



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Health and Social Services Committee Revised Agenda

Thursday, February 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

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There are no statutory public meetings	
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6.2 Iain De Jong, President and CEO, OrgCode Consulting Inc. Re: Update on the OrgCode Report	

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

7.2 Reports

There are no Health reports to be considered

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

- *a. Information Report #2023-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Social Services
Re: 2022 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics

44

Pulled from February 3, 2023 Council Information Package by Councillor Kerr

Recommendation: Receive for information

8.2 Reports

There are no Social Services reports to be considered

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered

10. Confidential Matters

There are no confidential matters to be considered

11. Other Business

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 9:30 AM

13. Adjournment

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 12, 2023

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Foster
Councillor Jubb
Regional Chair Henry

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Garrod*
Councillor McDougal

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: P. Abbey, Director, Oral Health, Dental Health
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
T. Cheseboro, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Financial Management, Social Services
L. Fortuna, Director, Health Protection, Environmental Health
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
Z. Jaffer, Director, Administration, Health
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health
J. Riches, Deputy Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
L. Soto Maya, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
J. Svanda, Deputy Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services

K. Thangaraj, Director, Public Health Department and
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
E. Valant, Area Manager, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
A. Wakeford, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
C. Bandel, Deputy Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Soto Maya, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(1) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, re: Public Health and Paramedic Services Overview

Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Public Health and Paramedic Services Overview.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview
- Public Health in Ontario
- Health Protection and Promotion Act
 - Board of Health
 - Associate/Medical Officer of Health
 - Expenses
 - Agreement
 - Assessment
 - Enforcement
- Paramedic Services in Ontario
- Ambulance Act
- Community Paramedicine
- Health Department
- Locations

- 2022 Paramedic Services Budget
- 2022 Public Health Budget
- Health Programs & Services
- Accountability Framework
- Current & Future Issues
- Resources

5.2 Troy Cheseboro, Director of Paramedic Services, re: Paramedic Services Update

Troy Cheseboro, Director of Paramedic Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Paramedic Services Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Seaton Paramedic Response Station
- Paramedic Services Call Statistics
- Call Statistics – Performance Metrics
 - Call Volumes 2018-current
 - Patient Transports
- Hospital Offload Delay
 - Offload Delay Hours 2022
 - 90th Percentile Offload Delay 2022
 - Offload Delay Hours 2021 vs 2022
 - 90th Percentile Offload Delay 2021 vs 2022
 - Cost 2022
- Offload Delay Cost 2022
- Provincial Update

T. Cheseboro responded to questions of the Committee regarding off load delays and methods employed by other Regional municipalities to address the delays; available resources in Durham Region and how we compare to other municipalities; if changes in emergency room procedures have had a positive impact on off-load delays; and if urgent care closures are impacting paramedic services.

Dr. Kyle responded to questions regarding the possibility of educating councillors with respect to issues with gaps in the health care system and what they need to be advocating for.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Region of Durham Paramedic Services Ambulance Vehicle Purchases and Standardization (2023-MOH-1)

Report #2023-MOH-1 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
(2) That we recommend to Council:

- A) The Demers Ambulances Type III Mystere MX164A or replacement model be maintained as the standard for the Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) for a period of five (5) years; and
- B) That authorization be granted to award a sole source agreement to Demers Ambulances for a period of five (5) years, effective January 1, 2023 for the purchase of new ambulances and ongoing parts, pending approval of the Paramedic Services Business Plans & Budgets.

CARRIED

8. **Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) 2023 Pre-Budget Approval to Establish a Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) Virtual Mobile Team Operating out of Fairview Lodge to Support the Central East (CE) Health Region with Funding Provided by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (2023-SS-1)

Report #2023-SS-1 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Brenner, Seconded by Councillor Jubb,
(3) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That pre-budget approval be granted to increase the Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors Staffing complement by three (3) new full-time positions effective February 1, 2023;
- B) That the following incremental expenditures in 2023 be funded from \$330,848 in additional Provincial funding and a \$28,789 reduction in part time staffing as follows:

- a. One (1) Registered Practical Nurse at an estimated 2023 cost of \$88,537 (annualized cost of \$96,143);
 - b. One (1) Occupational Therapist at an estimated 2023 cost of \$123,170 (annualized cost of \$133,894);
 - c. One (1) Social Worker at an estimated 2023 cost of \$122,930 (annualized cost of \$132,636);
 - d. Start-up costs of \$25,000 for laptops, computer peripheries, cell phones, personal protective equipment, and other miscellaneous costs; and
- C) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign any subsequent amendments to the current Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreement (L-SAA) between Ontario Health and The Region of Durham relating to the BSO Virtual Mobile Team funding.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(4) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk



Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List 2022

Health and Social Services Committee

February 9, 2023



Select Language

I'd Like To...

Living Here

Discovering Durham

Doing Business

Health and Wellness

Regional Government

Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH)

Home / Living Here / Housing and Homelessness / Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH)

Share

Housing and Homelessness

Accessible (Modified) Housing

Apply for Housing

At Home in Durham

If you are already on the DASH wait list:

Log in to DASH

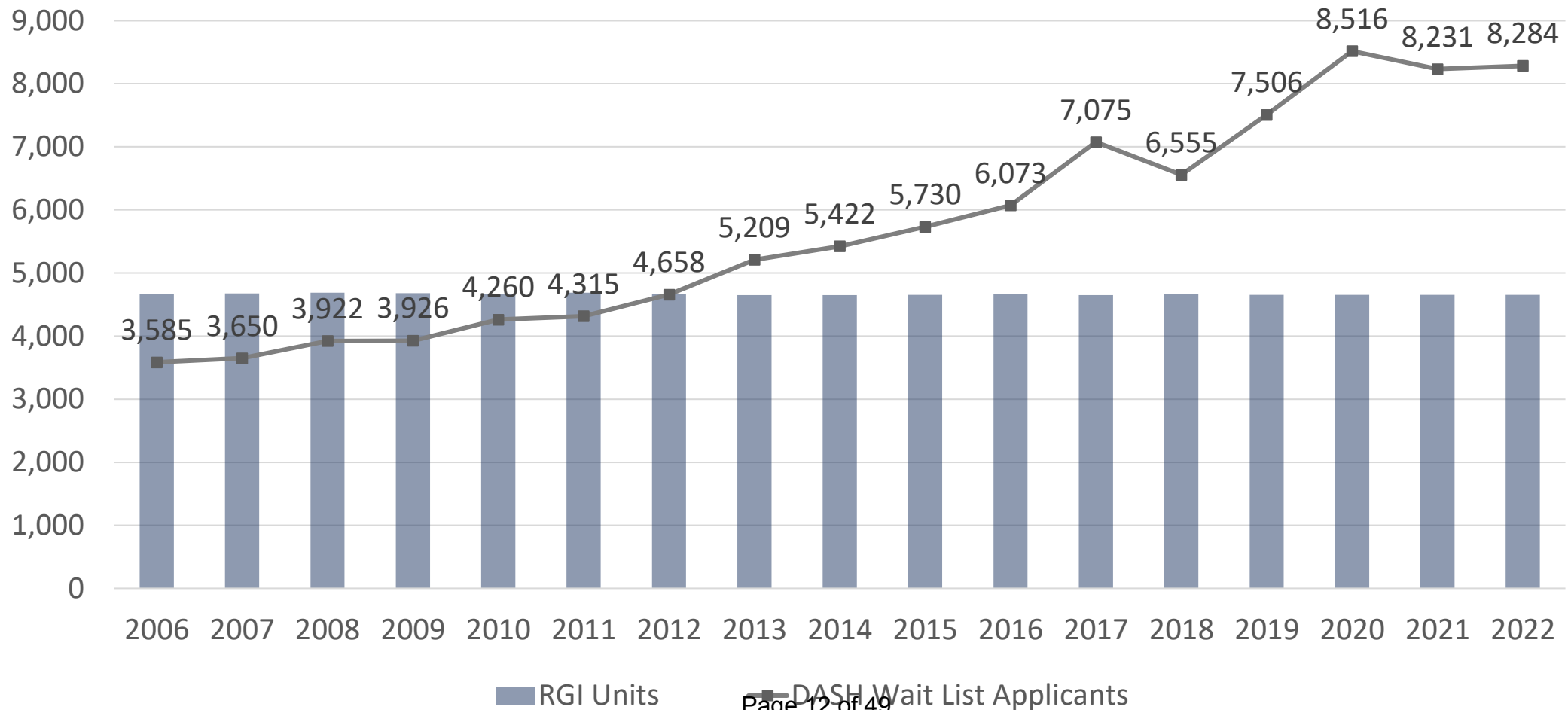
Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) DASH runs the wait list for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) and modified units at **social housing properties** and some private landlords in the region.

