

Public Health COVID-19 Update

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Presentation to Council – February 17, 2021



COVID-19 cases in Halton



Total cases: 9,073

- Active: 259
- Resolved: 8,629
- Deceased: 185



Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by reported date and case classification, Mar 1 2020-Feb 15 2021

COVID-19 cases in Halton



Past 30-days

Jan 16, 2021 – Feb 15, 2021

- On Jan 16 the 7-day average was 71 compared to 35 on Feb 15
- Daily case counts generally lowering, with some fluctuation driven by outbreaks

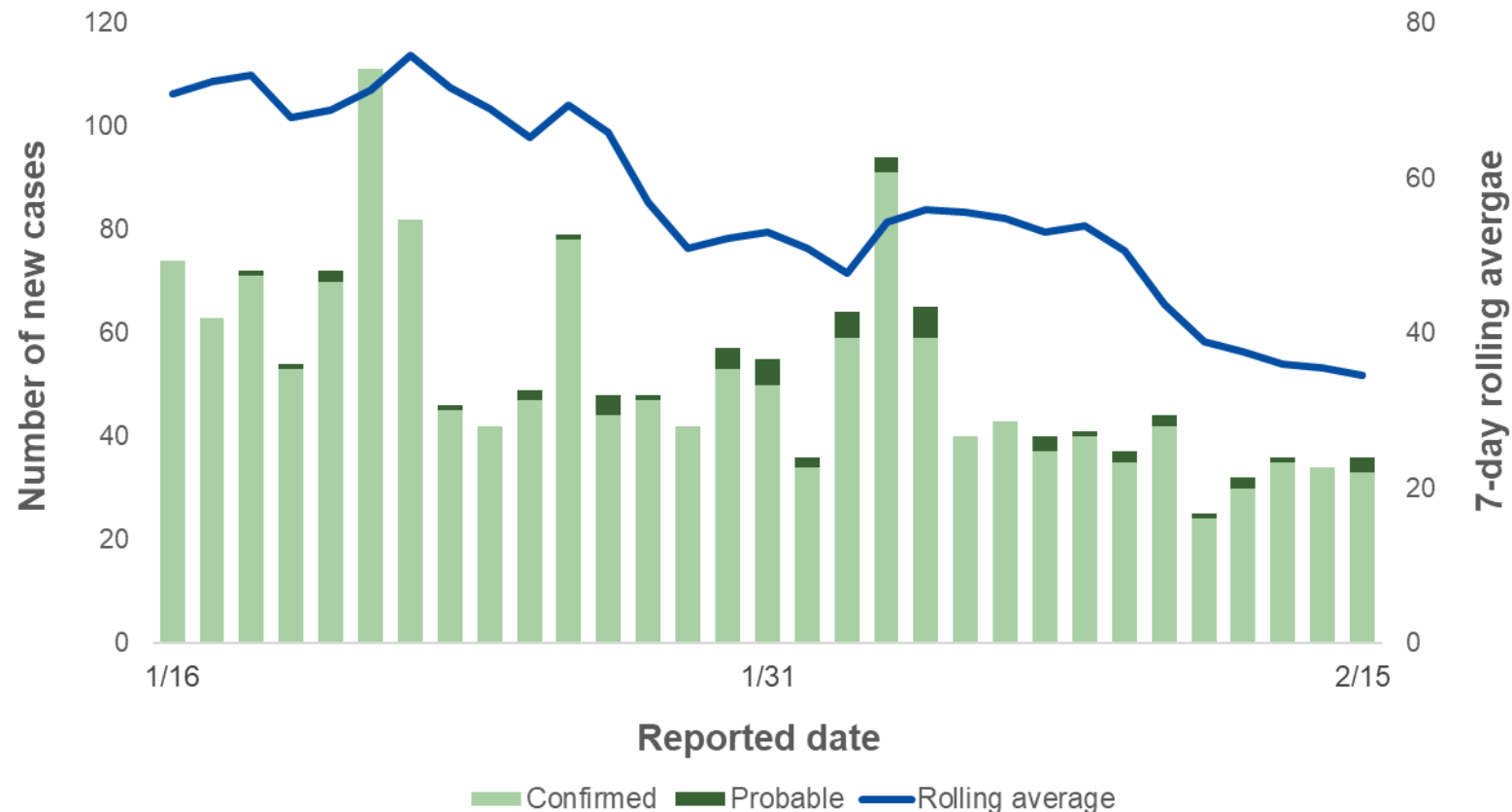


Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases in Halton residents, by reported date and case classification, Jan 16 2021-Feb 15 2021

