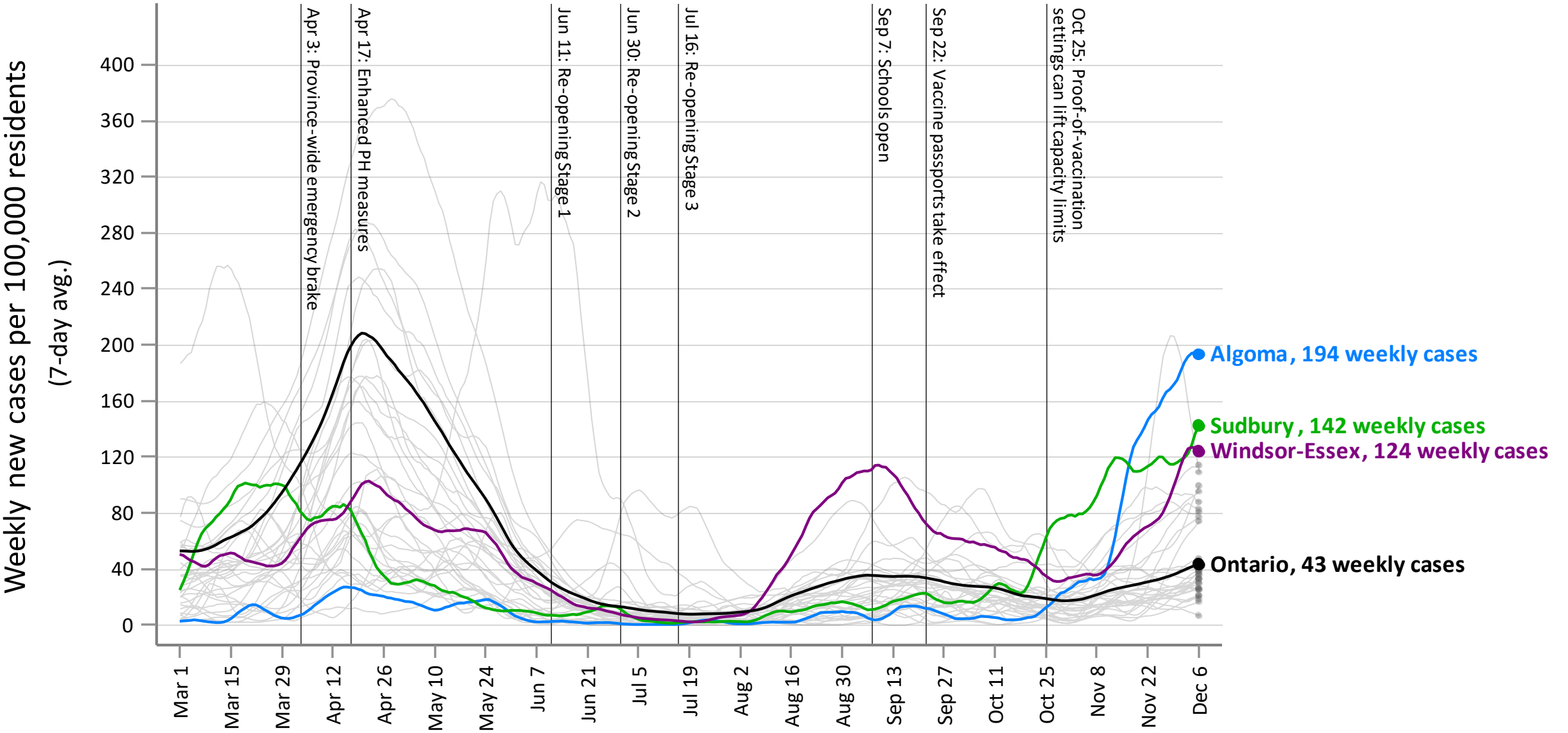
Comparing Public Health Sudbury & Districts with the Northeast and Ontario

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 December 7, 2021 and Population Projections 2020, Ontario Ministry of Health, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, accessed April 21, 2021

