

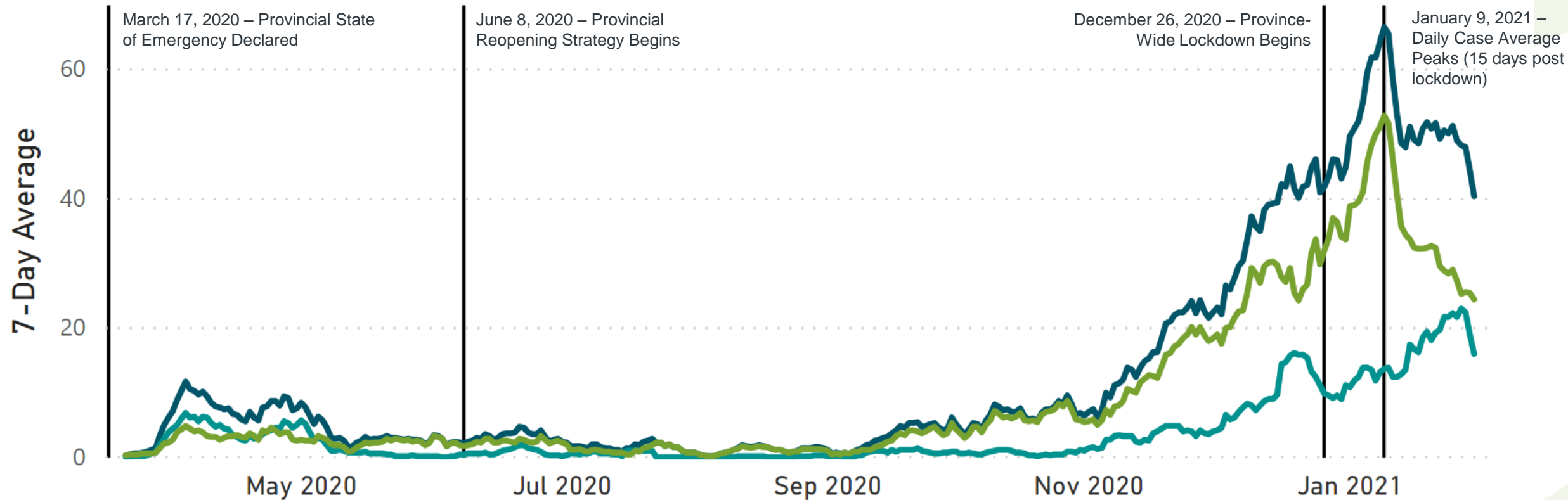
# COVID-19 Update

**Dr. Nicola Mercer**, Medical Officer of Health and CEO  
**Michael Whyte**, Health Promotion Specialist

# Case Patterns/Trends

## 7-Day Moving Average of COVID-19 Cases, by Reported Date (WDG Region)

● Total ● Outbreak-Related ● Community



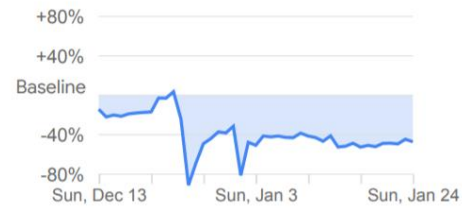
COVID-19 Status Report. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Retrieved: February 1, 2021. Available here: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public/status-cases-wdg>  
Global News. A timeline of COVID-19 in Ontario. 2020. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6859636/ontario-coronavirus-timeline/>

# Mobility – Wellington County

## Wellington County

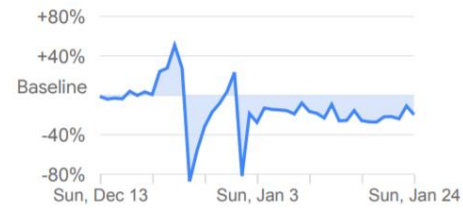
### Retail & recreation

**-47%** compared to baseline



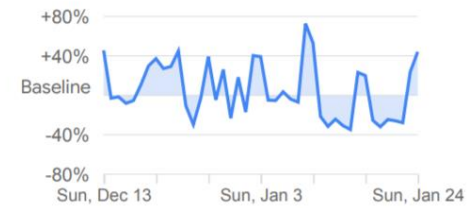
### Grocery & pharmacy

**-20%** compared to baseline



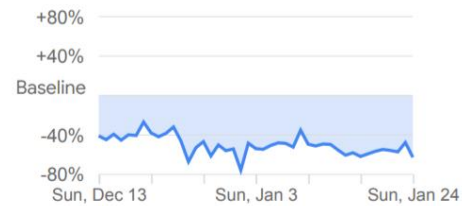
### Parks

**+44%** compared to baseline



### Transit stations

**-63%** compared to baseline



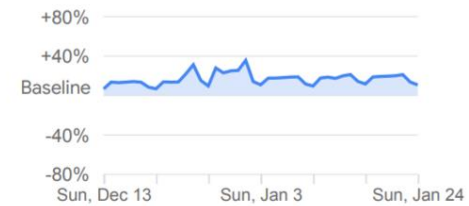
### Workplaces

**-26%** compared to baseline



### Residential

**+11%** compared to baseline



COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports. Google (2021). Available from: <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