Households on DASH Wait List

December 31, 2021

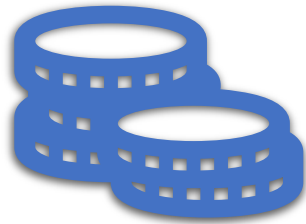
Priority	Seniors	Singles	Couples	Families	Total
No Priority	2,138	2,025	86	3,470	7,719
Special Priority (SPP)	17	135	2	411	565
RGI Total	2,155	2,160	88	3,881	8,284
Modified Total	29	30	6	14	79

DASH Wait List 2006-2022



Profile of DASH Applicants

Fixed Incomes



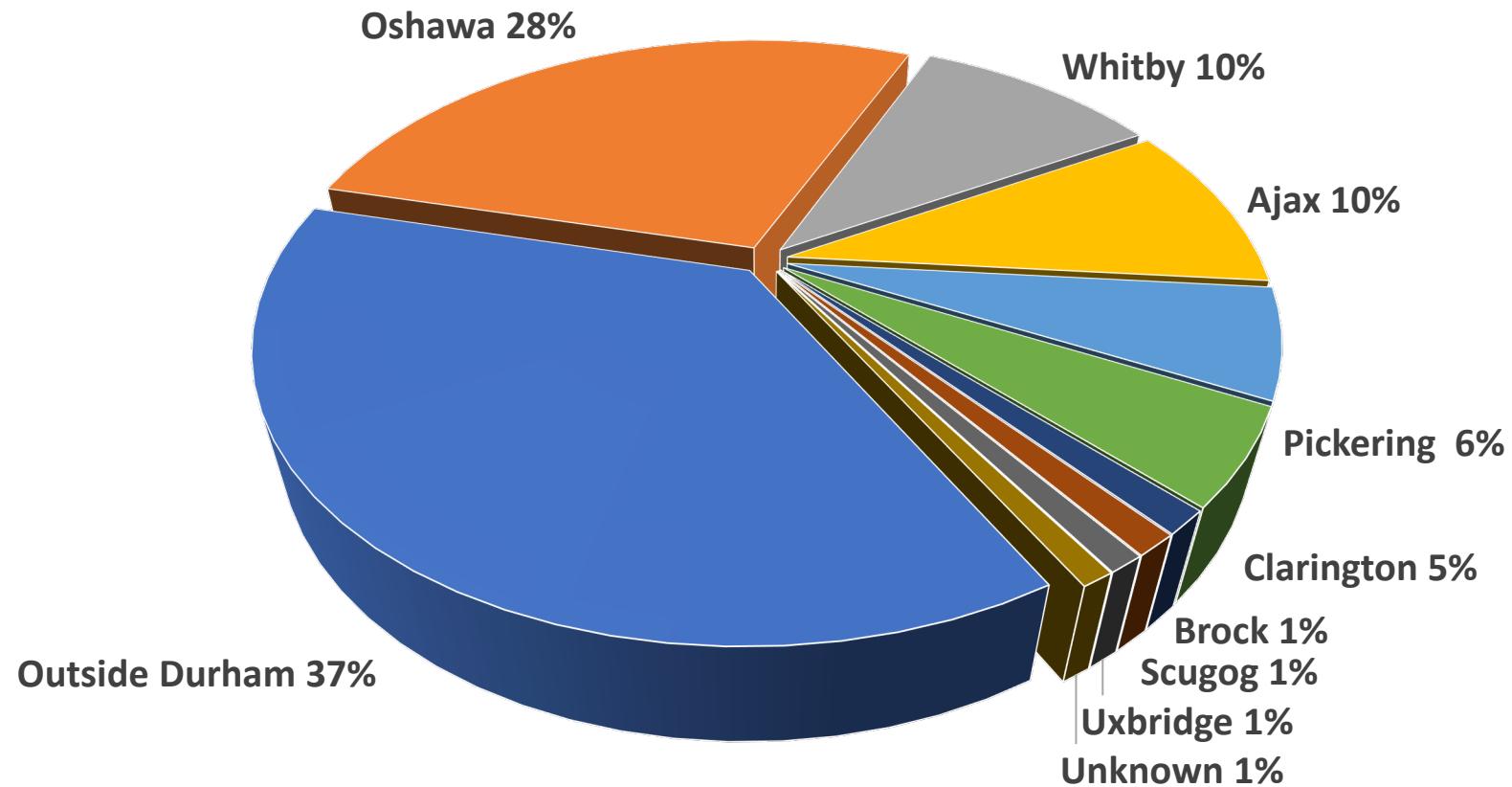
- 28 % ODSP
- 20 % Ontario Works
- 18 % OAS/pensions

Homelessness



- 5 % Sheltered or unsheltered
- 25 % Provisional accommodation

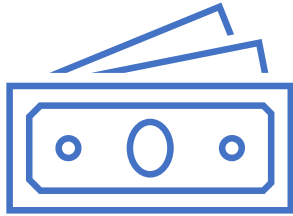
DASH Applicants – Municipality of Residence



DASH Assisted Applicants - 2022

	Seniors	Singles	Couples	Families	Total
Housed	148	18	1	65	232
RGI units – chronological	123	4	0	1	128
RGI units – special priority (SPP)	8	11	1	62	82
Modified and Supportive units	17	3	0	2	22
Housing Assistance	51	87	0	157	295
Durham PHB	0	1	0	1	2
COHB	51	86	0	156	293
Total Assisted Households Removed from DASH	199	105	1	222	527