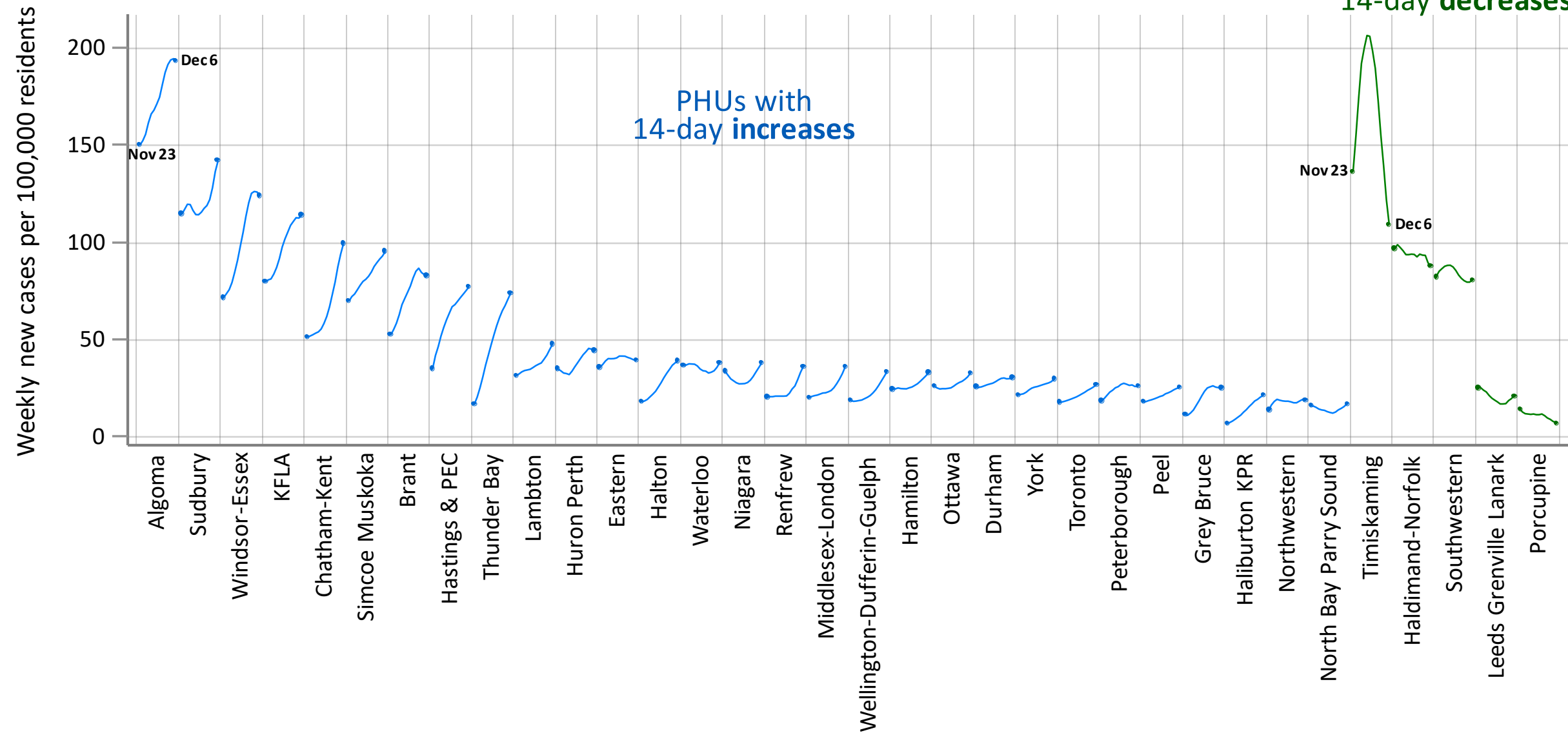
Total new cases per 100,000 residents per week across PHUs



Data source: Case and Contact Management System (CCM), data up to December 6
Data note: Data for the most recent day have been censored to account for reporting delays

