



# COVID-19 & Flu Update

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



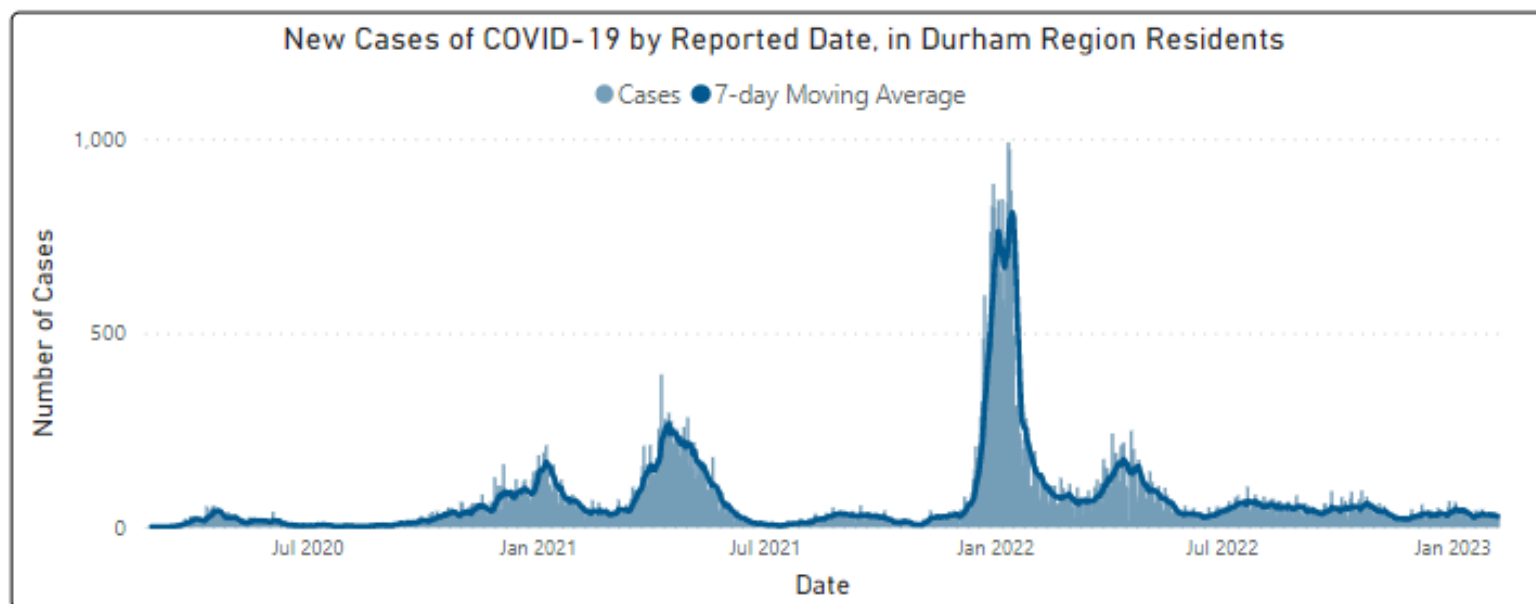
# Current Status – COVID-19

- 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](https://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