Weekly rate of COVID-19 in Halton

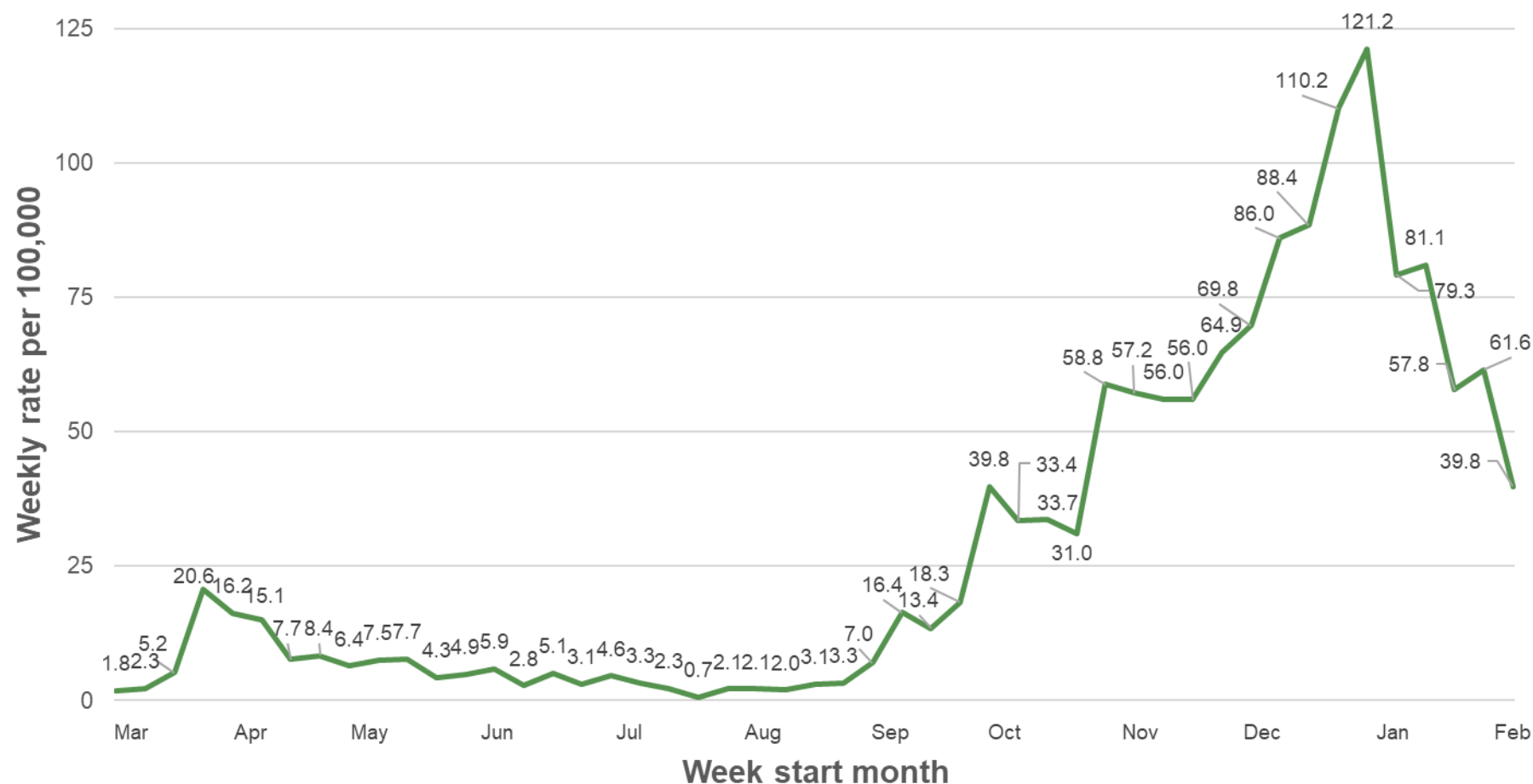


Fig: Weekly COVID-19 incidence rate per 100,000 population, Halton, Mar 1 2020 – Feb 13 2021 (confirmed cases only, based on case reported date)

COVID-19: Inequities

- More Halton COVID-19 cases have a non-official language as their first language or belong to a racialized group than would be expected based on the 2016 census.

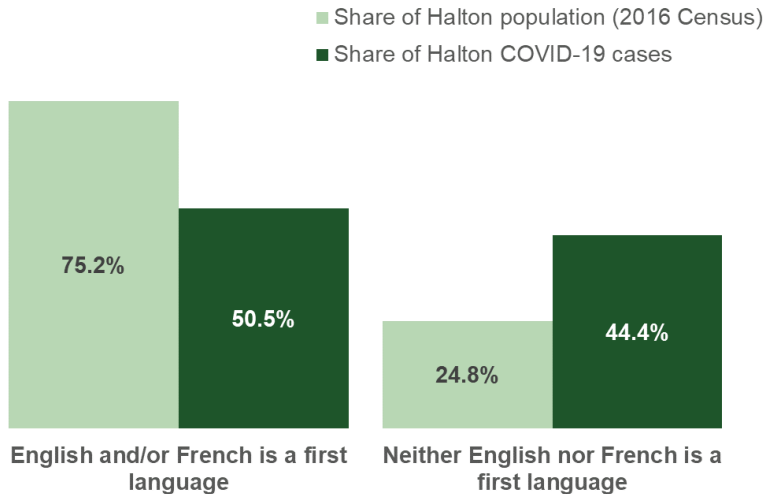


Fig: First language, % of Halton COVID cases and % of Halton residents (2016 Census)