Average weekly cases across Public Health Units

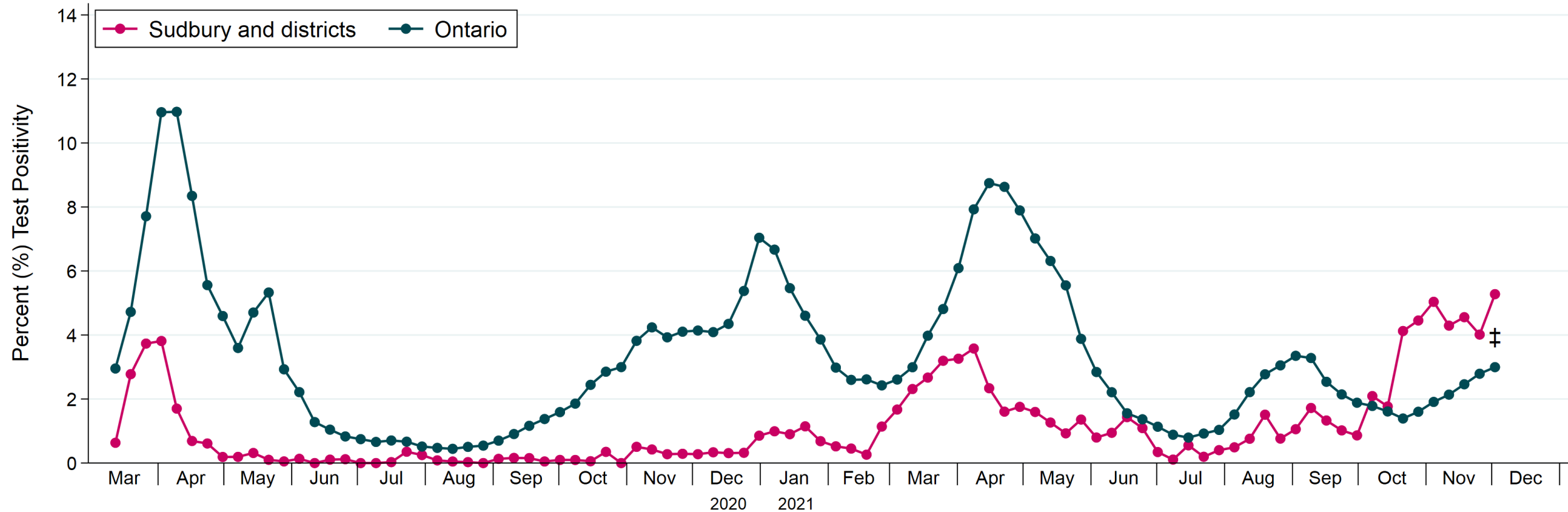
14-day trend (November 23 to December 6)



