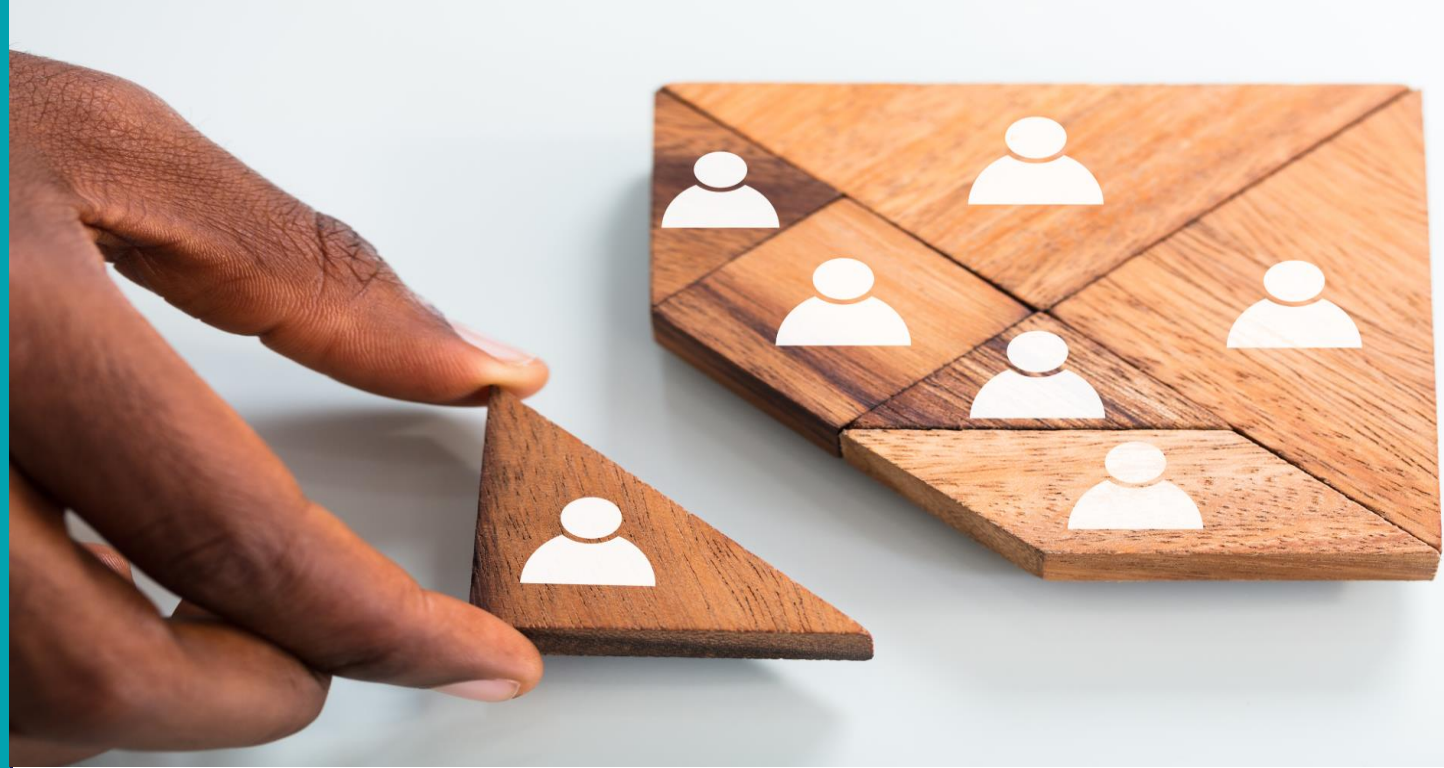


# Changing the Way We Work Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians

**May 23, 2025**

**Dr. Allison McGeer  
Dr. Tara Kiran**



## ***Infectious Disease and Opportunities for Improving the Way We Work***



Family & Community Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Ontario College of  
Family Physicians



# Infectious Disease and Opportunities for Improving the Way We Work

## Moderator:

- Dr. Ali Damji, Division Head, Primary Care, Trillium Health Partners and Family Physician, Credit Valley Family Health Team, Mississauga, ON

## Panelists:

- Dr. Allison McGeer, Toronto, ON
- Dr. Tara Kiran, Toronto, ON

## Host:

- Dr. Eric Wong, London, ON

The Changing the Way We Work Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians is a one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program that has been certified for up to a total of 32 credits.

Please note that due to changes to the Cert+ platform, there will be delays in credits being applied to your account.

# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the lands on which we are hosting this meeting include the traditional territories of many nations.

The OCFP and DFCM recognizes that the many injustices experienced by the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada continue to affect their health and well-being. The OCFP and DFCM respects that Indigenous people have rich cultural and traditional practices that have been known to improve health outcomes.

I invite all of us to reflect on the territories you are calling in from as we commit ourselves to gaining knowledge; forging a new, culturally safe relationship; and contributing to reconciliation.

# Changing the way we work

## *A community of practice for family physicians*

At the conclusion of this series participants will be able to:

- Identify the current best practices for delivery of primary care and how to incorporate into practice.
- Describe point-of-care resources and tools available to guide decision making and plan of care.
- Connect with a community of family physicians to identify practical solutions for their primary care practice under current conditions.

## **Disclosure of Financial Support**

This CPD program has received in-kind support from the Ontario College of Family Physicians and the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto in the form of logistical and promotional support.

## **Potential for conflict(s) of interest:**

N/A

## **Mitigating Potential Bias**

- The Scientific Planning Committee has full control over the choice of topics/speakers.
- Content has been developed according to the standards and expectations of the Mainpro+ certification program.
- The program content was reviewed by a three-member national/scientific planning committee.

*Planning Committee:* Dr. Jobin Varughese (OCFP), Dr. Ali Damji (DFCM), Dr. Eleanor Colledge (DFCM), Dr. Harry O'Halloran, Julia Galbraith (OCFP), Pavethra Yogeswaran (OCFP), Marisa Schwartz (DFCM)

Previous webinars & related resources:

<https://www.dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>

## Self-learning program

The session materials, including recordings, tools, and resources are available as self-learning modules.