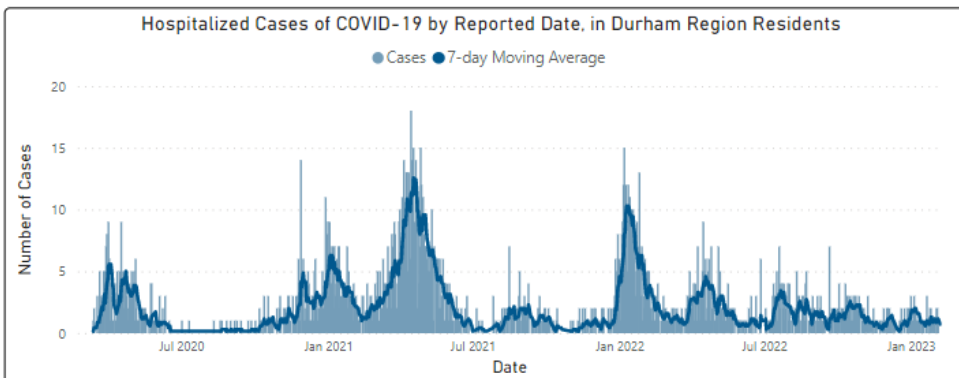
541

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

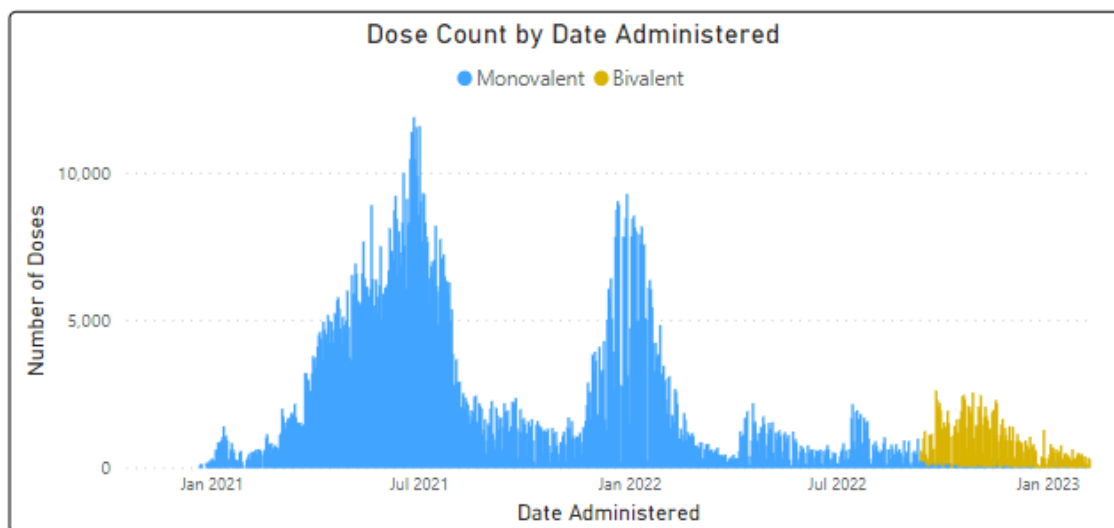
62,544

Total Doses Administered in  
Provincial Clinics

19,298

Total Doses Administered in  
Workplace Clinics

1,639



[durham.ca/vaccinetracker](https://durham.ca/vaccinetracker)





# 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

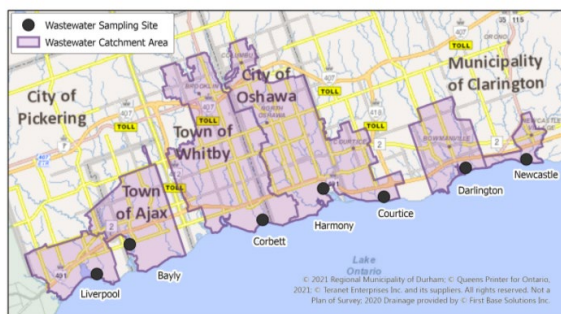
## COVID-19 Wastewater Trends in Durham Region