Future Investments



Short Term

Durham Rent Supplement

Durham PHB

Other financial housing assistance programs



Long Term

Preservation of community housing

Increase supply of affordable and community housing

For additional Information

Alan Robins

Director of Housing Services

905-668-4113, extension 2500

Alan.Robins@durham.ca



COVID-19 & Flu Update

Durham Region Health Department
Health & Social Services Committee
February 9, 2023



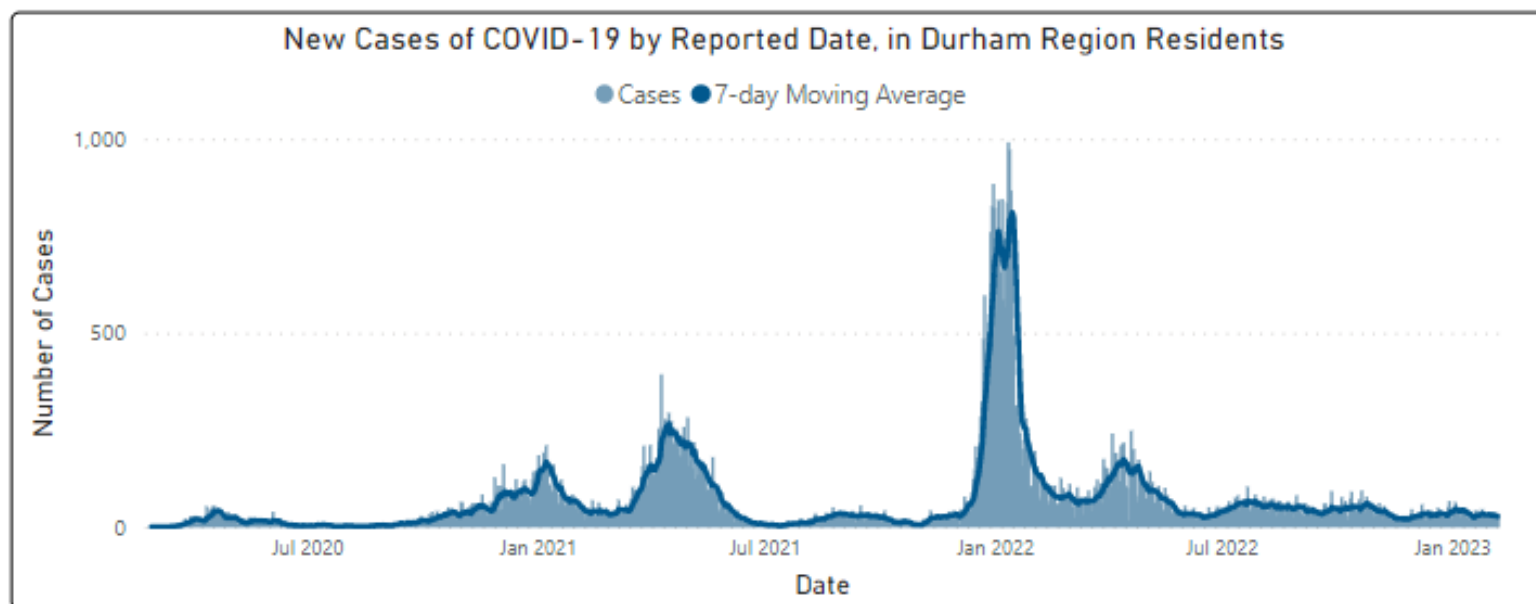
Current Status – COVID-19

- World Health Organization (WHO) – [Statement on the fourteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#) (January 30, 2023)
 - The event continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern
 - The pandemic is probably at a transition point
 - Seven Temporary Recommendations issued by the WHO Director-General to all States Parties
 - Maintain momentum for vaccination
 - Improve reporting of surveillance data to WHO
 - Increase uptake and ensure long-term availability of medical countermeasures
 - Maintain strong national response capacity and prepare for future events
 - Continue working with communities and their leaders to implement risk-based public health and social measures
 - Continue to adjust any remaining international travel-related measures
 - Continue to support research



Current Status – COVID-19

durham.ca/covidcases (Data Tracker)



- The Data Tracker is updated on Wednesdays

Current Status – COVID-19 cont'd

Cases Summary

Total Confirmed Cases to date
in Durham Region Residents

72,747

Total Confirmed Cases Ever
Hospitalized for COVID-19

2,147

Total Confirmed Cases Ever in
ICU for COVID-19

417

Total Deceased

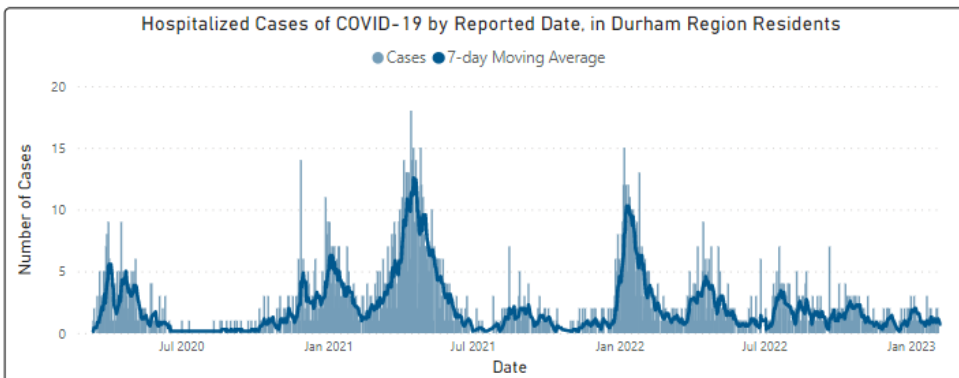
541

Total New Hospitalized
Jan, 29 - Feb, 4, 2023

7

Total Deaths between:
Jan, 29 - Feb, 4, 2023

1



Outbreaks in Long-
Term Care Homes,
Retirement Homes,
and Hospitals

Total Outbreaks
Ongoing

8

- The Data Tracker reports the number of Durham Region residents who have been hospitalized (or that have had their hospital stay extended) because of COVID-19
- A confirmed outbreak in long-term care homes and retirement homes is two or more residents with a common epidemiological link each with a positive COVID-19 test result, within a 7 day period (visitors and staff are not included in the outbreak definition)