This one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario Chapter for up to 80 credits.

To participate in this self-learning:

- Select the dates/sessions you wish to participate in. You are welcome to complete as many sessions as you wish.
- Watch the video recording of the live session.
- Review the session tools and resources.
- Complete the self-learning post-session activity, click the button below.

Complete self-learning activity 



### Self-Learning Activity and Evaluation: COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians

By completing this Self-Learning Activity for the COVID-19 Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians, you are confirming that you have completed this activity.

**\* 1. Attestation: I confirm that I have completed the COVID-19 CoP self-learning activity (video and resources).**  
(If completing multiple session dates, please enter all that apply below  
*ENTER DATE AS Month-Day-Year i.e. December 10, 2021*)

Session Date(s):

Name:

Email:

**\* 2. After reviewing this COVID-19 session material (video and resources), I have a question (s) regarding the content that needs clarifying.**

☐ I have no questions

☐ Question:

# Missed a session and want to earn credits?

The Self-Learning  
Program lets you earn  
credits for watching past  
sessions. Just click the link  
and fill out a 60 second  
survey!



## **Dr. Allison McGeer – Panelist**

Infectious Disease Specialist, Mount Sinai Hospital



## **Dr. Tara Kiran – Panelist**

Family physician and Scientist, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto; Fidani Chair in Improvement and Innovation at the University of Toronto

# Speaker Disclosure

- Faculty Name: **Dr. Allison McGeer**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: Pfizer, SanofiPasteur, CIHR, CITF, PSI, PHAC, CIRN, Appili Therapeutics
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Novavax, SanofiPasteur, GSK, Merck, Roche, Seqirus
  - Others: N/A
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Tara Kiran**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), Ontario Ministry of Health, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, Max Bell Foundation, Health Canada, Staples Canada, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (INSPIRE-PHC), St. Michael's Hospital Medical Services Association, WCH Academic & Medical Services Group Innovation Fund
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Shared Health Manitoba, Health Workforce Canada, Alberta College of Family Physicians, American Board of Family Medicine, Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), Ontario Health, College of Family Physicians of Canada, Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario, Canadian Medical Association, Ontario Medical Association (OMA), McMaster University, North American Primary Care Research Group, Queen's University
  - Consulting Fees: Ontario Health

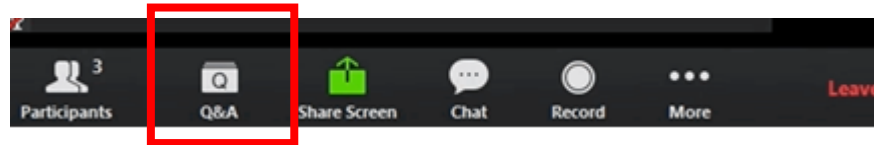
# Speaker Disclosure

- Faculty Name: **Dr. Eric Wong**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario College of Family Physicians
  - Others: Western University, University of Toronto, Medical Council of Canada, Touchstone Institute, Thames Valley Family Health Team
  
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Ali Damji**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
  - Grants/Research Support: N/A
  - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario College of Family Physicians, Ontario Medical Association Section of General & Family Practice, Trillium Health Partners, Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin, Center for Effective Practice, GSK
  - Advisory boards: Medical Post Advisory Board, Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine, Center for Effective Practice
  - Others: N/A

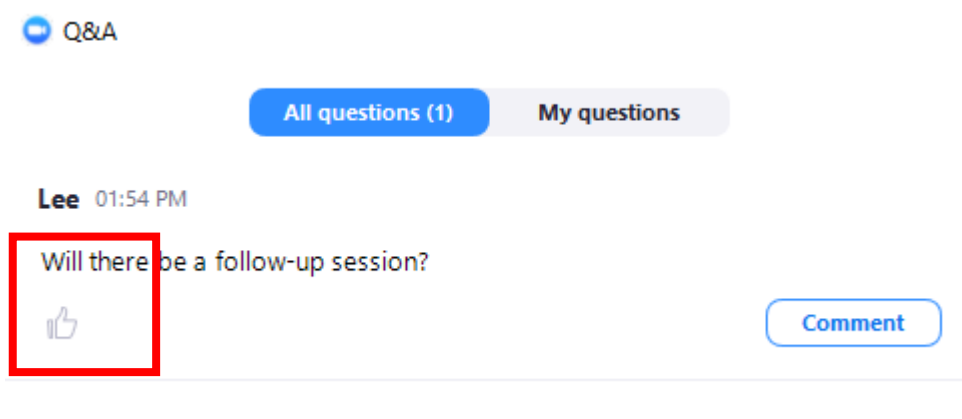


# How to Participate

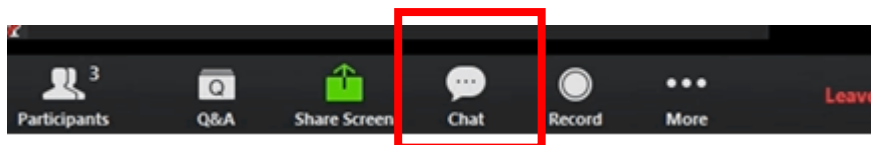
- All questions should be asked using the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen.



- Press the thumbs up button to upvote another guest's questions. Upvote a question if you want to ask a similar question or want to see a guest's question go to the top and catch the panels attention.



- Please use the chat box for networking purposes only.