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

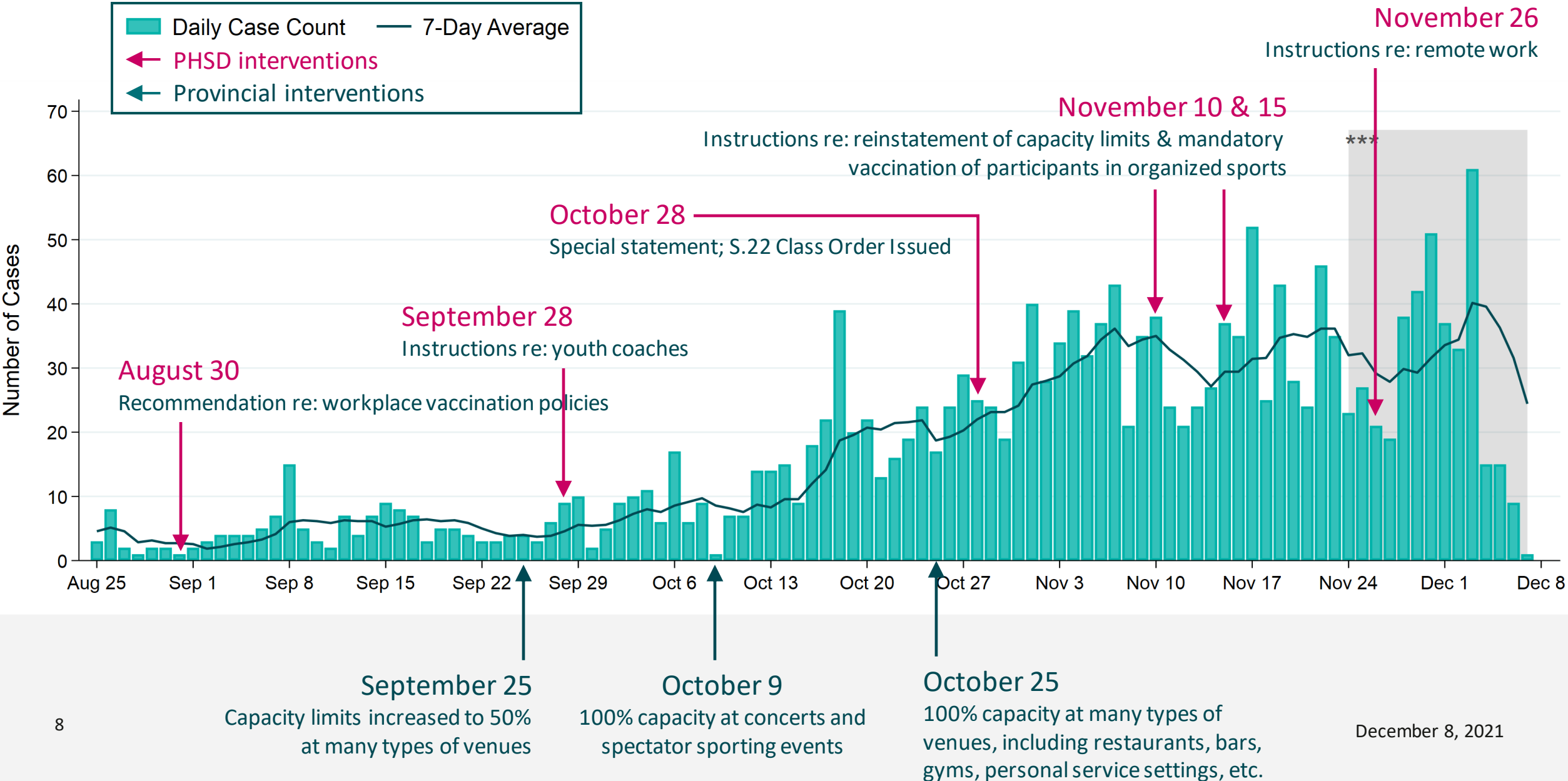
Percent Positivity

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



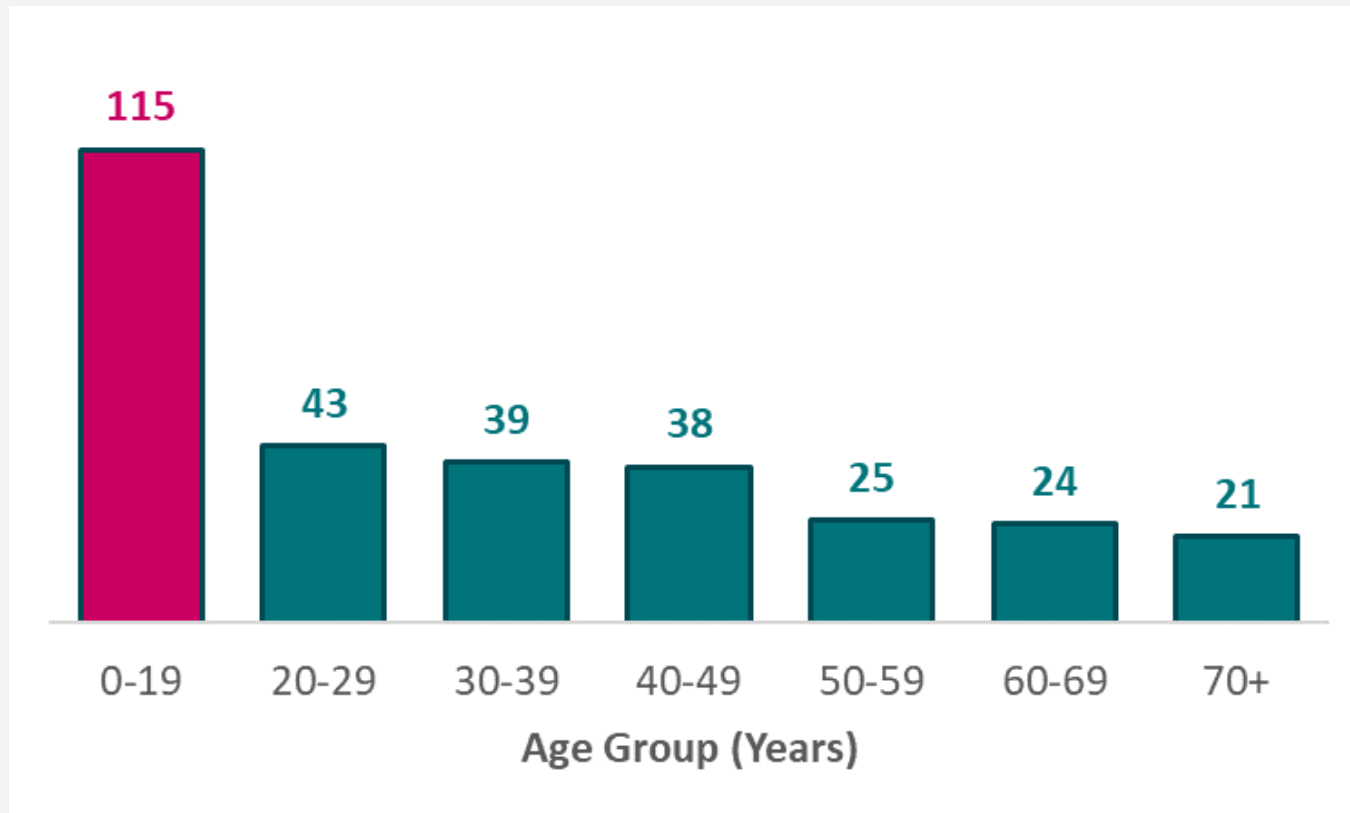
‡ Preliminary Data. Data source: COVID-19 Testing Report (SAS Visual Analytics), Ministry of Health, December 7, 2021

