



June 10, 2021

Dear York Region Parents, Guardians, Students, Educational Staff and Board Staff,

The 2020/2021 school year was one most, if not all of us, have never experienced. I want to thank you all for your commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy in-school learning experience for our children, their peers and educators. While it was disappointing schools could not return for in-person learning this month, I look forward to future school years reflecting our pre-pandemic normal.

York Region Public Health continues to closely monitor our case-related data daily, including emerging variants of concern. Our rate of case continues to trend downwards, with significant reductions in the overall rate of cases (Figure 1). Our impressive declines can be attributed to the strong commitment of residents to public health measures, staying home when asked and the incredible uptake of COVID-19 vaccine.

I am very optimistic for the 2021/2022 school year and would encourage as many families as possible to opt for in-person learning for their children for the upcoming school year. As of writing, 74% of individuals aged 12 and older have received first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (Figure 2). Second doses are being provided for individuals who received their doses on or before April 18, 2021 and we will continue to expand these opportunities for others as quickly as possible. COVID-19 vaccines are very effective and I would encourage anyone eligible to receive a vaccine to get vaccinated as quickly as possible if you have not already. Appointments can be made at any of our York Region clinics at [york.ca/covid19vaccine](http://york.ca/covid19vaccine)

Figure 1: Rate of Cases in York Region

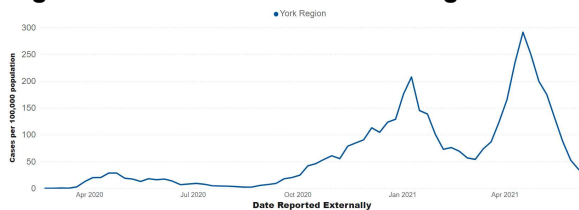
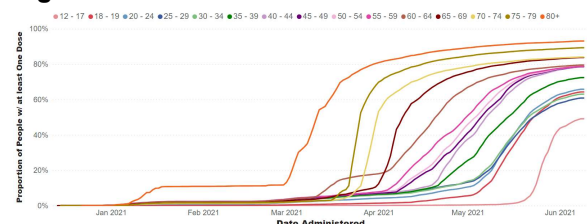


Figure 2: First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage



As we continue to reopen across the province over the coming weeks, I look forward to normalcy around the corner. This summer will be a chance to reconnect with friends and family at the right time. Be safe, be kind to one another and use the summer months as a time to refresh, recharge and renew. If you are unwell, stay home and get tested. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, I urge you to do so as soon as you can.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karim Kurji  
Medical Officer of Health  
Community and Health Services, Public Health