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

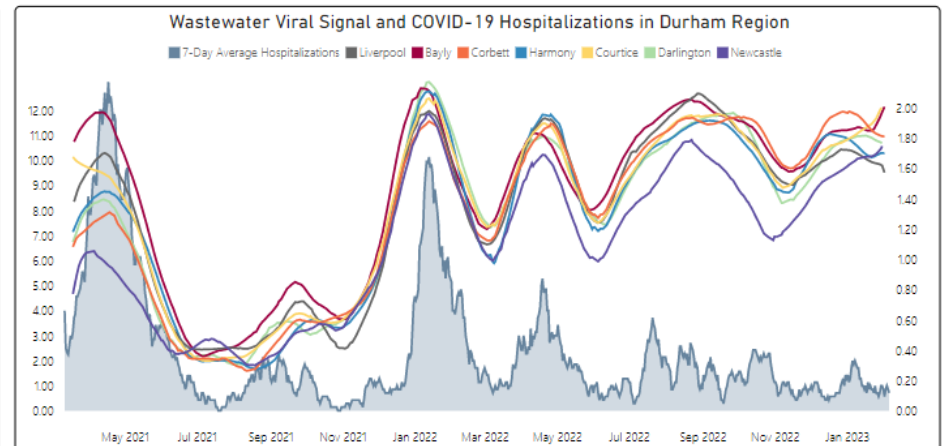
26

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

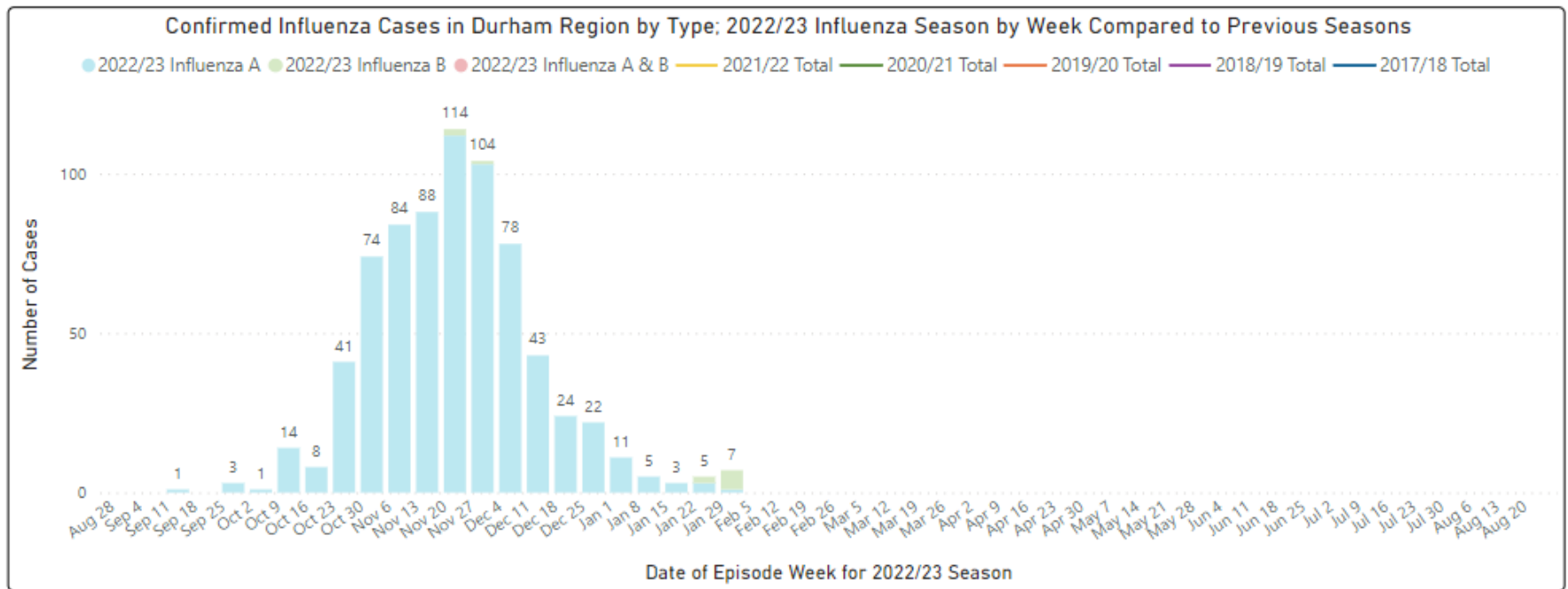
- Stay home when sick
- Individuals that have COVID-19 symptoms or are positive for COVID-19 advised to:
  - Stay home until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms) and no fever is present
  - Wear a mask in public settings for 10 days after symptom onset 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](https://durham.ca/covidinfohub) for more information