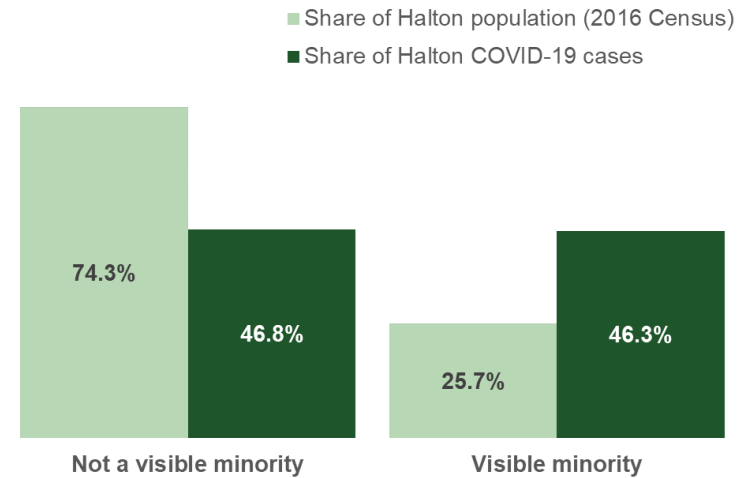


Fig: Visible minority status, % of Halton COVID cases and % of Halton residents (2016 Census)



NB: Interpret results with caution due to ~20% missing data. Includes non-institutional cases reported Jul. 1, 2020-Jan. 19, 2021.