COVID-19 Vaccination Administration

Total Doses Administered as of
February 7, 2023

1,689,453

Total Doses Administered in
Community and Hospital Clinics

1,119,967

Total Doses Administered in
Pop-Up Clinics

57,322

Total Doses Administered in
Mobile Clinics

41,472

Total Doses Administered in
Pharmacies

387,211

Total Doses Administered in
Primary Care

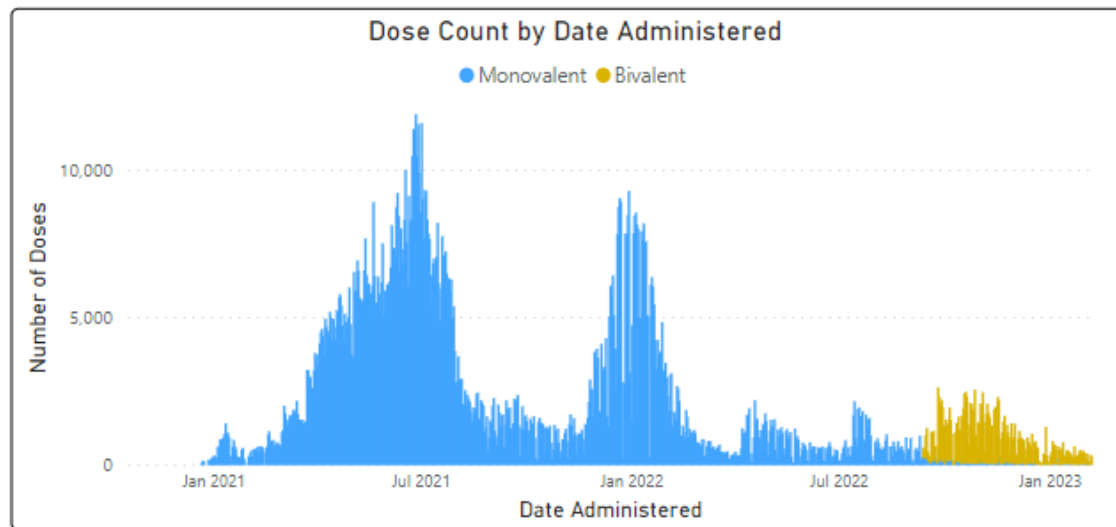
62,544

Total Doses Administered in
Provincial Clinics

19,298

Total Doses Administered in
Workplace Clinics

1,639



durham.ca/vaccinetracker

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COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage

Use the municipality and age group filters to show vaccine coverage for different groups.

- To select multiple groups, use Ctrl + click.
- Click on a selection again to clear it or click the eraser on the top right to clear all selections.
- Move your cursor away to see your selections.

Municipality

Ajax	Oshawa	Uxbridge
Brock	Pickering	Whitby
Clarington	Scugog	

Age Group

00-04	30-39	70-79
05-11	40-49	80+
12-17	50-59	
18-29	60-69	

Percentage Initiating Primary Series

83.3%

Percentage Completing Primary Series

79.6%

Percentage Completing Primary Series & Any Booster

46.8%

Percentage Completing Primary Series & Bivalent Booster

17.3%

Percentage Receiving Any Vaccine Dose Within Past 6 Months

20.6%



Wastewater Surveillance

- With limited testing, wastewater surveillance can provide information about COVID-19 activity in the community

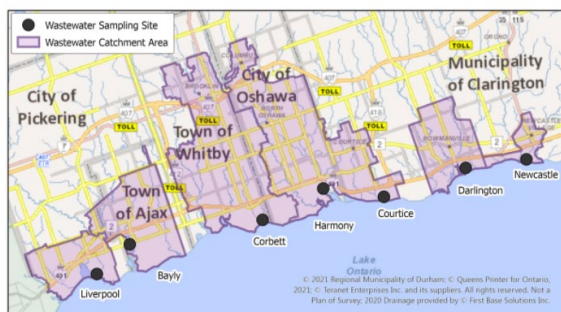
COVID-19 Wastewater Trends in Durham Region

Sampling Site	Municipality	Signal Strength	Trend
Liverpool	Pickering	Medium	Present, no
Bayly	Ajax	Medium	Increasing
Corbett	Whitby	Medium	Present, no
Harmony	Oshawa	Medium	Present, no
Courtice	Clarington	Medium	Present, no
Darlington	Clarington	Medium	Present, no
Newcastle	Clarington	Medium	Decreasing

Sampling sites are colour-coded based on the strength and trend in COVID-19 viral signal in wastewater over the past 14 days. Signal strength and trend calculations are based on data from at least three samples. "No Recent Data" refers to when there were fewer than three samples collected over the past 14 days. "Not Detected" refers to when all samples collected during this time were below the limit of detection.

Viral signal strength is categorized as High, Medium or Low based on seasonal historical data of COVID-19 concentrations in wastewater. The trend is based on a linear regression and assesses if COVID-19 concentrations are significantly increasing, decreasing or are stable.

Map of Wastewater Sampling Sites and Catchment Areas in Durham Region



Number of Samples Collected in Past 14 Days

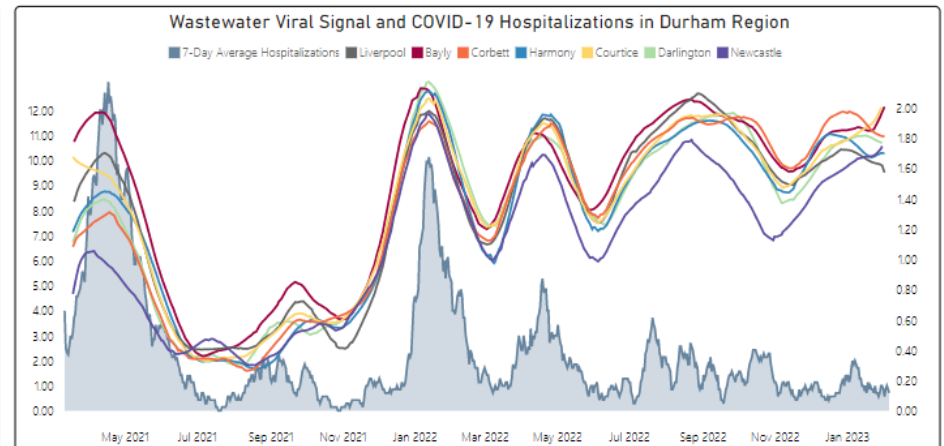
26

Number of Samples with Positive Detections in Past 14 Days

26

The number of samples reflect the total number collected across all 7 sites over the past 14 days. The number with positive detections reflect the total number of samples where COVID-19 virus was detected.

For this graph, the 7-day moving average of new hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Durham Region residents is plotted on the y-axis on the left. Statistically smoothed wastewater COVID-19 viral signal (gene copies/mL on log10 scale) for each sampling site is plotted on the y-axis on the right.