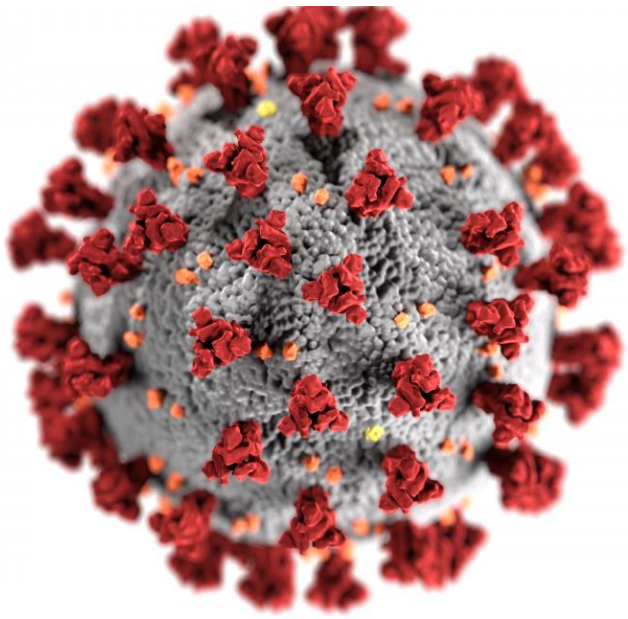
## **Dr. Allison McGeer – Panelist**

Infectious Disease Specialist, Mount Sinai Hospital

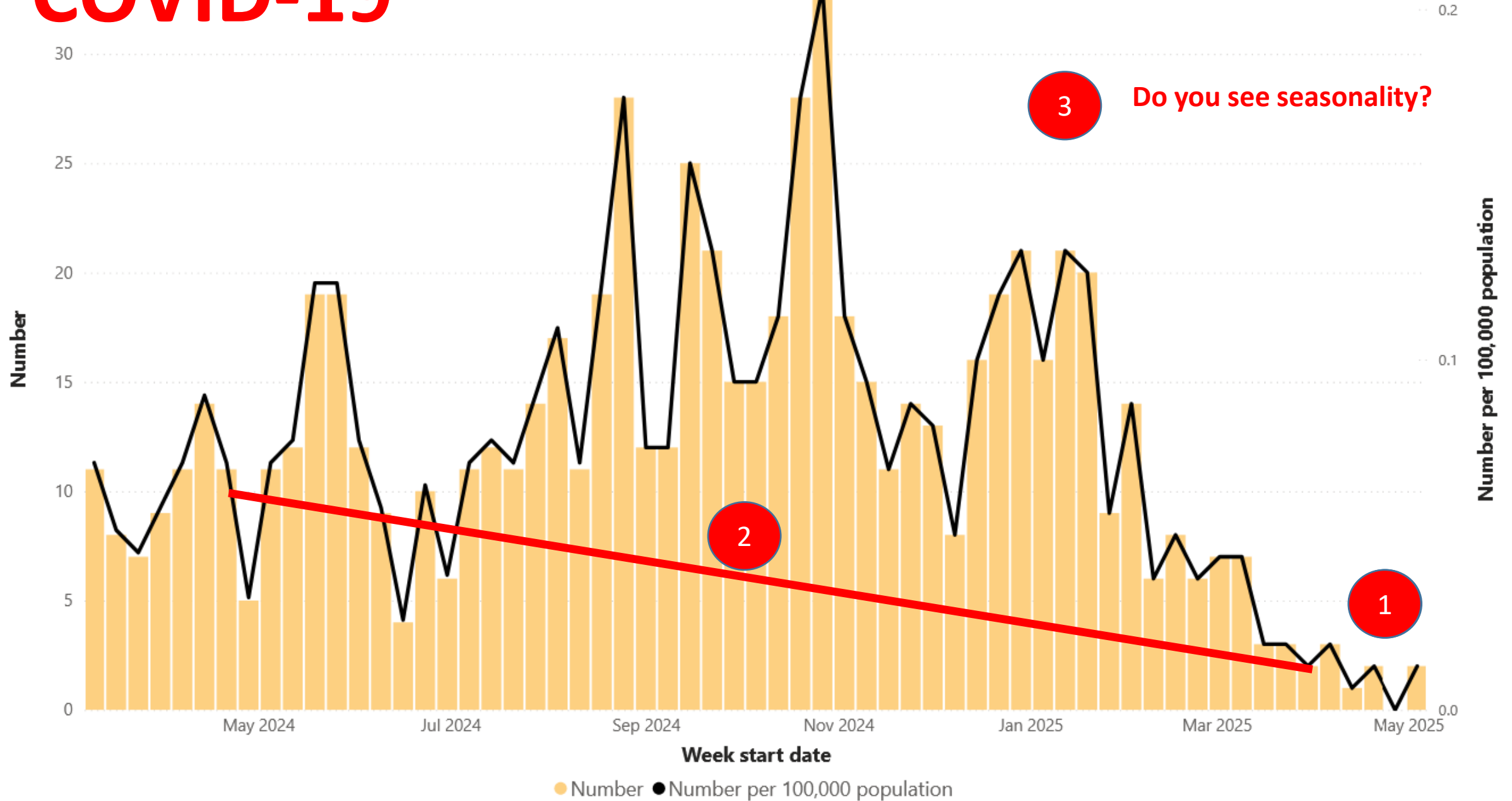


## **Dr. Tara Kiran – Panelist**

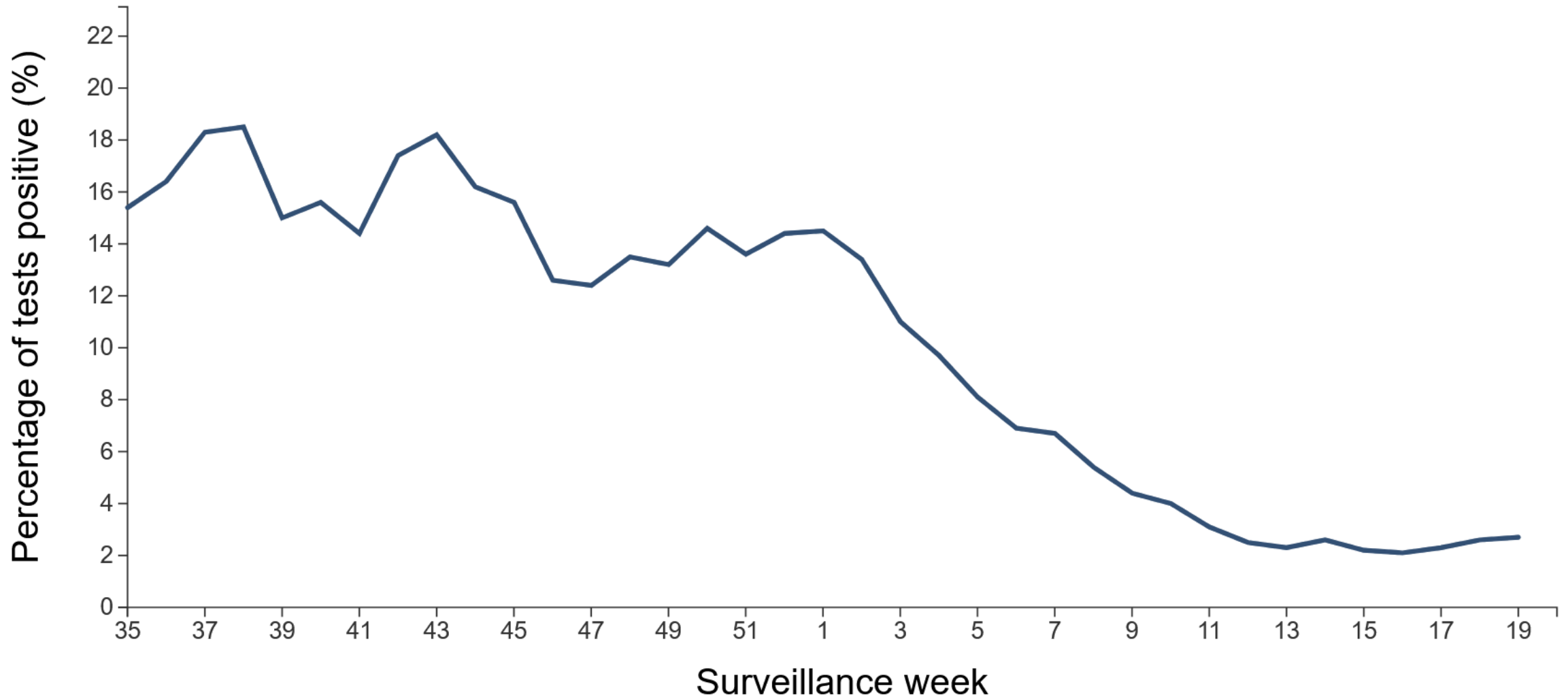
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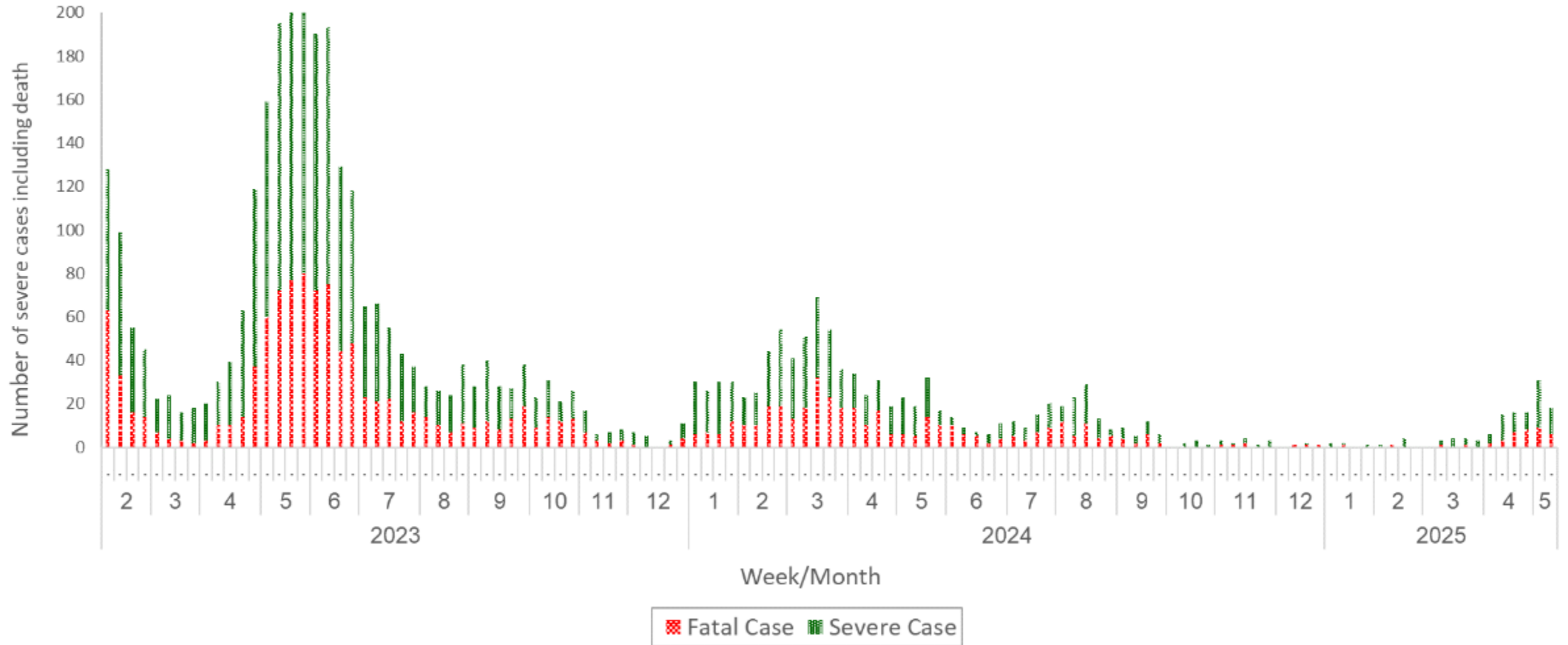
# COVID-19



# Percent tests positive for COVID-19, 2024-25 season Ontario



# COVID-19 Surveillance in Hong Kong



# NACI recommendations, spring vaccine 2025

- SHOULD receive spring dose
  - Adults 80 years of age and older
  - Adults residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
  - Individuals 6 months of age and older who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#)
- MAY receive spring dose
  - Previously vaccinated adults 65 to 79 years of age who are not in the preceding list