Recent case counts and public health measures



Our recent surge has been in children and youth

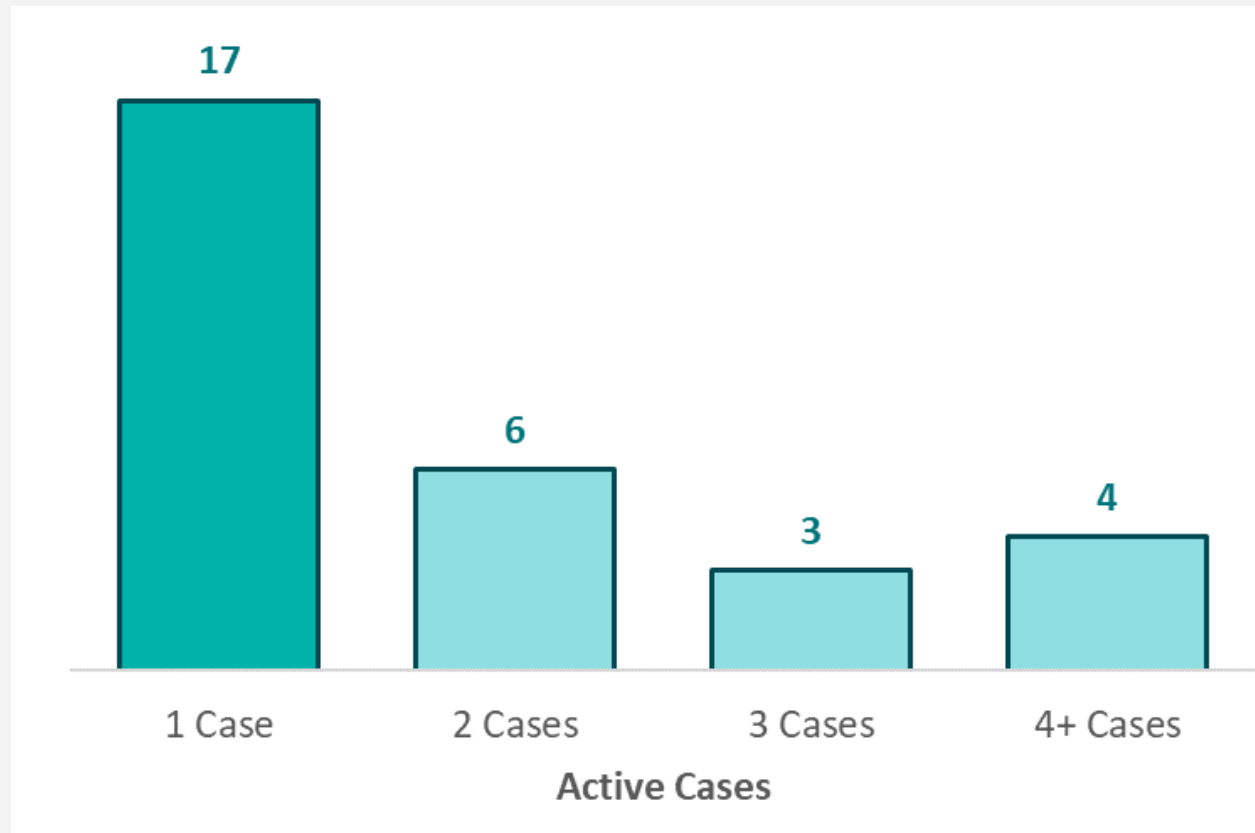
COVID-19 cases reported, by age group, Sudbury and districts, December 1–7



Most virus spread is occurring outside of schools

But the impact on schools is widespread

Number of Schools, by Active COVID-19 Cases, Sudbury & and Districts, December 8, 2001



As of December 8, there were...