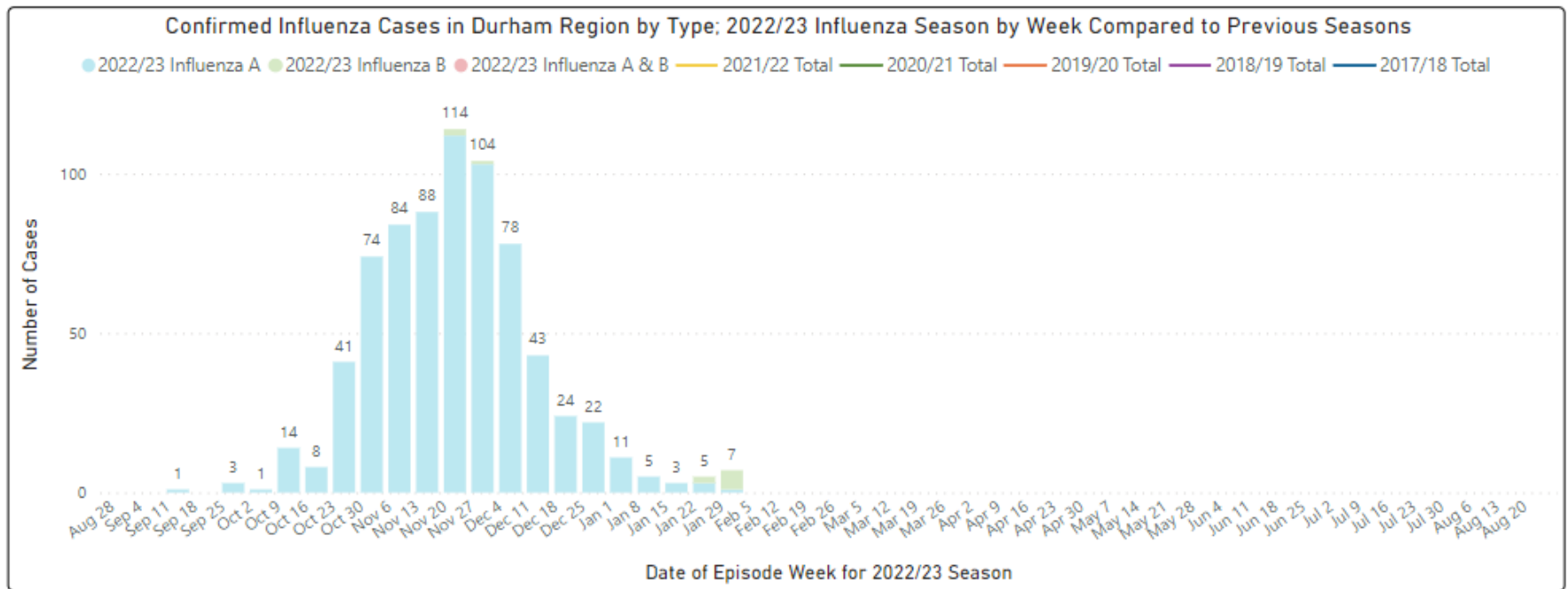
Guidance for Cases & Contacts

- Stay home when sick
- Individuals that have COVID-19 symptoms or are positive for COVID-19 advised to:
 - Stay home until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms) and no fever is present
 - Wear a mask in public settings for 10 days after symptom onset or specimen collection
- Asymptomatic positive cases do not need to self-isolate
 - Advised to wear a mask in public settings for 10 days after specimen collection
- Household and non-household close contacts should
 - Self-monitor for symptoms and self-isolate immediately if symptoms develop
 - Wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings for 10 days after the last exposure to the positive case
- Visit durham.ca/covidinfohub for more information



Current Status – Flu

durham.ca/flucases (Flu Tracker)



- The Flu Tracker is updated on Wednesdays



Current Status – Flu cont'd

Overall Assessment of Influenza Activity for Week of Jan 29 to Feb 04, 2023

Moderate

The overall influenza assessment categories are:

Low: 5 or fewer laboratory confirmed cases and no influenza outbreaks

Moderate: 6-12 laboratory confirmed cases or 1 influenza outbreak

High: More than 12 laboratory confirmed cases or 2 or more influenza outbreaks.

Current Status of Cases (2022/2023)

Total Confirmed Cases of Influenza in Durham Region Residents

730

Influenza A

719

Influenza B

11

Influenza A & B

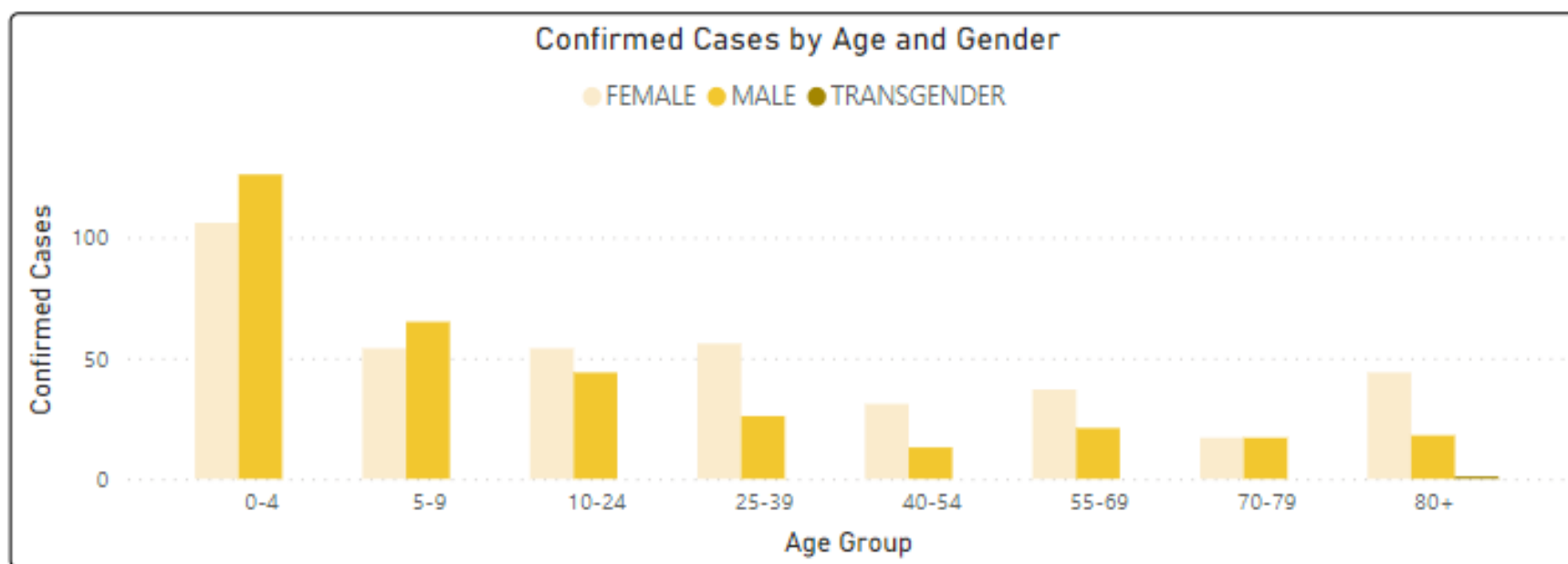
0

Number of Confirmed Cases by Episode Date

	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Influenza A	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	2	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total Cases	2	0	2	1	0	0	2



Age Distribution of Flu Cases





Current Status – Respiratory Outbreaks

Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Hospitals

Total Respiratory Outbreaks in Institutions (2022/23)