COVID-19 patients in Halton hospitals

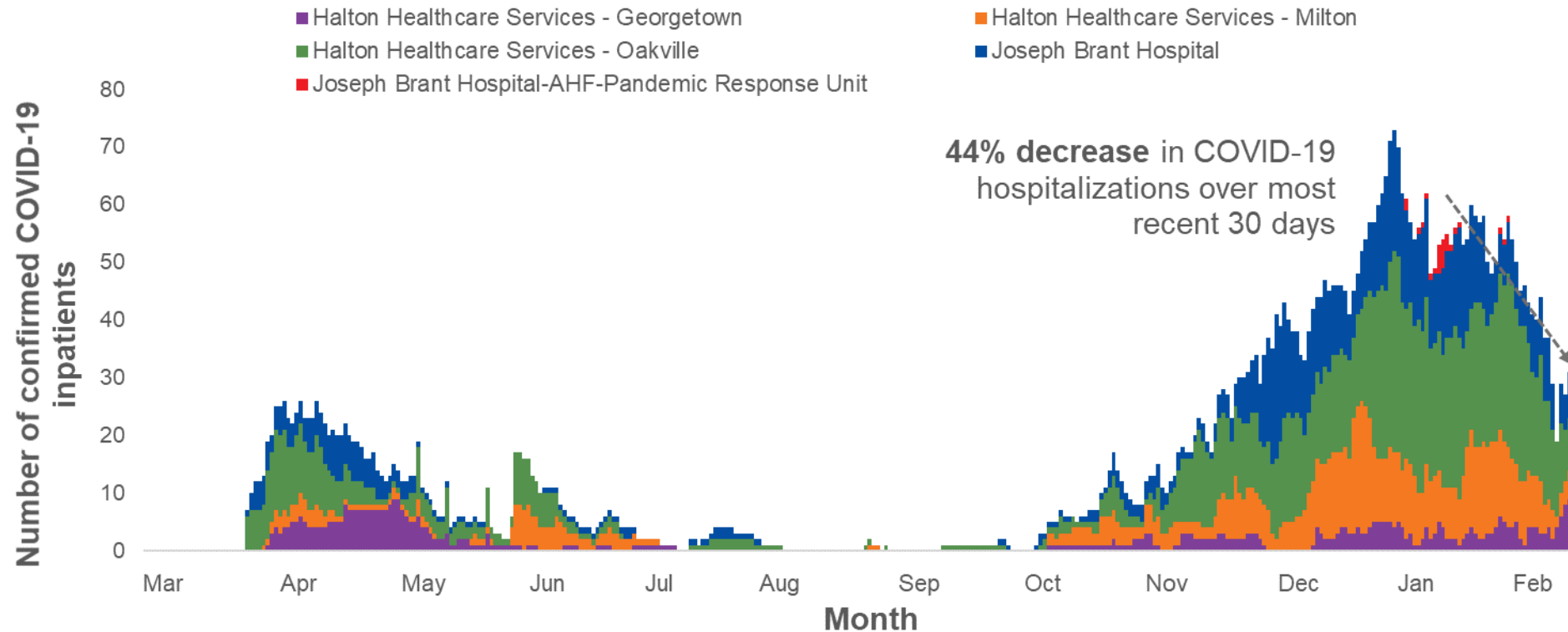
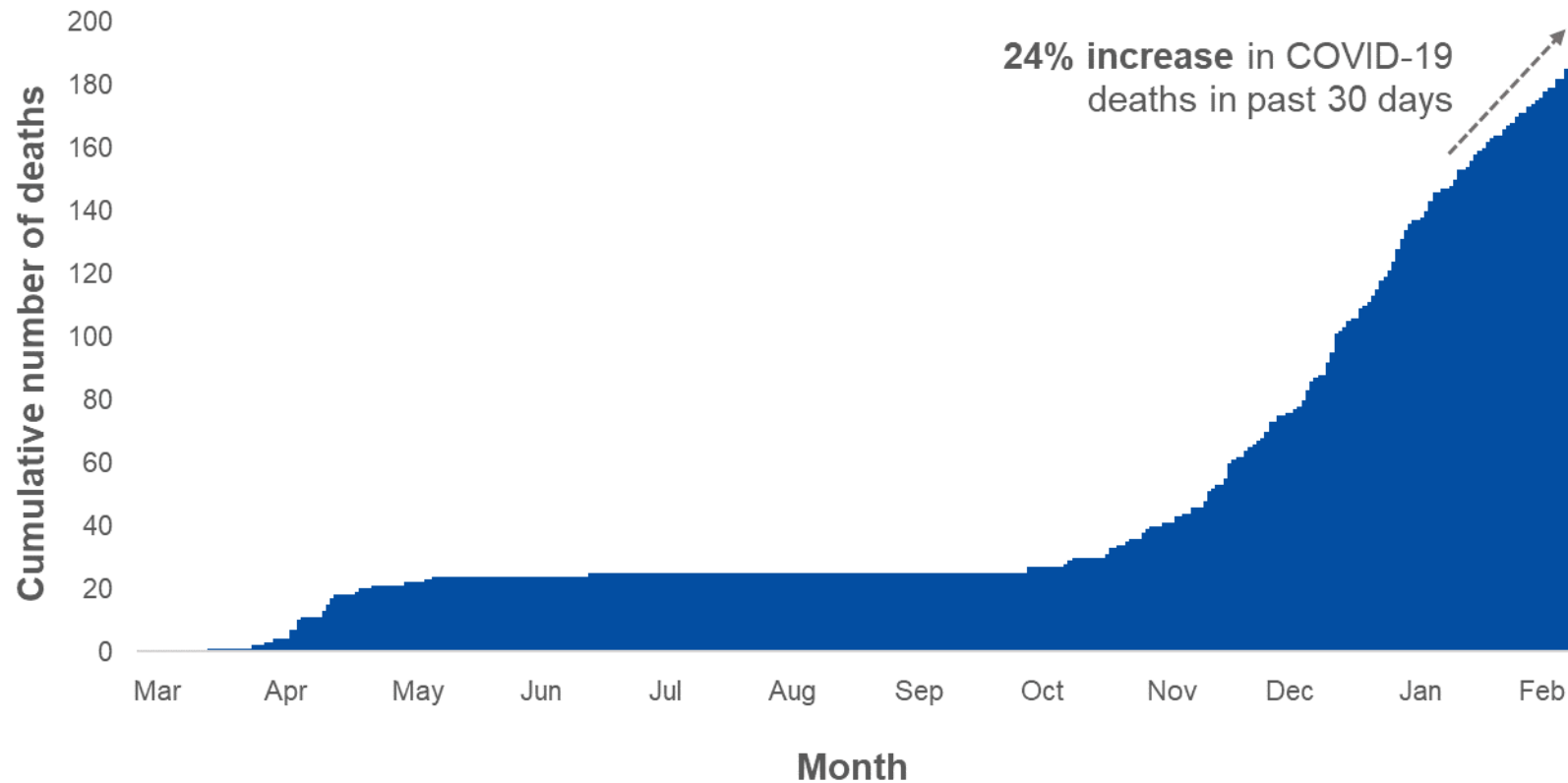


Fig: Hospital inpatients with confirmed COVID-19, Halton hospitals, Mar 1 2020 – Feb 15 2021

COVID-19 deaths in Halton



Total deaths: 185

- Mar-Jun: 25
- Jul-Sep: 0
- Oct-Feb 15: 160

142 out of 185 deaths (77%) among residents aged **80+**



Fig: Cumulative number of deaths among COVID-19 cases, by day, Mar 1 2020 – Feb 15 2021