# Mobility – Dufferin County

## Dufferin County

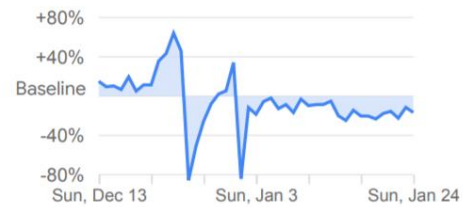
### Retail & recreation

**-41%** compared to baseline



### Grocery & pharmacy

**-17%** compared to baseline



### Parks\*

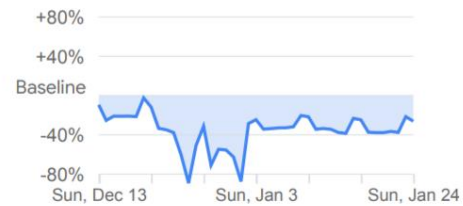


### Transit stations\*



### Workplaces

**-26%** compared to baseline



### Residential\*

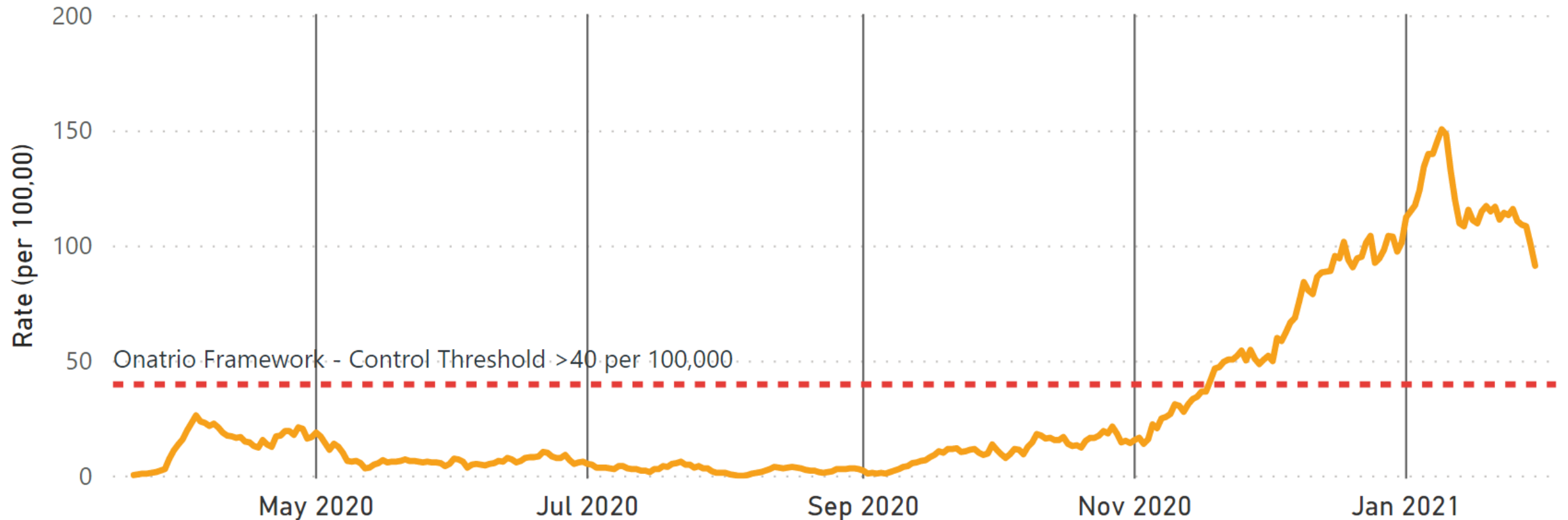
**+20%** compared to baseline



COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports. Google (2021). Available from: <https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