158

Influenza A

12

Influenza B

0

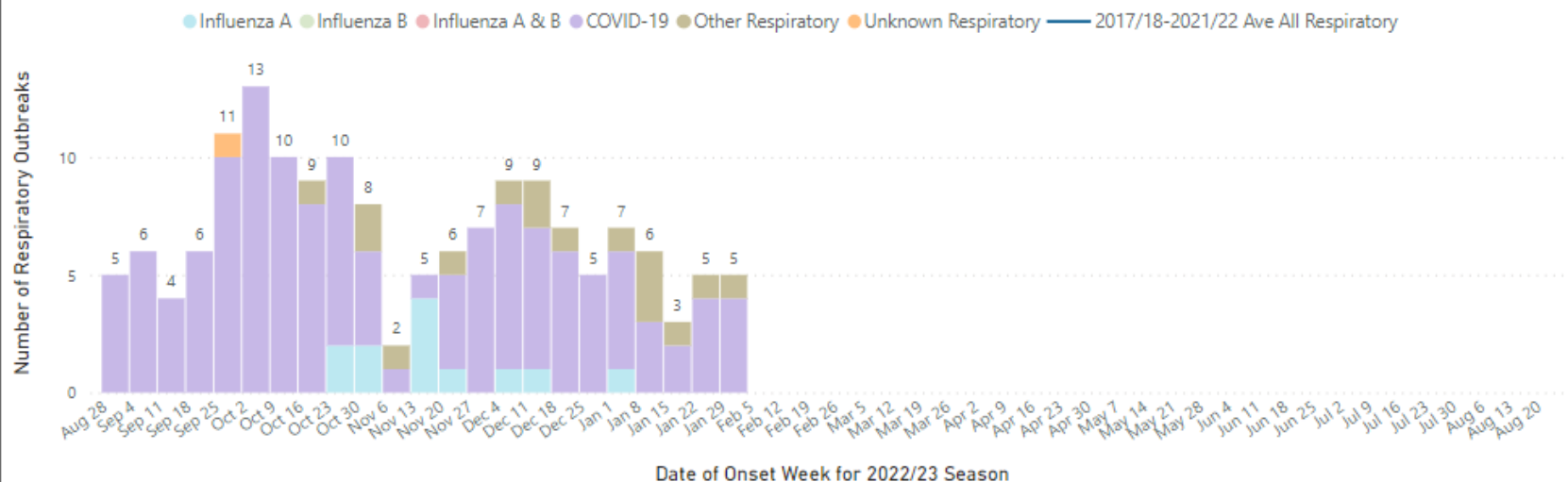
Influenza A & B

0

COVID-19

129

Number of Respiratory Outbreaks in Institutions in Durham Region; 2022/23 Influenza Season by Week Compared to Previous Seasons





Child Care & School Absenteeism

Overall Absenteeism for Week of Jan 29 to Feb 04, 2023

Child Care Centre Absenteeism

4.7%

Elementary School Absenteeism

5.2%

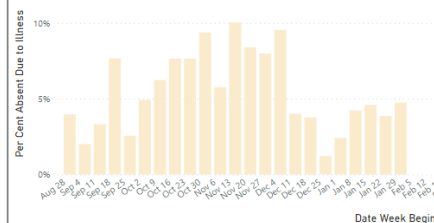
Secondary School Absenteeism

0.6%

Child Care Centres

Child Absenteeism Due to Illness in Durham Region Child Care Centres; 2022/23 Influenza Season by Week Compared to Previous Seasons

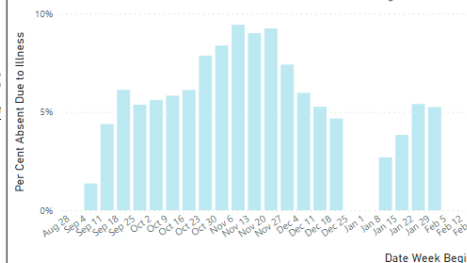
2022/23 Average 2017/18 to 2021/22 Durham Region (2022/23)



Elementary Schools

Absenteeism Due to Illness in Durham Region Elementary Schools; 2022/23 Influenza Season by Week Compared to Previous Seasons

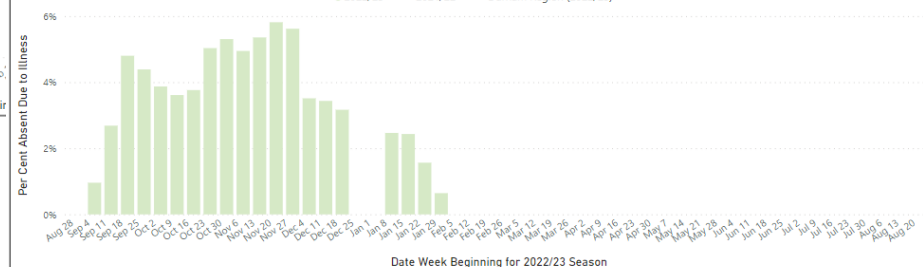
2022/23 Average 2017/18 to 2021/22 Durham Region (2022/23)



Secondary Schools

Absenteeism Due to Illness in Durham Region Secondary Schools; 2022/23 Influenza Season by Week

2022/23 2021/22 Durham Region (2022/23)





CMOH Remarks

- Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) of Ontario issued a statement on January 26, 2023
- There is a decline in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu and COVID-19 activity throughout the province
- The number of flu cases peaked at the end of November and continue to decline
 - Impact on communities, hospitals and intensive care units is improving
- Key COVID-19 indicators are showing signs of improvement after a rise over the holiday period due to the BQ.1 variant and its sub-lineages
- Many jurisdictions across the province continue to see a rise in the number of cases of the more transmissible XBB.1.5 variant
 - XBB.1.5 has not been associated with a change in severity of illness, but more individuals may get infected as it becomes the main variant circulating in Ontario



CMOH Remarks cont'd

- CMOH continues to recommend that Ontarians stay up to date with their vaccines
- Ontarians are advised to:
 - Stay home when they feel sick
 - Wash their hands often
 - Cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze
 - Wear a mask in crowded indoor public spaces, especially those at higher risk
- Paxlovid, an oral anti-viral treatment used to reduce severe outcomes from COVID-19, is easier to access for more Ontarians
 - Prescriptions are available to eligible individuals through pharmacies, physicians or nurse practitioners and clinical assessment centres
- The province's guidance on PCR testing has been updated to align with recommendations for who should receive Paxlovid



Current Masking Requirements

- Masks are strongly recommended to be worn in all indoor public settings, including schools and in child care settings
- Individuals with symptoms, positive cases, and close contacts of positive cases are advised to wear a mask in public settings for 10 days after symptom onset, positive test result or exposure to positive case
- Masks are required in long-term care and retirement homes in common areas; masks may be removed in an individual's room during a visit, provided no other person (e.g., staff, PSW, etc.) is present
- Organizations may implement their own masking policies
- Updated information available at durham.ca/masks



Current COVID-19 & Flu Vaccine Plans

- All residents six months and older are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19
 - Community immunization clinic (CIC) calendar available at durham.ca/covidvaccines
 - Residents can book an appointment at durham.ca/vaccineappointment
- All residents five years of age and older can book an appointment for the COVID-19 bivalent booster
- An interval of 168 days (six months) following a previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or COVID-19 infection is recommended for the bivalent booster
 - Residents may receive the vaccine at an interval of 84 days (three months) if they choose



Current COVID-19 & Flu Vaccine Plans

- Residents can book appointments at the Pickering CIC or Whitby Clinic at Regional Headquarters in February
 - Clinics are being planned at the Pickering CIC and Whitby Clinic for the coming months
- Mobile and pop-up clinics for COVID-19 vaccines can be requested by eligible agencies and settings by completing an [online request form](#)
- COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be available through local health care providers, pharmacies and provincial GO-VAXX mobile clinics
- Flu shots are available through health care providers, walk-in clinics and participating pharmacies
- DRHD will offer flu shots for individuals six months to two years old who are unable to access a health care provider
 - Parents/guardians can contact Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 for more information



Ontario Shores

Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Psychiatric Emergency Services

EmPATH Model

An innovative take on the mental health crisis

Prepared for: Health & Social Services Committee



Ontario Shores
Centre for Mental Health Sciences

About Ontario Shores



The Problem

- There is a high demand for mental health services.
- There is currently no Psychiatric Emergency Department in Ontario Shores.
- Traditional emergency departments are not well suited for people experiencing a mental health emergency.