31 schools

with at least 1 active case

63 active cases

among students at those schools

70 youth cohorts dismissed

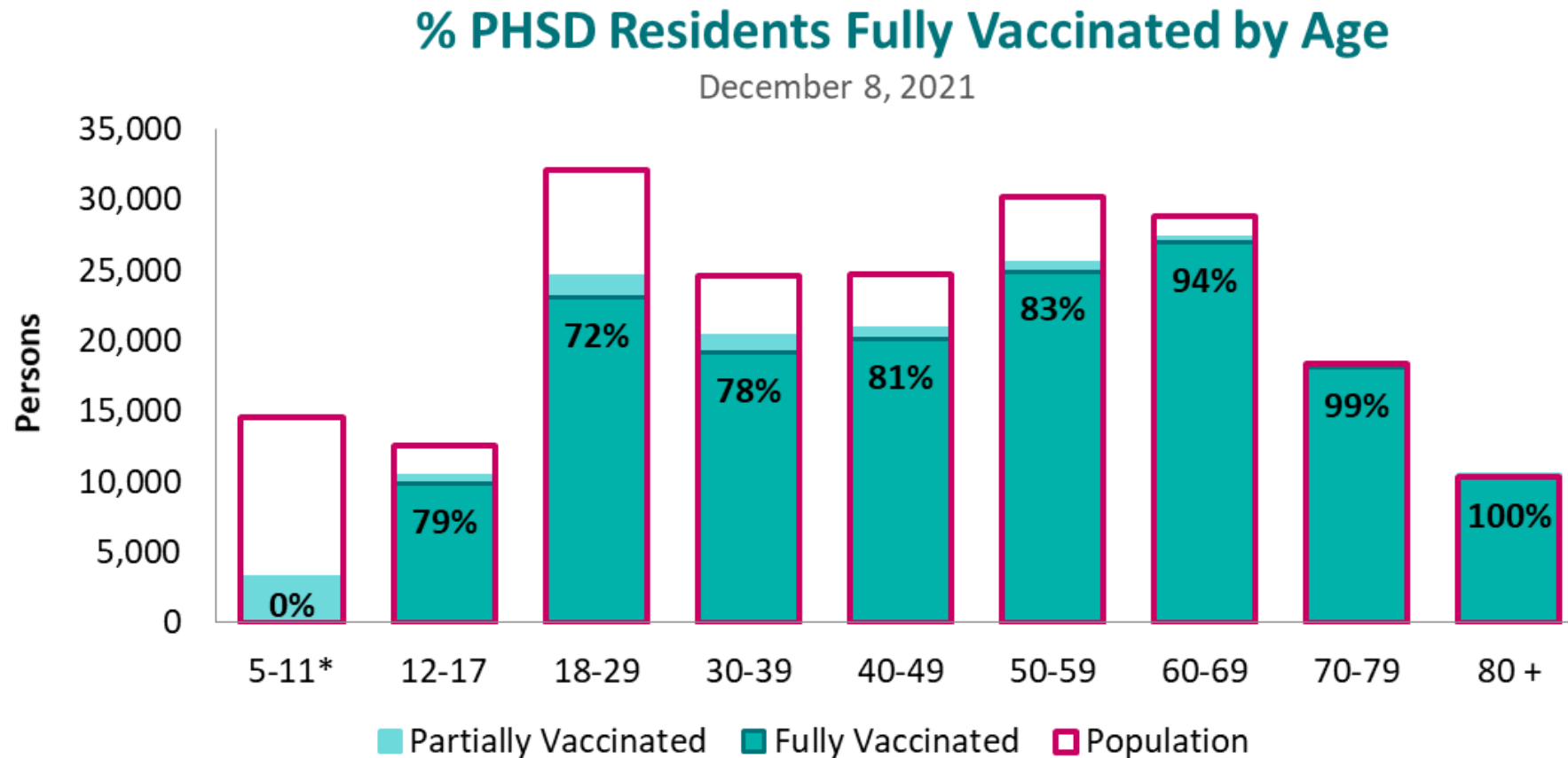
in the previous 7 days

Only 3 active outbreaks

i.e. schools where there is virus spread