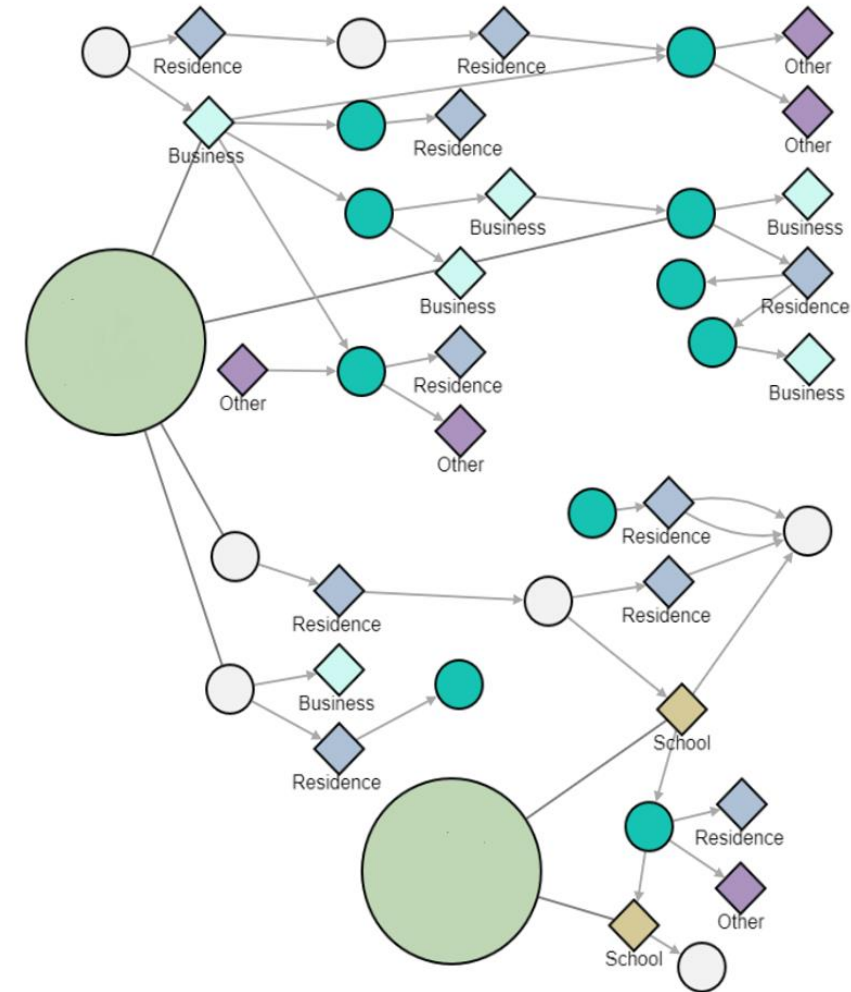
# 7-Day Moving Rate

7-Day Moving Rate (per 100,000) by Reported Date, WDG



# Where are the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave infections coming from?

- **2 acquisition surveys launched last fall**
  - One for confirmed cases: being administered during case follow-up by Case Management
  - One for members of the public: launched on-line Dec 1



Contact Tracing Diagram. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

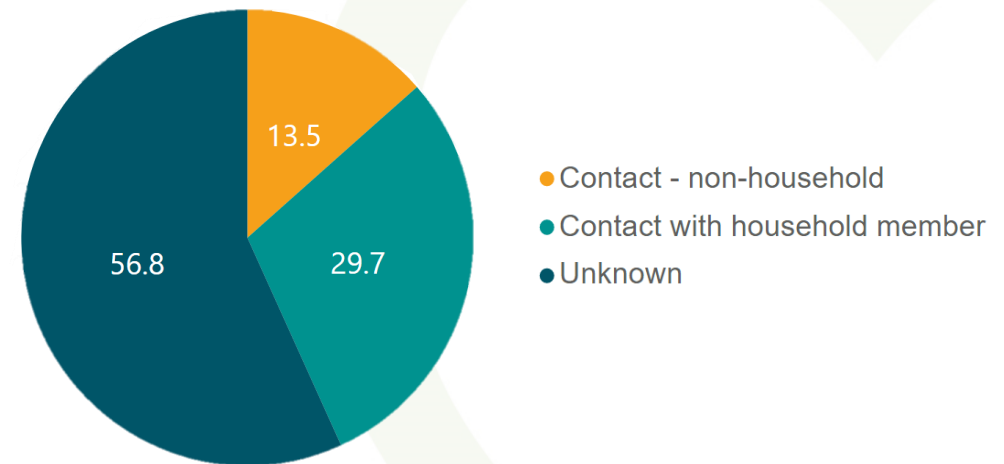
# Acquisition Survey – Public

## 626 responses:

- **Most aged 20-79, with largest 20-y age group (25%) being 60-79**
- **76% female**
- **51% don't consider themselves high-risk; esp. younger respondents**
- **12% self-reported COVID-like symptoms**
- **57% don't know where infected; 30% from household contact; 13 non-household**

**Of those who thought they knew when they had acquired infection, only ~25% had been consistently with mask during suspected acquisition contact; 69% consistently without face covering**

Symptomatic respondents: Self-reported source of infection (n=74)