COVID-19 deaths and age

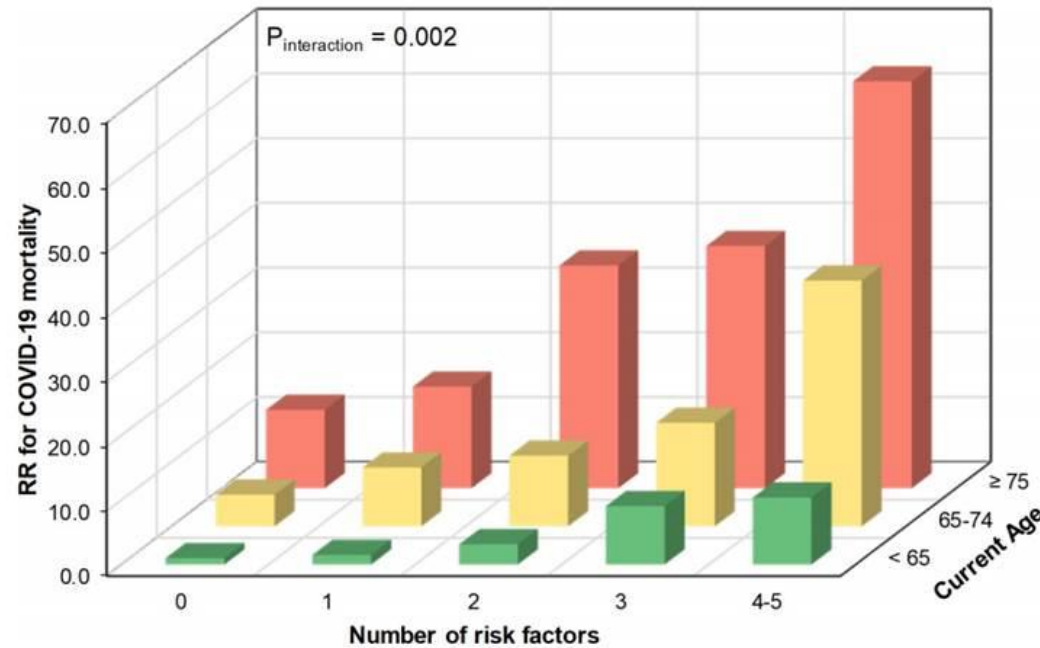


Fig 3. Association between age group combined with number of risk factors and COVID-19 mortality. Adjusted for sex, ethnicity, deprivation, duration of follow-up. Risk factors included smoking, obesity, hypertension, FEV₁, frailty, and number of LTCs ≥ 3.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241824.g003>

Individuals aged ≥ 75 years had significantly greater risk of mortality compared to individuals < 65 years, even taking into account other risk factors

Variants of Concern (VOCs)

- Genetic variations of viruses are common
- A variant has several significant mutations to a virus
- A variant becomes a concern when it affects:
 - disease spread
 - disease severity
 - tests used to detect the virus
 - vaccines and treatments
- COVID-19 VOCs are more transmissible

VOCs and Public Health Response

- Federal international travel changes
- Ontario labs screen all positive cases for VOCs
- Enhanced case and contact management
 - Lower threshold for classifying contacts
 - Prioritizing follow-up with cases with VOCs
 - Enhanced outbreak management for all high priority settings
- Increased communications

VOC cases as of Feb 15

- Halton: 3
- Ontario: 319

Rapid Antigen Testing in Long-Term Care Homes

- Rapid antigen tests yields results within 15-20 minutes
- Used to screen asymptomatic individuals
- All rapid antigen screening is being conducted by Panbio™ test
- Deadline to implement rapid testing in LTCHs is March 15, 2021
- Once program fully operational, PCR testing only to be used in certain circumstances

Alcohol and COVID-19

- Pre-pandemic, 49% of Halton adults were consuming alcohol above recommended guidelines
- Some Canadians consuming more alcohol during the pandemic
- 26% of Canadian respondents reported binge-drinking in the past week
- Currently assessing whether alcohol use has increased in Halton during the pandemic



Provincial Framework: Control (Red) Level Restrictions

Sector	Revised and Strengthened Framework	
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% capacity limit for grocery, convenience, and pharmacies • 50% for all other retail • Post capacity limits and screening posters 	
Restaurants & Bars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit 10 people seated indoors per establishment; 4 seated together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening • Record contact info • Masks required
Sport & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors • Team sports may train and practice (no games or scrimmages) 	
Personal Service Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot offer services that require removing a mask 	
Cinemas & Performing Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed to the public 	