The Solution

- Building a first-of-its-kind emergency department in Canada at Ontario Shores, based on the Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) model, would ensure mental health patients receive the care they need while relieving pressure on our system.

EmPATH Model Space & Benefits

The Model



The 24-hour-a-day
“Psychiatric Emergency
Services”



Immediate psychiatric
assessment



Immediate treatment both
psychological and
pharmacological

The Space



Open space, reduces
agitation



Use of recliners, rather than
defined rooms, creates a
sense of community



Larger emergency area to
enable dignity and
confidentiality



Space that facilitates surge
capacity

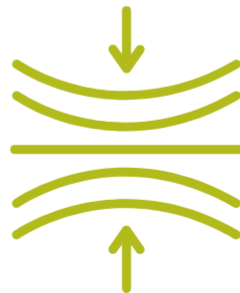
Benefits Patient Care and the Economy



Most **psychiatric
emergencies
resolved in less
than 24 hours**
with prompt
intervention



**Better patient and
family experience**
due to specialized
environment, mental
health care expertise,
and accelerated
assessment



**Reduced pressure
and costs for police
and EMS saving
\$1.1 million**



**Absorb acute ED
visits** and reduce
psychiatric patient
admissions **saving
over \$6 million**



**Divert 10,000
patients to
Ontario Shores
saving \$3.6
million**

\$10,700,000
TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS



Ontario Shores
Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Case Study: EmPATH model at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital – Edina, MI





We are ready to get started:

- Submitted **Stage 1** - July 2017
- **Pre-Capital Submission** - Sept 2019
- Submitted **Stage 2** - May 2021



The EmPATH unit is part of the hospital's broader redevelopment plan for a new building on our main campus that will house the model, as well as outpatient services, innovation and research.

Thank you we are grateful



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2463.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2023-INFO-10
Date: February 3, 2023

Subject:

2022 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) wait list provides valuable information about the housing needs of low- and moderate-income households seeking affordable housing in Durham Region (Durham).
- 1.2 This report provides a summary of the DASH wait list at December 31, 2022, including statistical information about rent-geared-to-income (RGI) and modified housing applicants on the wait list, as well as those housed in an RGI or modified unit or otherwise provided financial housing assistance in 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) is responsible for the administration of the wait lists for RGI and modified housing under the Housing Services Act (HSA). Applicants for RGI or modified housing in Durham apply through the DASH wait list, which is managed by the Housing Services Division.
- 2.2 DASH determines initial and ongoing eligibility for RGI and modified units, manages applicants on the wait list, and refers interested applicants to housing providers for RGI and modified unit vacancies.
- 2.3 The DASH wait list is vacancy driven. Applicants securely log in to the [DASH Vacancies Site](http://www.durham.ca/dash) at www.durham.ca/dash to view and express interest in RGI and modified unit vacancies that meet their needs and preferences.

- 2.4 DASH applicants can also express interest in portable housing benefits and affordable housing vacancies posted to the site.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Report #2022-SS-3 2021, Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics and Critical Priority.

4. Overview of DASH Wait List

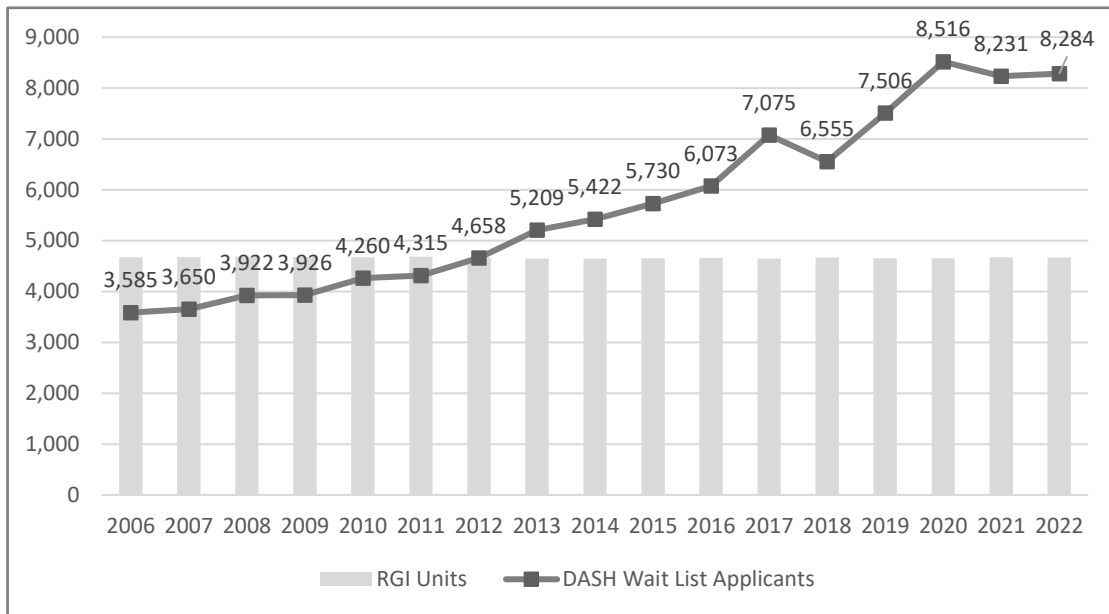
- 4.1 At the end of 2022, there were 8,284 low-income applicants on the DASH wait list for RGI units, and an additional 79 applicants for modified units.
- 4.2 There were 565 applicants with Special Priority (SPP) status on the DASH wait list, giving them first access to available units. SPP is a provincially mandated priority for victims of human trafficking or family violence, where the applicant intends to permanently separate from an abusive family member with whom they are residing. SPP applicants have priority over all other applicants on the DASH wait list.
- 4.3 The following table sets out the types of applicants and their priority status on the DASH wait list:

Table 1
Households on DASH Wait List at December 31, 2022

Priority	Seniors	Singles	Couples	Families	Total
No Priority	2,138	2,025	86	3,470	7,719
Special Priority (SPP)	17	135	2	411	565
RGI Total	2,155	2,160	88	3,881	8,284
Modified Total	29	30	6	14	79