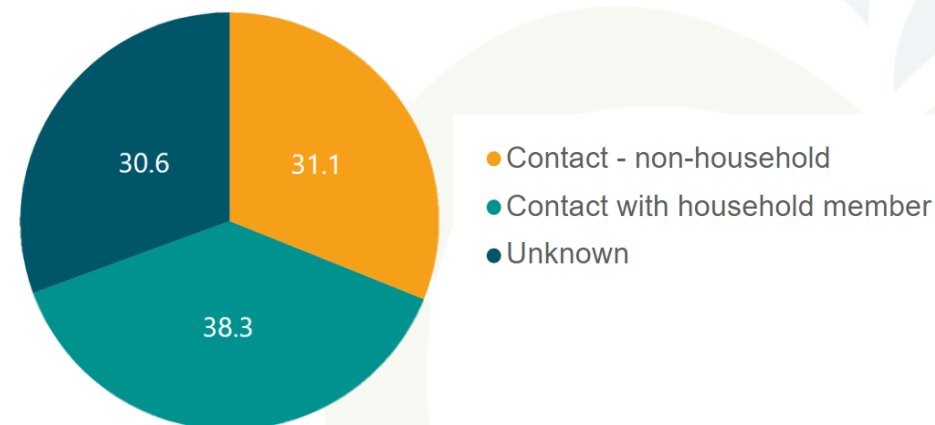


# Acquisition Survey – Confirmed Cases

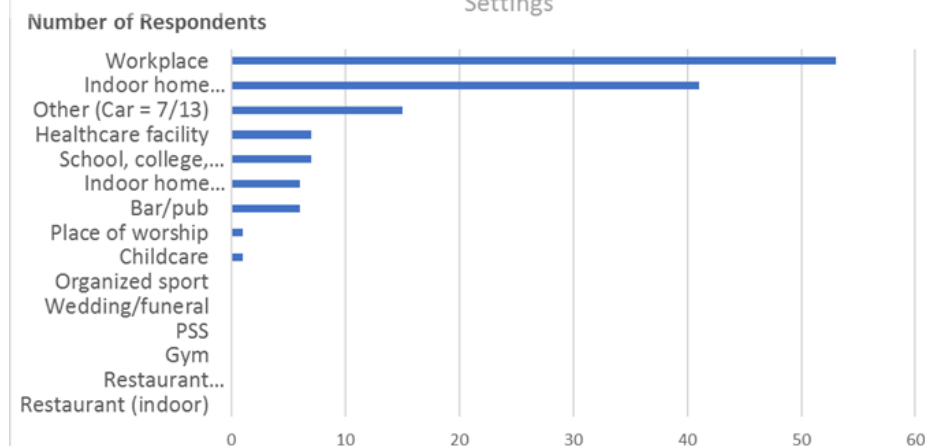
471 responses:

- Approximately equally divided between unknown source, household contact and non-household contact
- Work and indoor home gatherings most frequently identified
- No restaurant or gym acquisition
- Only 22% wore masks all of the time during suspected acquisition contact; 58% without mask throughout contact

Confirmed COVID-19 cases: Source of infection

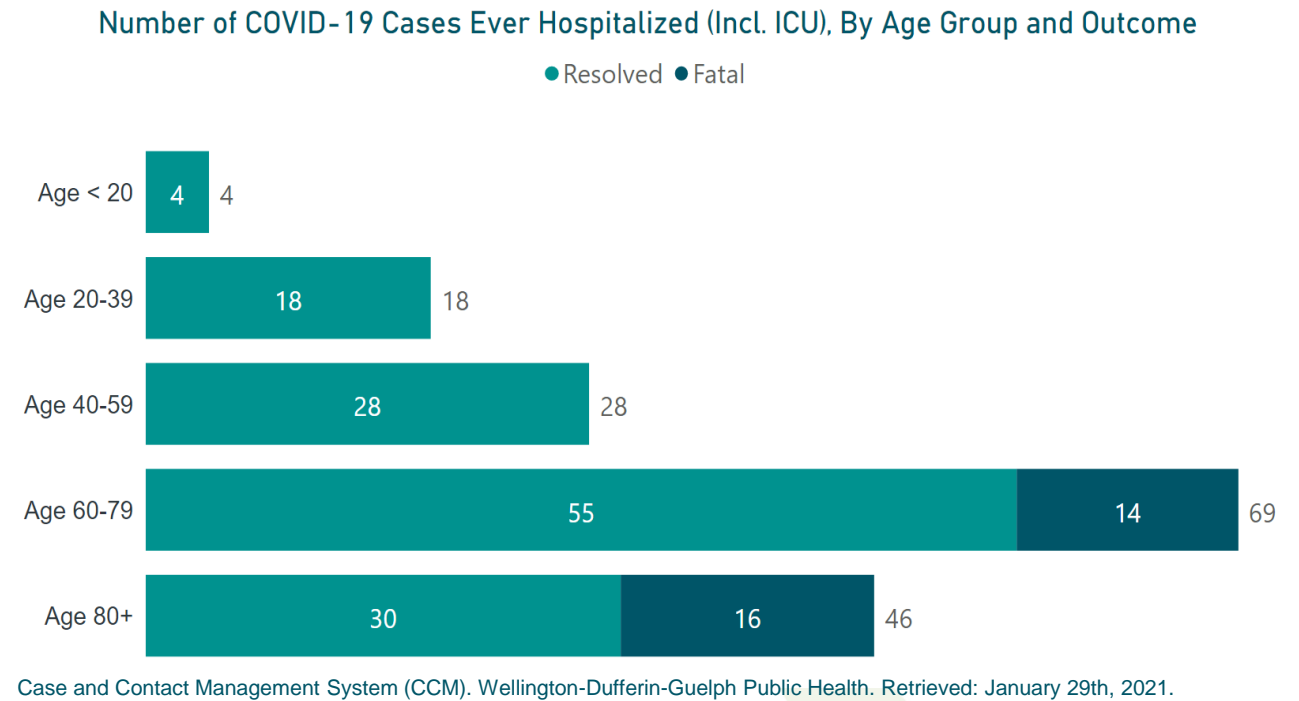


Confirmed COVID-19 cases: Known Non-household Acquisition Settings



# Morbidity/Mortality

- **Priority is to prevent serious outcomes**
- **Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have included individuals of all ages**
- **Risk of serious illness increases with age**
- **89% of COVID-19 deaths in WDG have been in individuals over the age of 65 (65/73 deaths)**