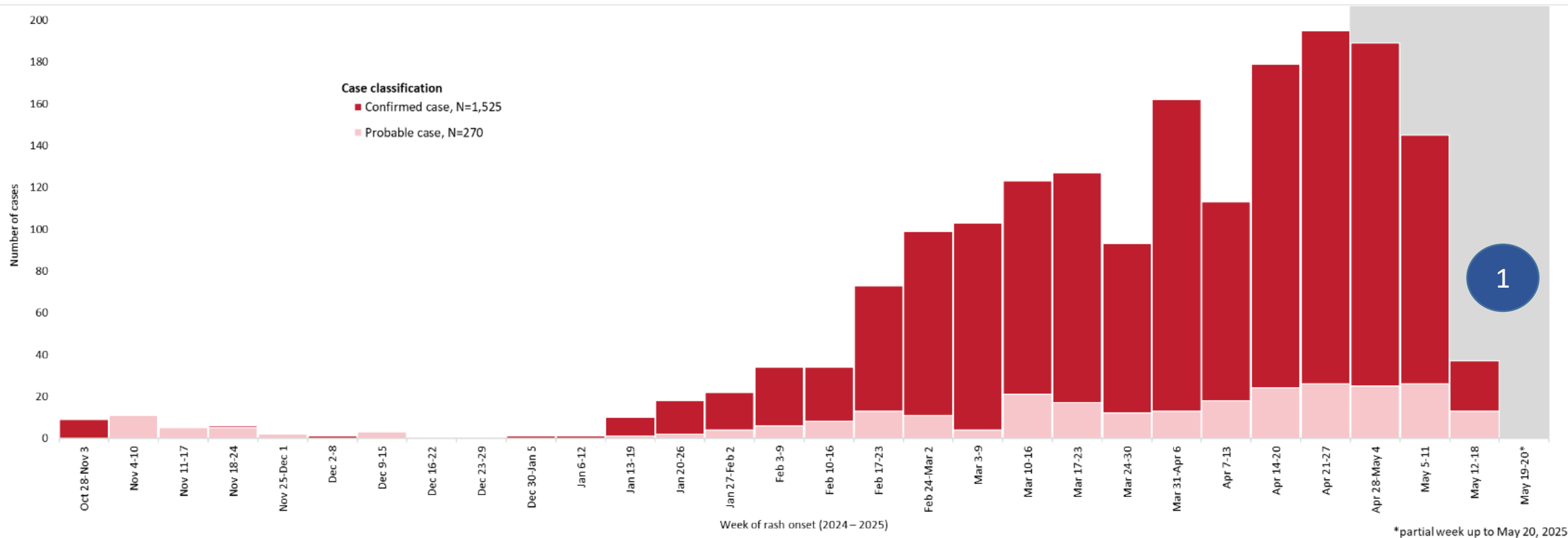


# Moderately to severely immunocompromised

- Solid tumour or hematologic malignancies
- Solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy targeting lymphocytes
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency with associated humoral and/or cell-mediated immunodeficiency or immune dysregulation
- HIV with AIDS-defining illness or TB diagnosis in last 12 months before starting vaccine series, **or** severe immune compromise with  $CD4 < 200$  cells/ $\mu$ L **or**  $CD4\% < 15\%$ , **or** without HIV viral suppression
- Recent treatment with: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive
- Chronic kidney disease on dialysis



# Measles outbreak



2 Proportion with 2 doses of vaccine=4.1%

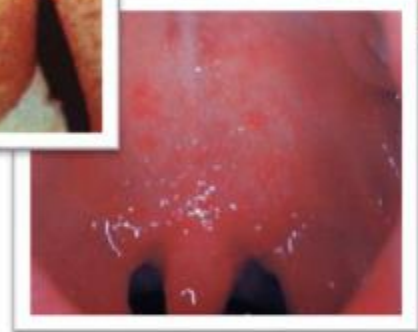
3 Proportion born before 1970=1.7%

4

Any indication of spread to the general community

# Clinical Presentation of Measles<sup>6</sup>

- Measles is characterized by:
  - Prodrome of fever
  - Cough
  - Coryza
  - Conjunctivitis
  - Maculopapular erythematous rash that begins on the face and spreads to the trunk, arms and legs
  - Koplik spots are pathognomonic
- Cases are considered infectious from 1 day before the start of the prodromal period  
**(4 days before to 4 days after rash onset)**



6. Public Health Agency of Canada. Measles: for health professionals [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2024 [Updated 2024 Feb 27; cited 2024 May 21]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/measles/health-professionals-measles.html>

7. Image source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Photos of measles [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: 2024 [cited 2024 May 21]. Available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms/photos-of-measles.html?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/measles/symptoms/photos.html](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms/photos-of-measles.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/measles/symptoms/photos.html)

# Measles diagnosis

Test Requested	Required Requisition(s)	Specimen Type	Minimum Volume	Collection Kit	
Measles Virus Diagnosis	<b>General Test Requisition</b>	Nasopharyngeal swab <sup>3,4</sup>	1 swab in transport media contained in kit	Virus Respiratory Kit order#: 390082	7 days
Measles Virus Diagnosis	<b>General Test Requisition</b>	Throat swab <sup>3,5</sup>	1 swab in transport media contained in kit	Virus Culture Kit order#: <b>390081</b>	7 days
Measles Virus Diagnosis	<b>General Test Requisition</b>	Urine <sup>3,6</sup>	Minimum volume 10mL	Sterile container	14 days

# Measles



- Measles post-exposure prophylaxis
  - [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/M/24/measles-post-exposure-prophylaxis-contacts.pdf?rev=639e26f400e64c8a8504a8a39f0b4276&sc\\_lang=en&hash=E7412587A2789EA7CBF515B2CBC8D211](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/M/24/measles-post-exposure-prophylaxis-contacts.pdf?rev=639e26f400e64c8a8504a8a39f0b4276&sc_lang=en&hash=E7412587A2789EA7CBF515B2CBC8D211)
- Measles exposures in Ontario
  - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Diseases-and-Conditions/Infectious-Diseases/Vaccine-Preventable-Diseases/Measles/Measles-Exposures-Ontario>

# Vaccination against shingles

- **NACI now strongly recommends that individuals 18 years of age and older who are or will be immunocompromised should receive two doses of RZV to prevent herpes zoster and its associated complications.**



# Conjugate pneumococcal vaccine for adults



- **Why should I care?**

- Vaccination of adults with conjugate pneumococcal vaccines saves lives cost-effectively
- Pneumococcal vaccine may be the single most effective thing you can do to reduce the burden of antimicrobial resistance

# What to do?

Who is eligible for a dose of PCV20?