Vaccine Rollout Update



halton.ca ☎ 311



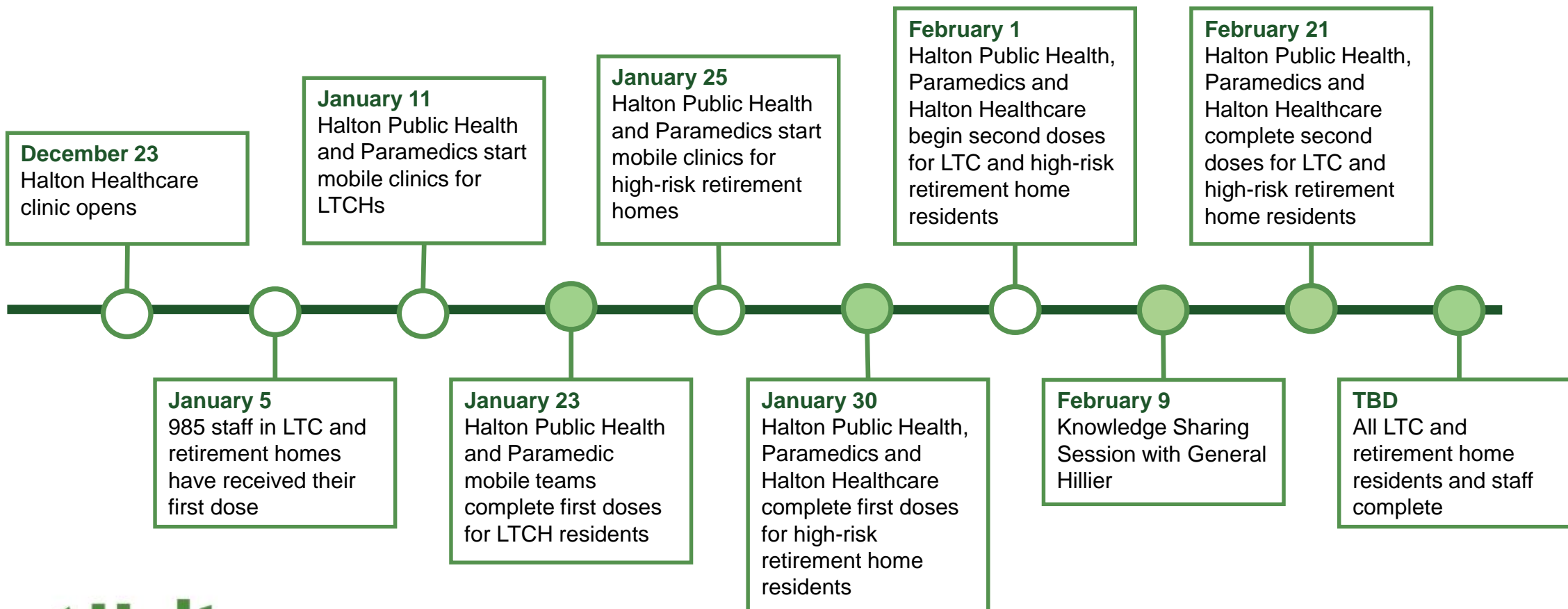
YouTube 14

COVID-19 Vaccines: Our progress to date

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

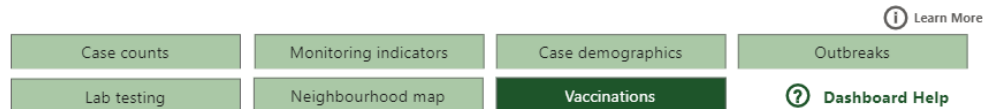


COVID-19 dashboard updates

Vaccinations tab

Dashboard

Having trouble loading the dashboard? [View in fullscreen](#).

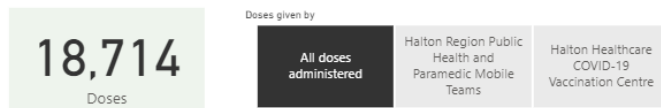


Halton is currently focused on vaccinating priority populations as identified by the Province, including recent Provincial direction to accelerate vaccinations for residents in long-term care and high-risk retirement homes and second doses for prioritized healthcare workers.

- Mobile teams of Halton Region Public Health and Halton Region Paramedic Services staff began vaccinations for residents, staff and essential caregivers at long-term care and high-risk retirement homes on January 11, 2021.
- Halton Healthcare established a COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and began vaccinating long term care and high-risk retirement home staff and prioritized healthcare workers on December 22, 2020 and essential caregivers in early January.

Halton's COVID-19 vaccination program remains contingent on supply. As more vaccine becomes available, we will continue to roll out the vaccine to priority populations as quickly as possible.

Our progress so far



Data are refreshed weekly.
Data last updated on Friday, February 12, 2021, for doses administered up to and including Thursday, February 11, 2021

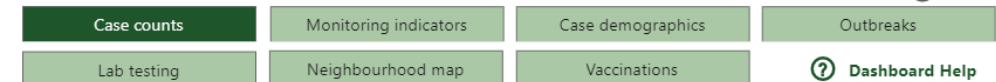
? What does this mean?

Variants of concern

Dashboard

Having trouble loading the dashboard? [View in fullscreen](#).