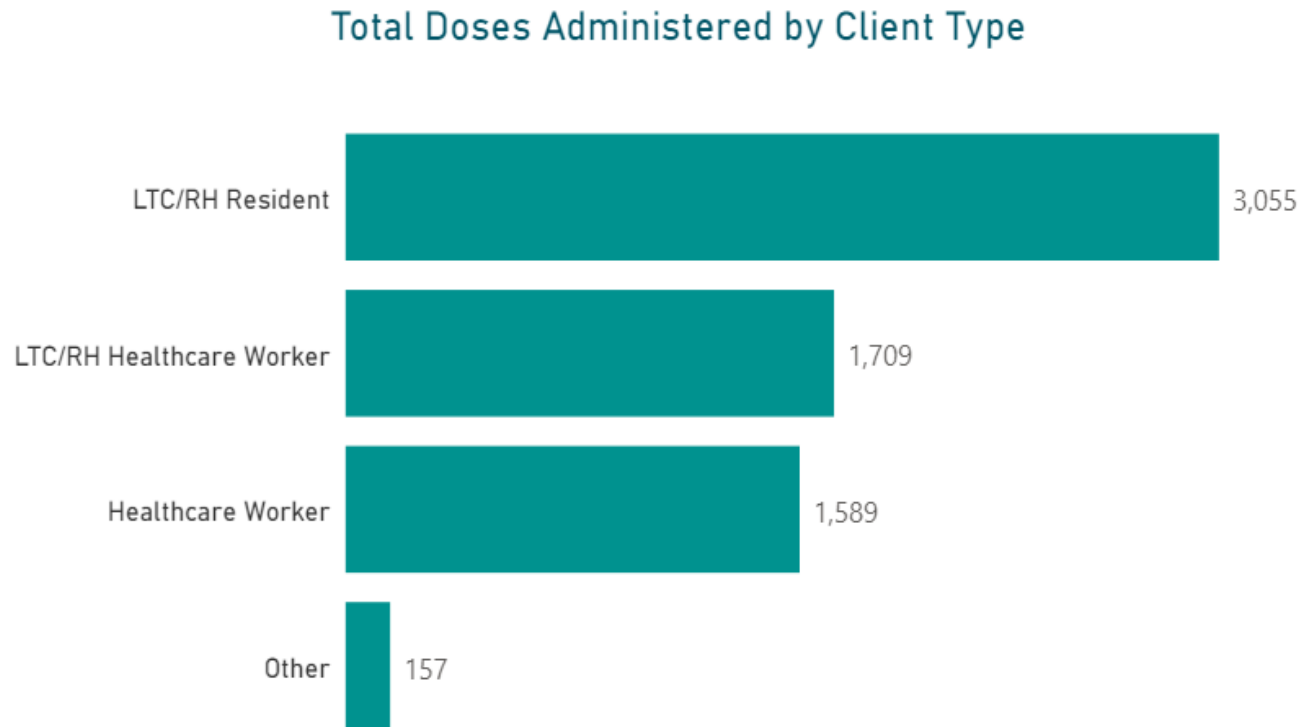
# COVID-19 risk by age group

The risk of death and severe illness related to COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at the highest risk.

	Hospitalization <sup>1</sup>	Death <sup>2</sup>
18-29 years	Comparison Group	Comparison Group
30-39 years	2x higher	4x higher
40-49 years	3x higher	10x higher
50-64 years	4x higher	30x higher
65-74 years	5x higher	90x higher
75-84 years	8x higher	220x higher
85+ years	13x higher	630x higher

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Hospitalization and Death by Age. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

# Dose Prioritization



COVaxON. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Retrieved January 29, 2021.

Other category includes: LTC/RH Essential Caregiver or Other Non-Employee, LTC/RH Essential Caregiver or Other Non-Employee, LTC/RH/Acute Care Employee - Other, LTC/RH Essential Caregiver or Other Non-Employee, LTC/RH Essential Caregiver or Other Non-Employee, Adult of Chronic Health Care, Other Priority Population, LTC/RH/Acute Care Employee - Other, Advanced Age: Community Dwelling, Reason Not Entered.

- **70% (51/73) of COVID-19 deaths in WDG have been during a LTCH or RH outbreak**
- **These settings have been our highest vaccination priority**
- **January 27, 2020: >90% LTCH and RH Staff and Residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine**

# Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Healthy adults who are at least 16 (Pfizer) or 18 (Moderna) years old

If you are in one of the following groups, your healthcare provider can help you decide if the vaccine is right for you:

- Those who are pregnant
- Those who have a weak immune system from an illness or therapy
- Those who have an autoimmune condition

# When can I get the vaccine?

Based the best information we have *right now*, here's how the vaccination program will roll out in our region:

## Now

- Starting in **January 2021**, vaccinations began for:
  - Residents of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes
  - High-risk health care workers
- When this group is complete, the next group will be **high-risk**:
  - Individuals living in other congregate settings
  - Individuals receiving Home and Community Care Services
  - Indigenous communities

## Next

- Starting **April 2021** (or sooner if vaccine supplies allow) the plan will focus on an age-based approach (e.g., 80+, 75-79, 70-74, 65-69).
- It will also target those who have underlying medical conditions or are identified as having an increased risk of hospitalization or death.