Vaccination Coverage Rates

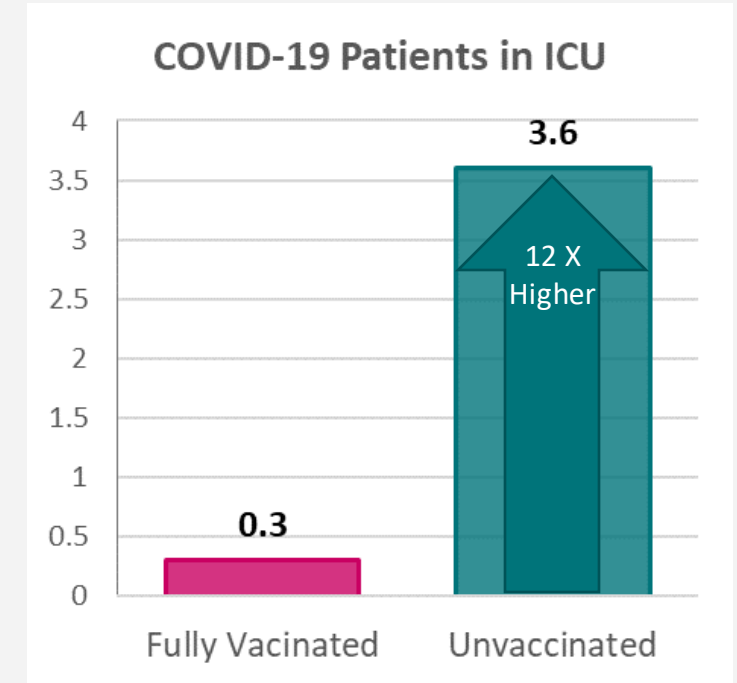
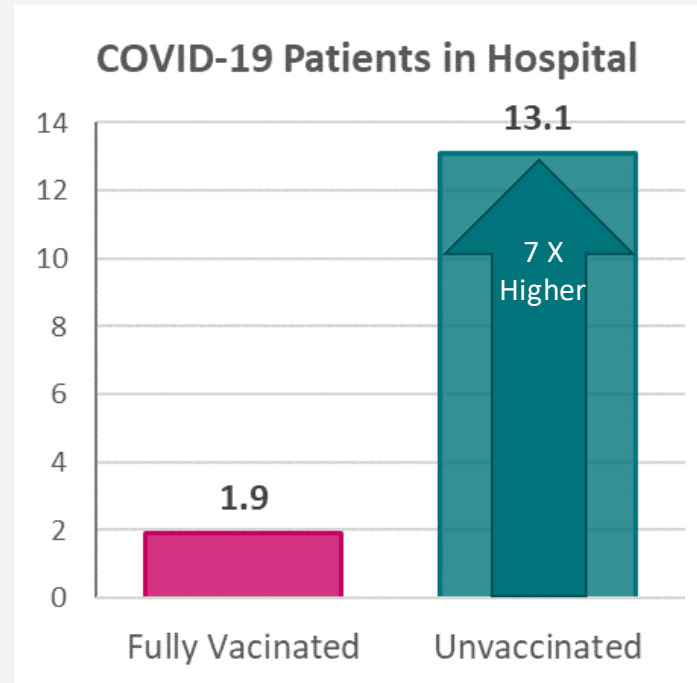
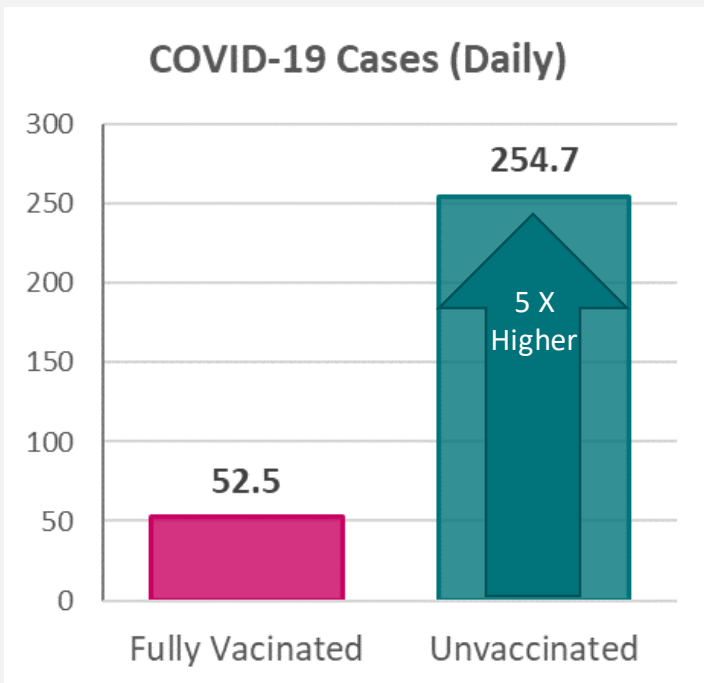
Lowest local dose-2 **vaccine** coverage rates are among those less than 30 years of age.