- Anyone 65+ with comorbidity (1 yr after PPV)
- Anyone 65+ and healthy – if no PPV23
- 5-64 yrs with any comorbidity – if no PPV23

Vaccination for High-risk Individuals Aged 65 Years and Older with criteria #10-17 in list above		0 to 2 doses of Pneu-P-23		Family Physicians	
Vaccination for High-risk Individuals Aged 65 Years and Older with criteria #10-17 in list above		0 doses of Pneu-P-23		0 to 1 dose of Pneu-P-23	
replaces Pneu-P-23. Previously not eligible for Pneu-C-13.		• 1 dose, 1 year after last dose of Pneu-P-23 (if applicable) 1 dose of Pneu-P-23 • None		Pneu-C-20 replaces Pneu-P-23. Previously not eligible for Pneu-C-13.	
Vaccination for High-risk Individuals Aged 65 Years and Older with criteria #10-17 in list above		0 to 1 dose of Pneu-P-23		2 doses of Pneu-P-23 with at least 1 dose at age ≥ 65 years	
		• None		• None	



# What to do?



Ministry of Health

## REMEMBER

**Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Individuals Aged 65 Years and Older**

### **Persons with inadequate immunization records**

Individuals with incomplete immunization records, or no immunization records, should be considered unimmunized and should receive pneumococcal vaccines on a schedule appropriate to their age and risk factors, regardless of possible previous immunization.



# What to do?

- **ANYTHING that moves the needle**
  - Resident project
  - Quality improvement project
  - Hand outs for the waiting room
  - Check your EMR data for biggest gaps
- Make sure anyone being immunized either has a yellow card,  
or are using the CANImmunize app



# Public Health Ontario Survey: Infant and High-risk Children RSV Prevention Program



- PHO asking for feedback from those who provided immunization
- 10-minute survey focused on 2025-26 RSV program
- Deadline: May 31, 2025



[Click here to Access the Survey](#)

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# Our Care

**Co-designing the future of primary care with patients and the public**

## **Tara Kiran**

Fidani Chair in Improvement and Innovation, University of Toronto

Scientist, MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions

Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

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With funding from:



In Partnership with:

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**One  
National  
Survey**

**9000+  
responses**

**Five  
Provincial  
Priorities  
Panels**

**150+  
participants**

**Ten  
Community  
Roundtables**

**190+  
participants**







# The OurCare Standard

**1.** Everyone has a relationship with a primary care clinician who works with other health professionals in a publicly funded team.

**2.** Everyone receives ongoing care from their primary care team and can access them in a timely way.

**4.** Everyone can access their health record online and share it with their clinicians.

**3.** Everyone's primary care team is connected to community and social services that together support their physical, mental and social well-being.

**5.** Everyone receives culturally safe care that meets their needs from clinicians that represent the diversity of the communities they serve.

**6.** Everyone receives care from a primary care system that is accountable to the communities it serves.

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# Ontario's *Primary Care Act*

1. **Province-wide:** Every person across the province should have the opportunity to have ongoing access to a primary care clinician or team.

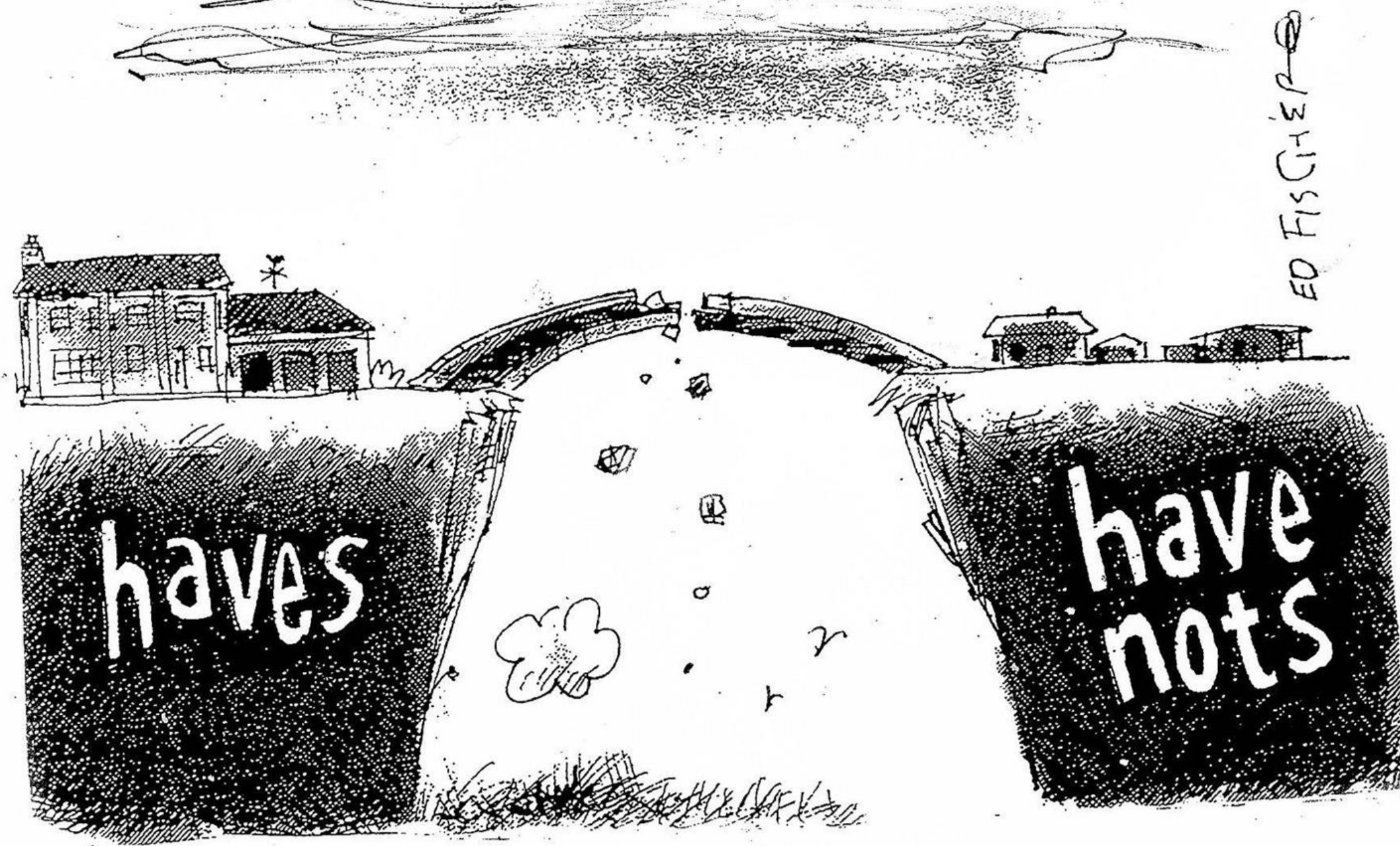
2. **Convenient:** Every person should have access to timely primary care.