## Later

- Starting in **June 2021** we are planning to have vaccines available widely across Ontario for anyone who wants to be immunized.

# Update on our local vaccine program

006553

**Total COVID-19 Vaccine  
Doses Administered in WDG**



Updated: Thursday, January 28, 2021. Reflects totals from 8 p.m. the previous business day



# Update on our local vaccine program

WDG is on par with vaccination rates in Ontario and Canada

WDG	Ontario	Canada
2,512 per 100,000	2,518 per 100,000	2,859 per 100,000

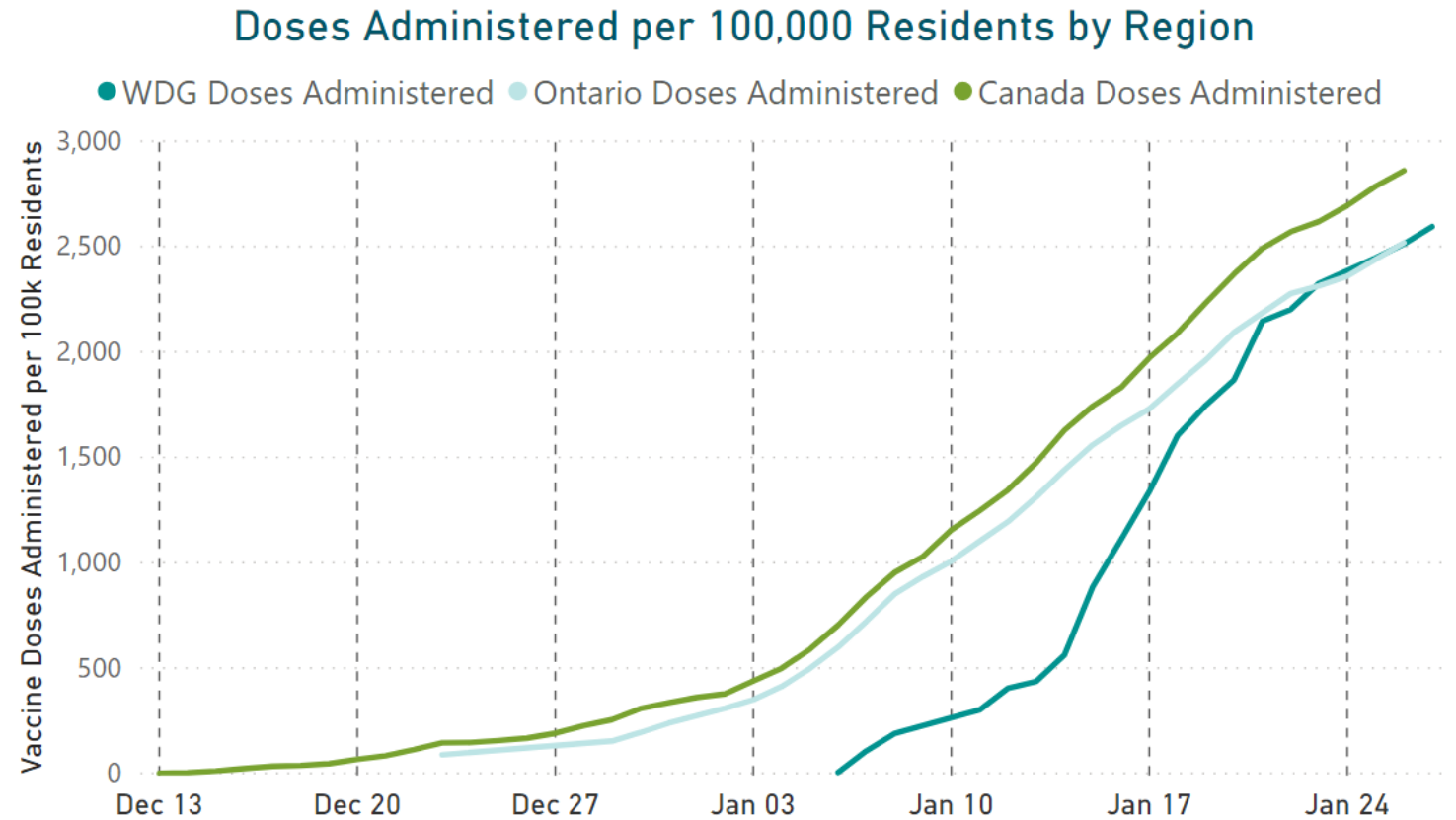
Updated: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Our current focus is vaccinating our most vulnerable residents, such as those living in long-term care homes

**Long-term care resident receiving vaccination on January 14, 2021**

# Vaccinations

- **WDGPH began administering vaccines on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
- **As of January 27<sup>th</sup>**
  - Administered 6,553 doses of COVID-19 vaccine
  - Matched Provincial average of total doses administered



COVaxON. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Retrieved January 29, 2021.