Dashboard numbers dynamically updated between 12 and 2 p.m. everyday. Numbers will not match estimates provided by other sources, due to different data extraction times. Learn More



Halton Cases



* Of the 9073 total cases in Halton Region, 8795 were confirmed cases and 278 were probable cases. 3 cases had a confirmed variant of concern.

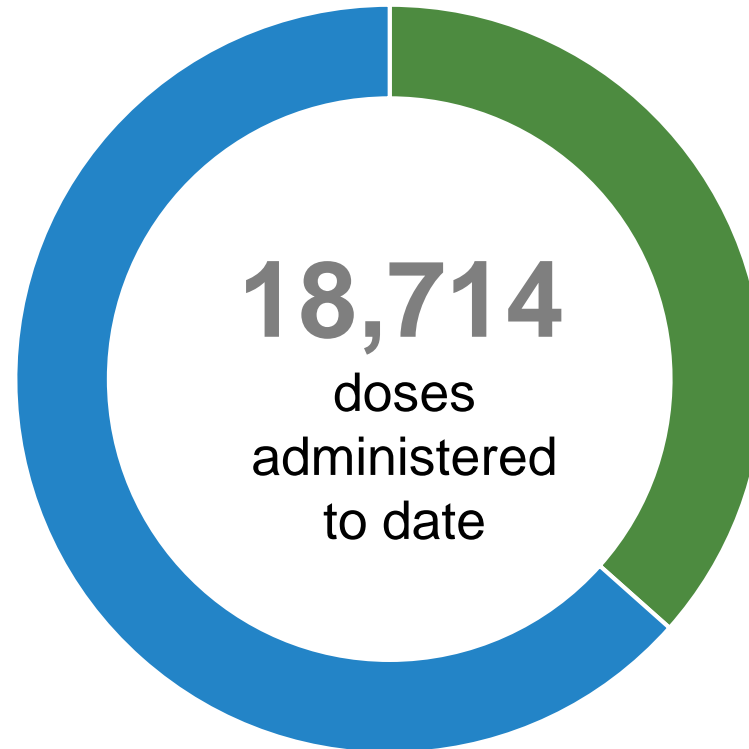
Data last updated on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

The net case change since the last update (the previous day) is shown using an arrow: ↑



COVID-19 Vaccines: Our progress to date

As of February 11, 2021:



- Halton Region Public Health and Paramedic Mobile Teams
(6,493 doses)
- Halton Healthcare Vaccination Centre
(12,221 doses)



Planning for Vaccine Distribution

- Federal guidance
 - National Advisory Committee on Immunization
- Provincial Direction:
 - Three-phase vaccination plan
 - Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force
 - Recently released Healthcare Worker Prioritization
- Local surveillance data

Vaccine Roll-out: Halton COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

Timing	December 2020 –Spring 2021	Spring-Summer 2021	Beginning Summer 2021
Phase	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Priority Populations	<div>13,860</div> <div>Congregate living for seniors (residents, staff and essential caregivers)</div> <div>2,906</div> <div>Adult chronic home care recipients</div> <div>24,705</div> <div>Health care workers</div> <div>4,080 – 16,320</div> <div>Adults in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations</div>	<div>95,840</div> <div>Adults (65+)</div> <div>>200,000</div> <div>People with chronic conditions</div> <div>24,810</div> <div>Essential workers</div> <div>?</div> <div>Other at risk populations</div>	<div>400,000</div> <div>Remaining eligible residents in Halton (aged 16-64)</div>
Possible Vaccination Models (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass Immunization Clinics (hospital-led)Mobile/On-site Immunization Clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mass Immunization Clinics (hospital-led)Mass Immunization Clinics (PHU-led)Mobile/On-site Immunization ClinicsOther Clinics (Pharmacy, Healthcare Partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other Clinics (Pharmacy, Healthcare Partners)Mass Immunization Clinics (PHU-led)

Planning for Vaccination Clinics

- Clinic models
- Site selection
 - Maintain health and safety measures
 - Accessibility
 - Sufficient amenities
 - Availability
- Staffing



Photo Credit: The Canadian Press / Frank Gunn

Planning for Vaccination Clinics

Initiation to steady state: 3 weeks												
Dose	Week Number											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 st dose	Cohort 1			Cohort 2			Cohort 3			Cohort 4		
2 nd dose				Cohort 1			Cohort 2			Cohort 3		

COVID-19 Vaccine Communications

Phase 1

- Messages to priority populations
- Local partnerships to provide consistent messaging to community
- New COVID-19 vaccine webpage

Phase 2 and 3

- Environment scan
- Development of detailed vaccine communication strategy



Risk Management

Risk	Mitigation
Vaccine supply and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow vaccine distribution plan
Vaccine prioritization and allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further Provincial guidance on prioritization• Local planning and outreach
Surge capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Continuity Plans• Support from other Health Units
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased hiring• Employee wellness