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, October 21 – November 19



New protections to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for the Omicron variant – Expansion of Instructions

Effective 12:01 a.m. December 11, 2021

Instructions **expand** measures currently in place in Greater Sudbury to apply across the agency's service area, including:

1. Reinstated **capacity limits** and **physical distancing requirements** relaxed by the province in early fall.
2. Strengthened **masking requirements** at organized public events.
3. Strengthened **proof of vaccination requirements** for those participating in organized sports at indoor facilities.
4. Reinstated **work remotely** requirement.

New protections to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for the Omicron variant – New Instructions

Effective 12:01 a.m. December 11, 2021

1. Businesses and organizations must **limit the size of social gatherings and organized public events** to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
2. **Proof of vaccination** requirements (for those 12+) for all non-essential businesses and organizations (see next slide) for which it is currently voluntary (opt-in) under the Step 3 Rules, while maintaining capacity limits (effective 12:01 a.m. December 15, 2021).
3. Strengthened requirements for **basic public health measures** across sectors including masking (e.g. outdoors where distancing not possible), physical distancing, active screening, and contact tracing).
4. Strengthened requirements for **safety plans** for all businesses and organizations.
5. **Food and drink establishments** required to reimplement some protections from Step 2, including no buffets and ensuring that patrons generally remain seated (except when dancing in establishments where that is permitted).
6. In facilities used for **indoor sports and recreational fitness** activities, and for personal physical fitness trainers:
 - a) Returning to a physical distancing requirement of **3 metres** (instead of 2 metres) for some activities.
 - b) Establishing new protections to enhance the **safety of facilities**, for examples, in washrooms and changerooms.
7. **Team sports or games** that may result in personal contact must not be practised or played, indoors or outdoors, unless the sport or game has been modified to avoid personal contact. Limited exceptions apply to professional and elite sport leagues or associations. School-related extra-curricular team sports or games are subject to separate measures previously communicated.
8. Requiring **shopping malls** to reduce the volume levels of music and prevent line ups and congregating unless physical distance of 2 metres is maintained.
9. For those who cannot work remotely, strengthened **workplace health and safety** measures, for example, requirements for virtual meetings and staggered breaks to the fullest extent possible.

Proof of vaccination requirements (for those 12+) for all non-essential businesses and organizations, including:

- Real estate agencies, in respect of open houses hosted by the real estate agency.
- Businesses that provide personal care services relating to the hair or body, including hair salons and barbershops, manicure and pedicure salons, aesthetician services, piercing services, tanning salons, spas and tattoo studios.
- Indoor recreational amenities.
- Outdoor recreational amenities, in respect of indoor clubhouses.
- Photography studios and services, in respect of indoor areas.
- Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions, in respect of indoor areas.
- Amusement parks, in respect of indoor areas.
- Fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals and similar events, in respect of indoor areas.
- Businesses that provide tour and guide services, including guided hunting trips, tastings and tours for wineries, breweries and distilleries, fishing charters, trail riding tours, walking tours and bicycle tours, in respect of indoor areas.
- Businesses that provide boat tours, if the business is otherwise permitted to operate by the Step 3 Rules.
- Marinas, boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities for members or patrons, in respect of indoor areas.

Recommendations from the Medical Officer of Health to further limit the spread of the virus and protect health and the health system

1. **Avoid non-essential travel**, including holiday travel plans. If travelling, make it as safe as possible: get vaccinated, wear a mask, visit outdoors or in well ventilated areas, stay home if even mildly unwell.
2. Take steps to make **social gatherings** in private settings as safe as possible: consider vaccination status of attendees, limit size of gathering.
3. Plan ahead for any **overnight guests** to ensure COVID-safe measures are in place: consider vaccination status, have a plan for safe self-isolation, know where to seek testing.
4. Practise **safe retail behaviours**. Consider curbside pick-up and off-peak shopping hours.
5. For those living in **congregate settings** (e.g. long-term care homes, settings with vulnerable people): consider the vaccination status of those you might visit over the holidays and additional safety measures for when you return, such as careful symptom monitoring and testing.

Key messages recap

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