# **The truth about the COVID-19 vaccines: Myths and misinformation**



# MYTH: The vaccine development and approval process was too quick

We've heard people say:

“Vaccines are available to the public less than a year after COVID-19 first appeared. That process is too fast to ensure the vaccines are safe to use.”

# **FACT: Vaccine approvals in Canada are rigorous and safe**

- **Health Canada only approves a vaccine if it is safe, it works, it meets manufacturing standards, and the benefits outweigh the risks.**
- **COVID-19 vaccine approval was accelerated by:**
  - **Dedicating funding to support research, development, approval**
  - **Reducing delays in the approval process**
  - **Quickly adapting existing research programs**
  - **Focusing on rapid design and recruitment for trials where multiple phases of vaccine development were able to happen at the same time**

# MYTH: mRNA vaccines are harmful

We've heard people say:

“Vaccines based on mRNA can alter your DNA or otherwise cause harm to your body.”



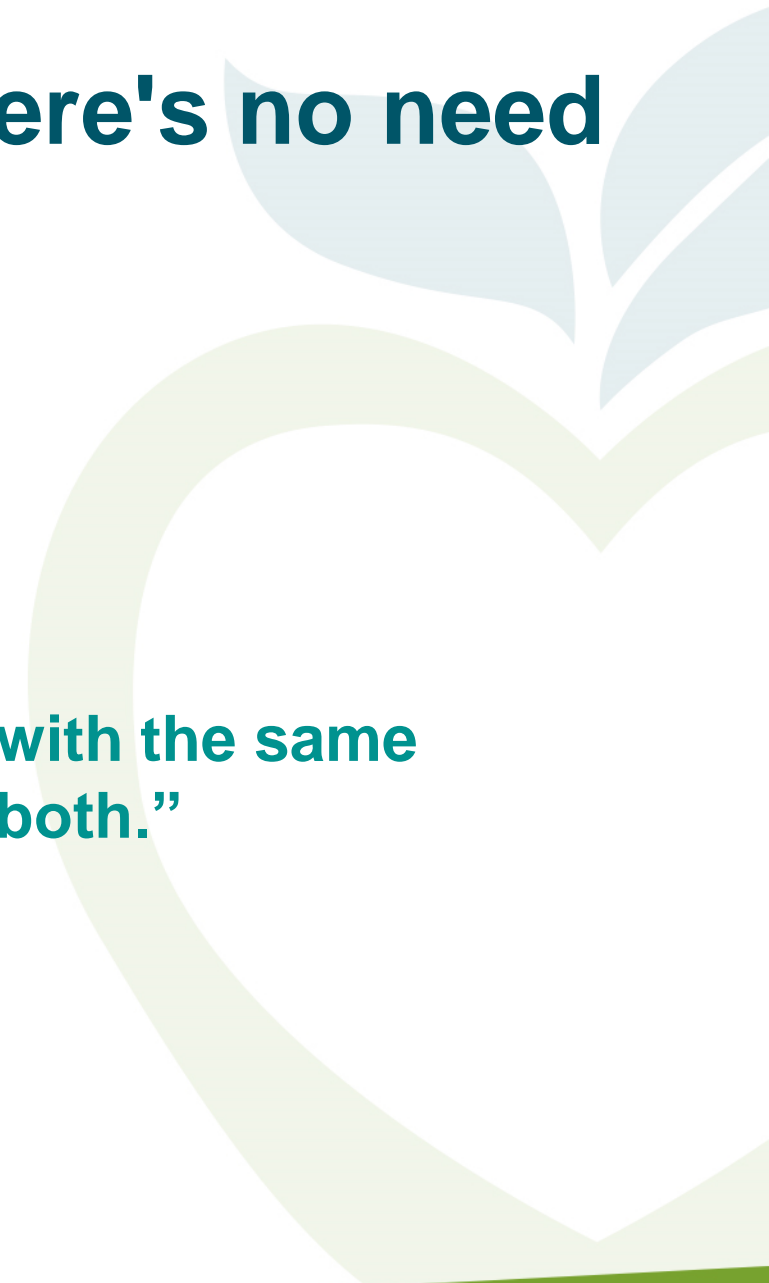
# FACT: mRNA breaks down quickly and does not alter DNA

- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of protein
- The protein causes an immune response, and the body produces antibodies
- mRNA does not alter DNA
- mRNA breaks down quickly after it enters your body and then is gone forever (like a SnapChat message)

# MYTH: I've already had COVID so there's no need for the vaccine

We've heard people say:

“Getting and recovering from COVID-19 provides you with the same protection as the vaccine, so there is no reason to do both.”