Risk Management - Continued

Risk	Mitigation
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent and centralized provincial messaging
Technology – COVax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVax training for vaccine providers• Develop parallel tools locally
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase allocations of PPE supplies for clinic operations
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate provincial funding to support vaccine rollout
Reopening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No mitigation strategies

History of Mass Vaccinations in Halton

- Vaccination is a core activity of public health
- Experience with other large scale vaccination clinics:
 - H1N1
 - Hepatitis A vaccine clinic at the end of 2019
 - Grade 7 clinics in community centres



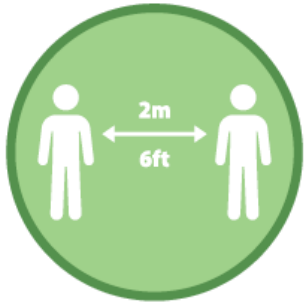
Ongoing need for public health measures



Stay home if you are not feeling well, only go out for essential trips



Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds

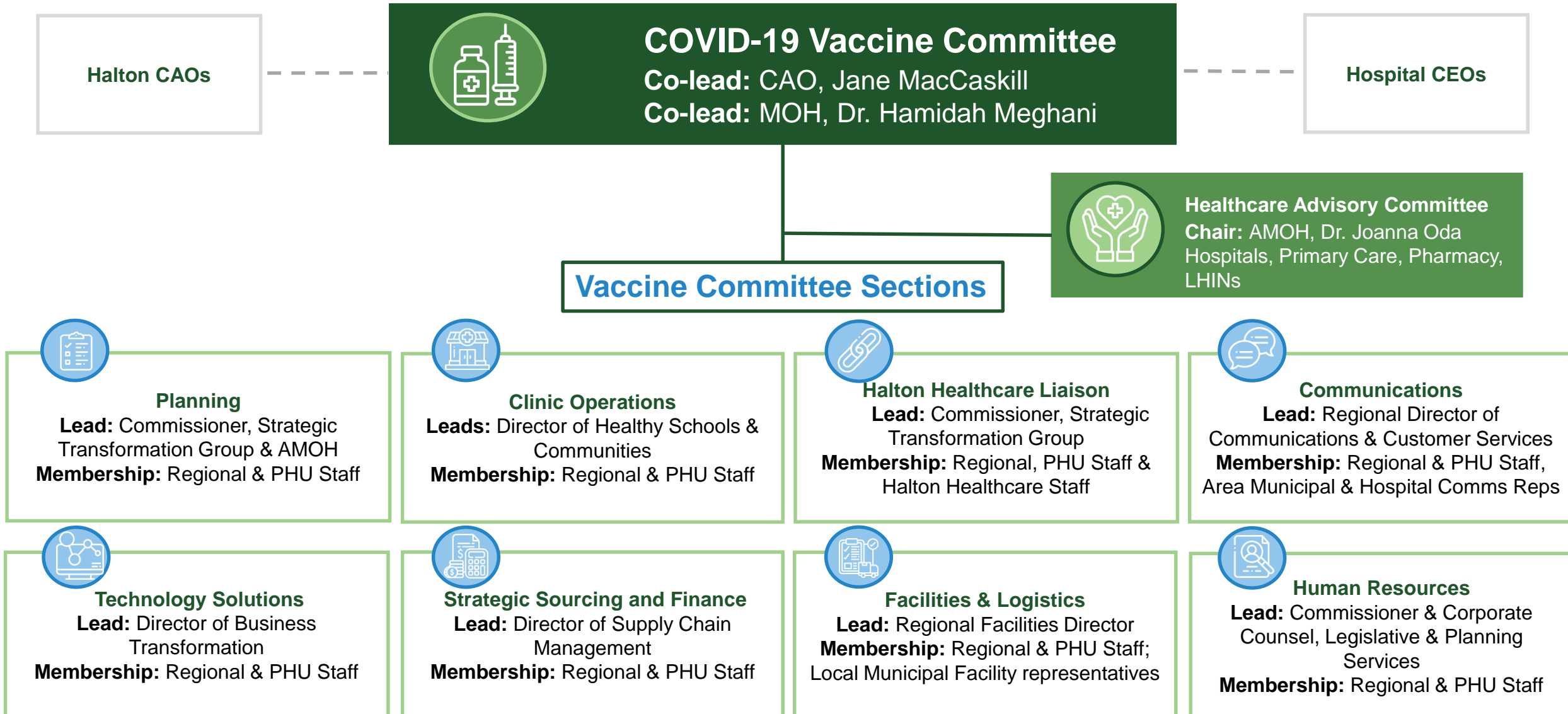


Maintain a **physical distance** of at least 2 metres from others



Wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible

COVID-19 Vaccines: Halton Region Vaccine Committee



Recipe for a successful clinic



Questions?