3. **Connected:** Every person should have the opportunity to receive primary care that is coordinated with existing health and social services.

4. **Empowered:** Every person should have the opportunity to access their personal health information through a digitally integrated system that connects patients and clinicians in the circle of care.

5. **Inclusive:** Every person should have the opportunity to receive primary care that is free from barriers and free from discrimination.

6. **Responsive:** The primary care system should respond to the needs of the communities it serves and everyone should have access to information about how the system is performing and adapting.





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**How can we **rethink** the role of  
family doctors and the way  
primary care clinics operate in  
Ontario?**

---

# Learning from other jurisdictions



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# Differences in context

More doctors per capita (1.6–1.8x)  
Higher % of spending that is public (DK, NL)  
Higher taxes to GDP ratio  
More social equality (DK, NL)  
Not the same opioid crisis  
Less ethnic diversity  
Smaller geography, not beside the US



# Cancer Screening



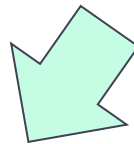
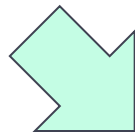
**Colon Cancer Check**



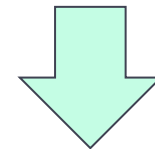
**Ontario Breast  
Screening Program**



**Ontario Cervical  
Screening Program**

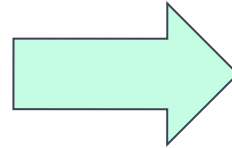


Can we shift these  
out of primary care  
to be the sole  
responsibility of  
Ontario Health



Can we scale up  
HPV self-sampling  
to reduce the need  
for Pap tests in  
primary care?

# Prevention



Can we shift from preventive check-ups in clinic to community-based education and wide-spread health promotion?

Sacrificing patient care for prevention. BMJ 2025. <https://www.bmj.com/content/388/bmj-2024-080811>

# Accountability for Access



Can we agree on minimum expectations for  
timely access?

# Demand management



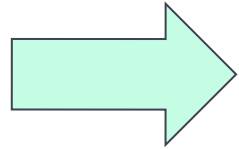
Can we train people and/or use technology to direct people to get the right care from the right person at the right time?



# Delegation



**AND**



**OR**



Can we delegate management of stable chronic conditions to nurses, pharmacists or other health professionals?

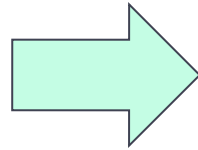


# Integrated after-hours care



Can we incorporate virtual triage, primary care assessment and home visiting?