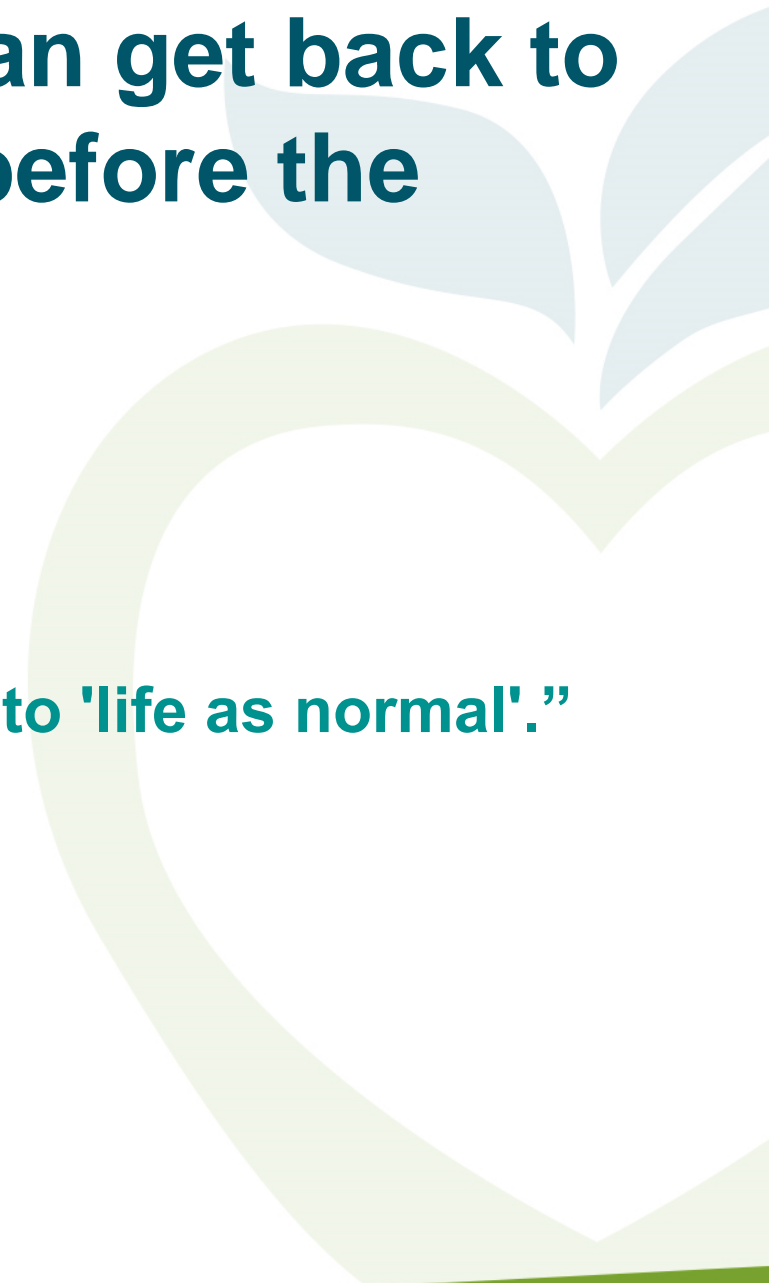
# FACT: Even if you have had COVID-19, you can still get the vaccine

- Everyone's immune system functions differently. Even if you've had COVID-19, your body's immune system may not "remember" the virus months later.
- There have been some documented cases of people who have been infected with COVID-19 more than once.
- Vaccination helps prime your body's immune response even if you have already been exposed to the virus.

**MYTH: As soon as I get my shot, I can get back to doing all the normal activities I did before the pandemic.**

**We've heard people say:**

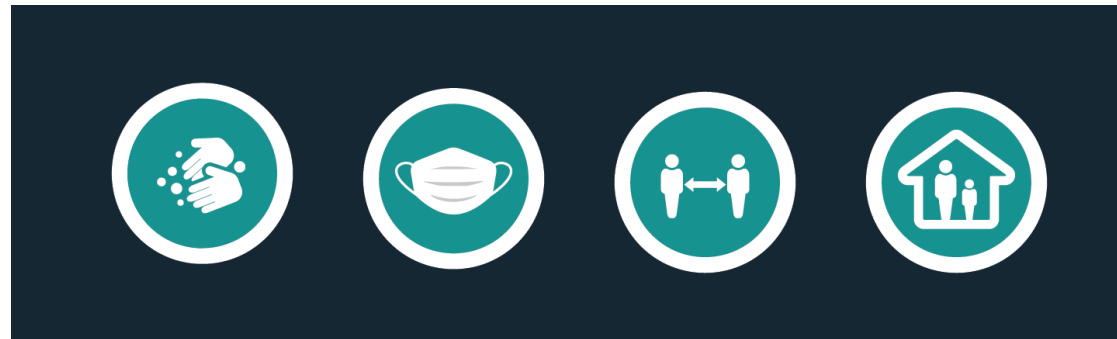
**“Once you have your vaccination(s), you can go back to 'life as normal'.”**



# FACT: You should continue to follow public health measures until directed otherwise

Until our region, province and country reach a high threshold of immunization and our rates of COVID-19 transmission decrease, we must all continue to follow public health guidance to keep everyone safe:

- Wash your hands and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Wear a face covering of two or three layers
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet)
- Stay home



# Thank you

When it's your turn, get your vaccine.

For more information visit: <https://www.wdgpulichealth.ca/vaccine>