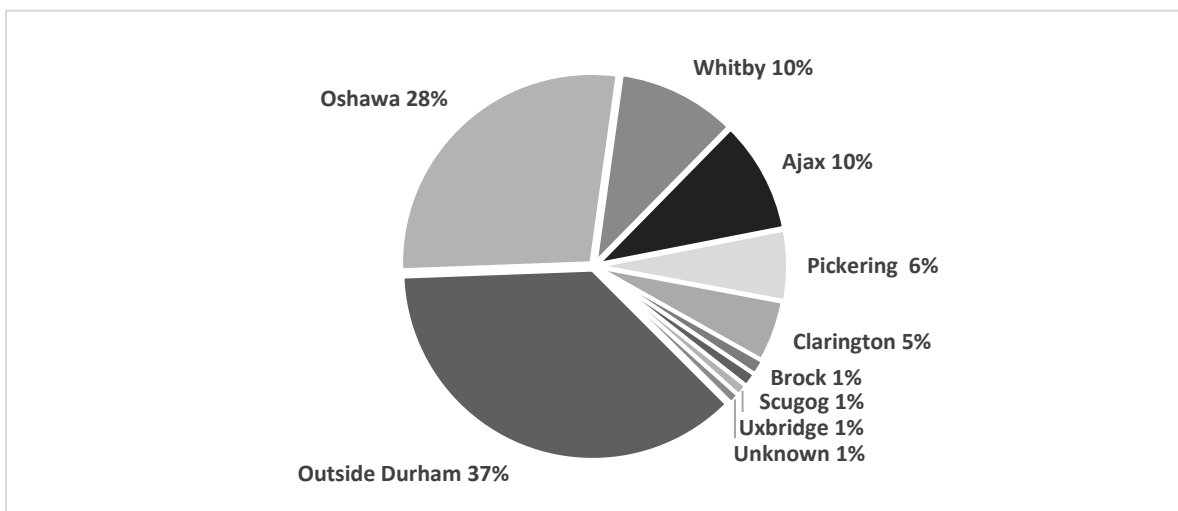
- 4.4 There are an additional 825 applicants on the DASH wait list who currently live in an RGI unit in Durham and are requesting a transfer to a different community housing property in Durham; 111 of these applicants (about 13.5 per cent) are required to transfer because they are living in a unit that is too large for their household (overhoused). In 2022, 18 DASH applicants were transferred to another unit in Durham.
- 4.5 Although the RGI wait list has more than doubled since 2006, the number of available RGI units has remained relatively stagnant.

Figure 1
DASH Wait List 2006-2022



- 4.6 Low vacancy rates and an extremely limited number of affordable options in the private rental market have contributed to the growing number of low-income applicants seeking RGI in Durham.
- 4.7 RGI and modified housing applicants may be on multiple wait lists across Ontario, including the DASH wait list. Currently 37 per cent of DASH applicants (3,058) live outside of Durham. Under the HSA, the Region must allow eligible non-resident applicants on the DASH wait list and cannot prioritize applicants based on where they live.

Figure 2
Municipal Addresses of DASH Applicants



- 4.8 About 30 per cent of DASH applicants residing in Durham are homeless (5 per cent are living in emergency shelter or unsheltered) or provisionally accommodated (25 per cent) meaning they live in temporary accommodation or lack security of tenure (e.g., staying temporarily with friends or family) and have no protections under the Residential Tenancies Act.
- 4.9 Most applicants on the wait list have insufficient income to find suitable and affordable accommodation in the private market in Durham. About 66 per cent of DASH applicants are on fixed income (28 per cent ODSP, 20 per cent Ontario Works and 18 per cent Old Age Security and other seniors' pensions), and average income is in the lowest tenth percentile in Durham for all household types (singles, families, seniors).

5. DASH Applicants Housed or Assisted

- 5.1 In 2022, 232 RGI and modified units became available in community housing or rent supplement units with landlords under agreement with the Region.
- 5.2 An additional 295 applicants were removed from the wait list because they were granted the Durham Portable Housing Benefit (Durham PHB) or the provincially funded Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB). Unlike RGI, these benefits are not tied to a specific unit. People can use the Durham PHB to live anywhere in Durham, and the COHB to live anywhere in Ontario.
- 5.3 The following table illustrates the number of applicants removed from the wait list in 2022 because they were housed or provided financial housing assistance.

Table 2
DASH Assisted Applicants – 2022

	Seniors	Singles	Couples	Families	Total
Housed	148	18	1	65	232
RGI units – chronological	123	4	0	1	128
RGI units – special priority (SPP)	8	11	1	62	82
Modified and supportive units	17	3	0	2	22
Housing Assistance	51	87	0	157	295
Durham PHB	0	1	0	1	2
COHB	51	86	0	156	293
Total Assisted Households Removed from DASH	199	105	1	222	527

- 5.4 Average wait times for RGI vary according to priority on the wait list, household size, household type (i.e., seniors, singles, families), applicant preference and turnover of units at specific community housing properties or in area municipalities – making future wait times difficult to predict. On average, non-priority applicants housed in 2022 had been on the wait list for about 6.5 years and priority applicants for about 1.7 years.
- 5.5 Most applicants housed from the DASH wait list were either seniors (about 60 per cent, excluding seniors with SPP) or SPP applicants (about 35 per cent).
- 5.6 Single non-seniors remain the most under-served cohort on the DASH wait list, even with priority on the wait list. This is due to the relatively low number and turnover of single non-senior units in the community housing portfolio. As these chronically underserved applicants age, this has led to a higher concentration of high need seniors in buildings mandated for seniors, for which there is little or no support.
- 5.7 In 2022, there were only 5 non-senior applicants housed without priority. All were housed in Durham Rent Supplement or Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)¹ units, which are not required to follow provincially legislated priority rules – enabling the Region to address the needs of people in Durham who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as well as other locally identified priorities per At Home in Durham, the Durham Housing Plan 2014-2024.
- 5.8 The Durham PHB and COHB are also exempt from provincial priority rules. About 90 per cent of applicants assisted under these programs were chronological applicants, who might not otherwise have received an offer of housing. However, many low-income people receiving these benefits continue to struggle due to high average market rents in relation to low incomes, limited supply and availability of purpose-built market rental housing, and low vacancy rates in Durham.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 5: Service Excellence – To provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective, and fiscally sustainable service delivery.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 At the end of 2022, there were 8,284 households on the DASH wait list for RGI units, and an additional 79 applicants requesting modified or accessible housing.

¹ Formerly Strong Communities Rent Supplement.

- 7.2 The amount of community housing in Durham is insufficient to meet the needs of applicants on the DASH wait list. This is especially true for single non-senior applicants, who are generally unlikely to receive an offer of housing until they become a senior – placing undue pressure on community housing providers who lack appropriate supports for high need seniors.
- 7.3 Most low-income applicants, including applicants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, will continue to be displaced by incoming SPP applicants who are provincially mandated to have the highest priority on the wait list.
- 7.4 Regional programs like the Durham Rent Supplement and Durham PHB programs ease some of this pressure. However, the success of these benefits is hindered by the low turnover in the small number of benefits that are available, as well as larger rental housing pressures in the private market in Durham.
- 7.5 In order to address the goals of At Home in Durham, the Durham Housing Plan 2014-2024, Durham needs to both invest in the short term through financial housing assistance programs like the Durham Rent Supplement and/or Durham PHB, and over the long term through the preservation of existing community housing and a significant increase in the supply of affordable and community housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services