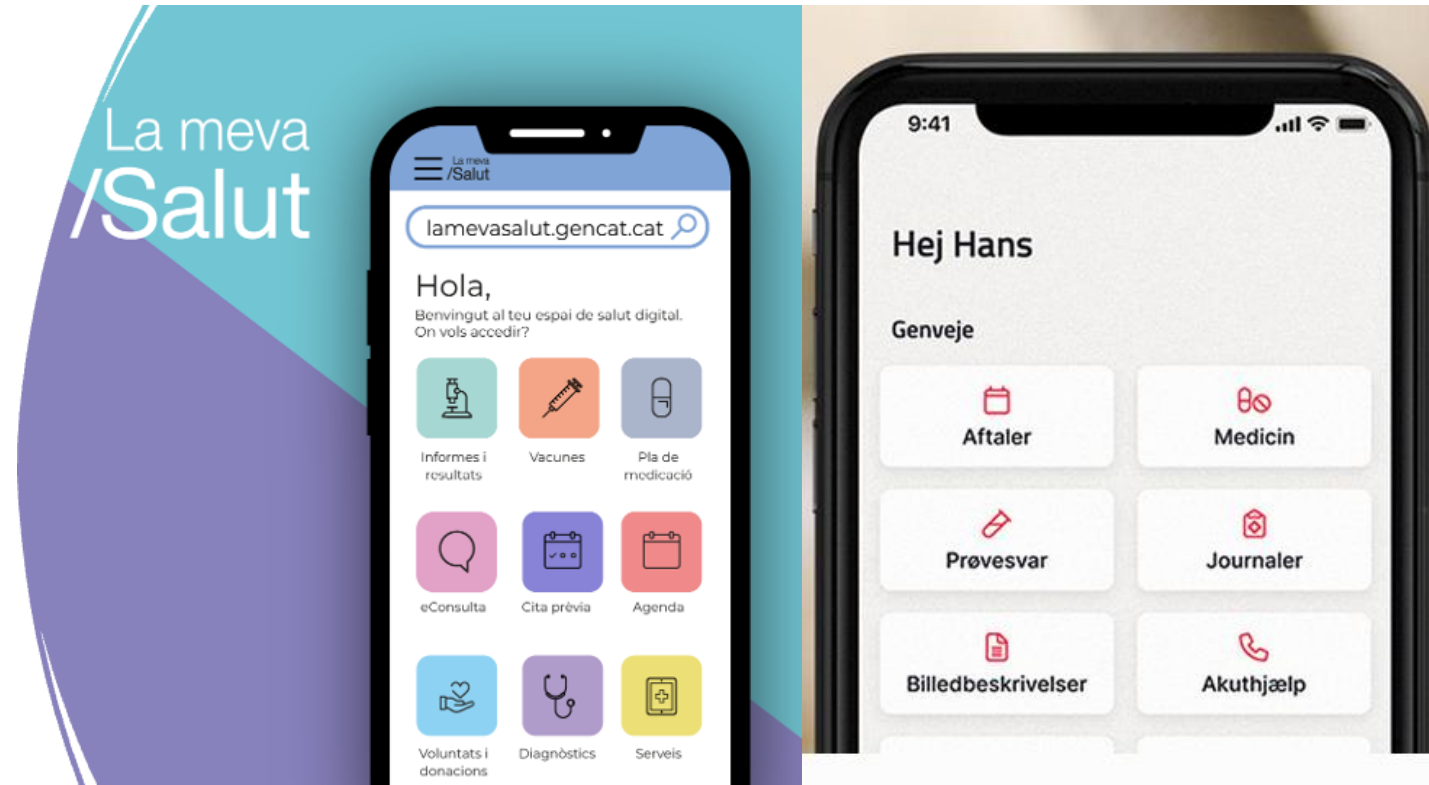
# Self-management



<https://www.thuisarts.nl/>

Can we empower patients to self-manage common, minor ailments?

# Integrated records



Can we focus IT and change management efforts to support patients to access their records from an integrated, easy-to-use viewer?



# Centring on patients & community



How can we work with patients and communities to co-design services?

---

# Learn from what's working



**Subscribe** wherever you get your podcasts. Search "**Primary Focus**" or "Tara Kiran"

Visit [www.primaryfocus.ca](http://www.primaryfocus.ca)

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# OurCare Survey 2025

## How does your care measure up?

We heard what people in Canada want in a better primary care system. Now we want to know if your care is meeting that standard. Take our survey — **your voice will help us shape a better system.**

TAKE THE SURVEY (EN)

TAKE THE SURVEY (FR)

Your participation is confidential.

<https://www.ourcare.ca/survey>



Thank you to our team, collaborators & funders and the many participants from across the country who volunteered their time

Visit **OurCare.ca** to learn more

Subscribe to the podcast at **primaryfocus.ca**

**Email:** [tara.kiran@utoronto.ca](mailto:tara.kiran@utoronto.ca)



# Osteoporosis and Fracture Prevention Workshop

## What you'll gain:

- A **practical toolkit** with resources and video content to support you in your practice.
- **Expert insights** from facilitators sharing the latest updates from the 2023 clinical practice guideline.
- A **collaborative learning experience** designed specifically for family physicians.

June 6, 2025 | 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

\$195 + HST

**Three-credit-per-hour** Mainpro+ certified program

[Registration now open](#)



Scan to  
learn more



# OCFP supports for Mental Health, Addictions and Chronic Pain

Mental health, addictions and chronic pain are challenging conditions. Find information to support the care you give patients – in a way that also considers your wellbeing.

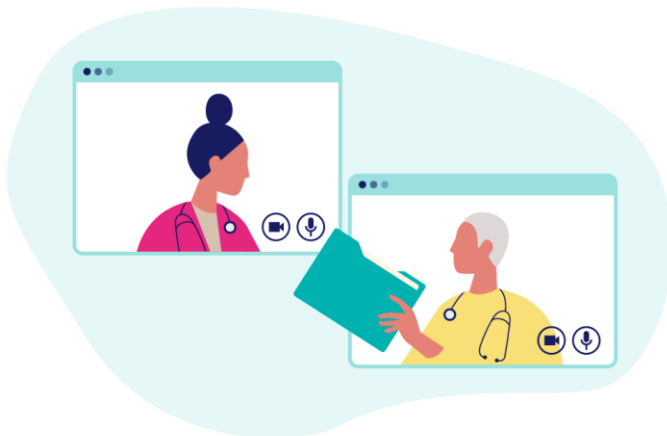


## Community of Practice

Join upcoming sessions:

Supporting patients with ADHD and comorbidities  
(May 28)

Navigating the Complexities of Opioid Prescribing for Chronic  
(June 25)



## Peer Connect Mentorship

Receive tailored support to skillfully respond to mental health issues, address substance use disorders, and chronic pain challenges in your practice.

Join

# RECENT SESSIONS

February 21	<b>Infectious Disease &amp; Navigating Ontario's Disability Support Program</b>	Dr. Alon Vaisman Dr. Mohamed Alarakhia Norma English
March 7	<b>Infectious Disease &amp; HPV Cervical Screening Implementation</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Jonathan Isenberg Dr. Rachel Kupets
March 21	<b>Infectious Disease &amp; Dermatology Treatments</b>	Dr. Gerald Evans Dr. Juthika Thakur
April 4	<b>Infectious Disease, Penicillin Allergy (De)labelling &amp; Newcomer Care Resources</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Mariam Hanna Dr. Vanessa Redditt
May 2	<b>Infectious Disease and Management of STIs</b>	Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Rachita Gurtu

**Previous webinars, Self-Learning & Related Resources:**

<https://www.dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>

# UPCOMING SESSIONS

Month	Date
June 2025	June 6 June 27
July 2025	July 18
September 2025	September 5

## SAVE THE DATE

Registration link will be emailed  
to you closer to the date



Family & Community Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Ontario College of  
Family Physicians

*Leaders for a healthy Ontario*



# Questions?

Webinar recording and curated Q&A will be posted soon

<https://www.dfcm.utoronto.ca/covid-19-community-practice/past-sessions>

Our next Community of Practice: June 6, 2025

Contact us: [ocfpcme@ocfp.on.ca](mailto:ocfpcme@ocfp.on.ca)

Visit: <https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/covid-19-resources>

The Changing the Way we Work Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians is a one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program that has been certified for up to a total of 32 credits.

**Post session survey will be emailed to you. Mainpro+ credits will be entered for you with the information you provided during registration.**