# Current Status – Flu

[durham.ca/flucases](https://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

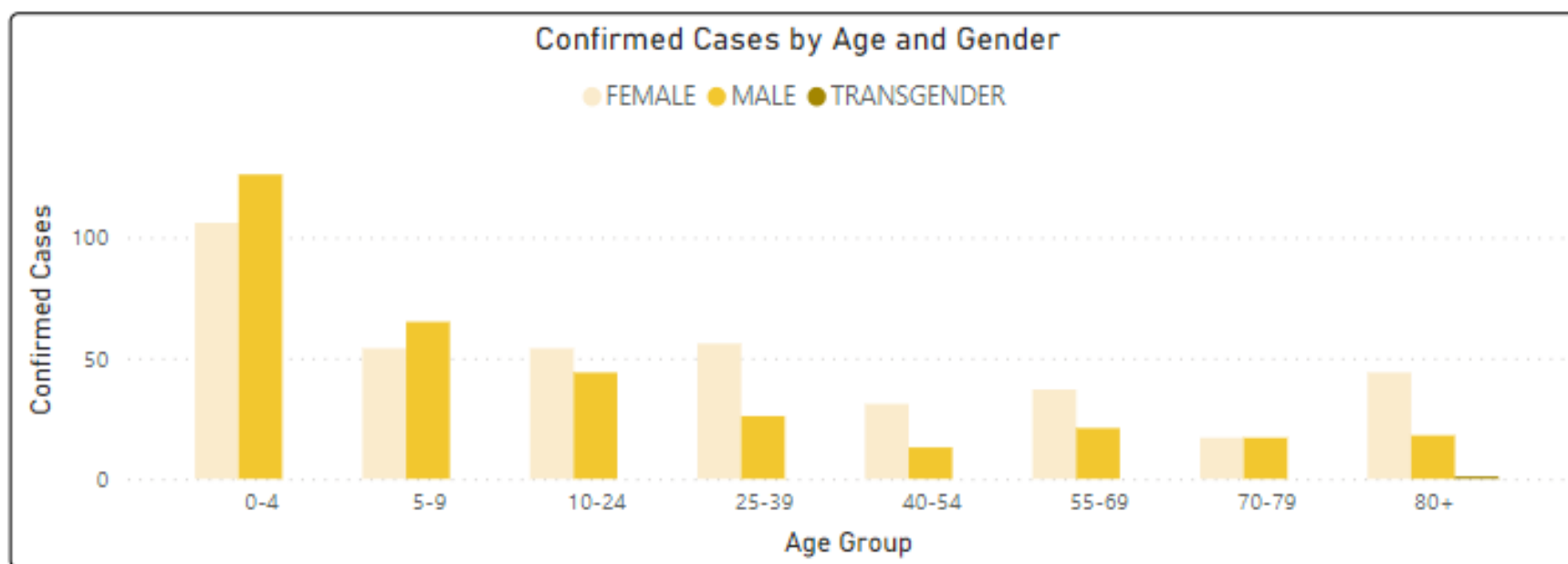
**0**

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

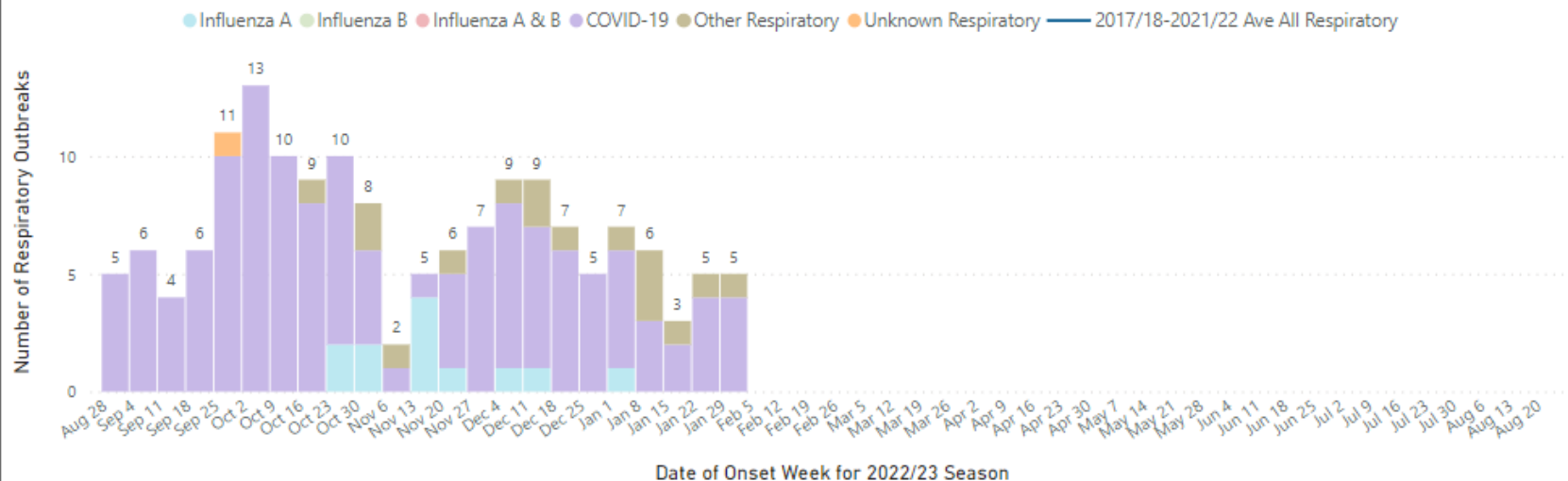
Influenza A & B

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%

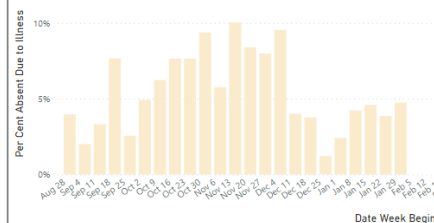
Secondary School Absenteeism

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

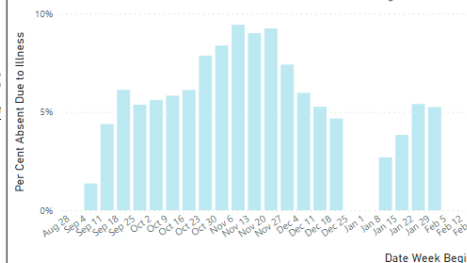
2022/23 Average 2017/18 to 2021/22 Durham Region (2022/23)



## Elementary Schools

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

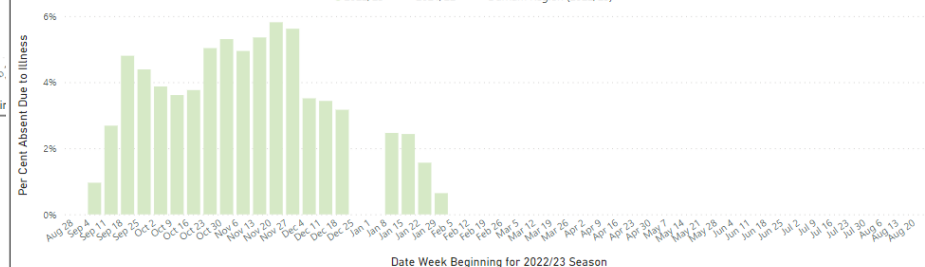
2022/23 Average 2017/18 to 2021/22 Durham Region (2022/23)



## 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](https://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](https://durham.ca/covidvaccines)
  - Residents can book an appointment at [durham.ca/vaccineappointment](https://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