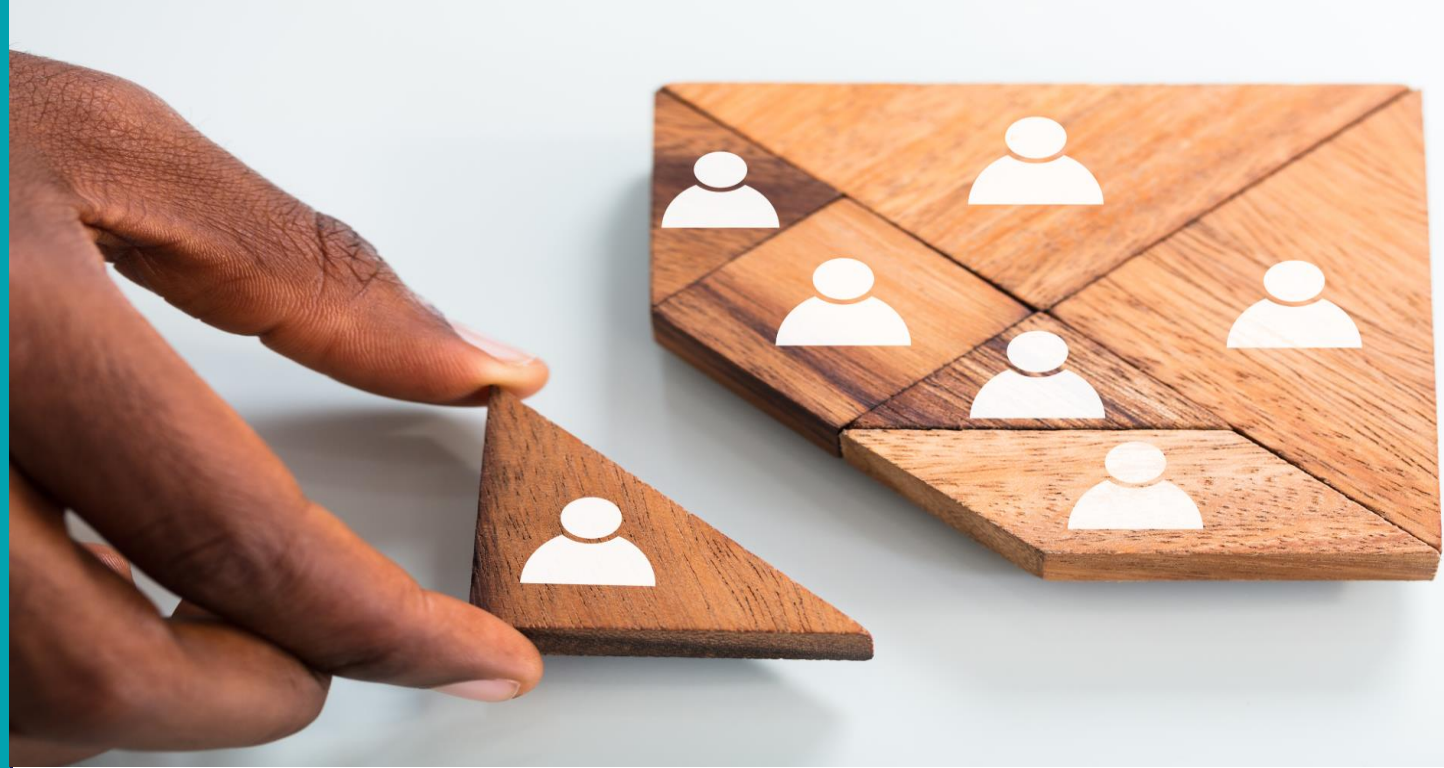


Changing the Way We Work Community of Practice for Ontario Family Physicians

Sept 5, 2025

Dr. Daniel Warshafsky
Dr. Allison McGeer



***Infectious Disease: Preparing for Fall &
Important Vaccine Updates***



Family & Community Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Ontario College of
Family Physicians



Infectious Disease: Preparing for Fall & Important Vaccine Updates

Moderator:

- Dr. Ali Damji, Primary Care Collaborative Partnerships Lead, Department of Family & Community Medicine, University of Toronto and Family Physician, Credit Valley Family Health Team, Mississauga, ON

Panelists:

- Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Toronto, ON
- Dr. Allison McGeer, Infectious Disease Specialist, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON

Host:

- Dr. Jobin Varughese, OCFP President, Family Physician, Interim Assistant Dean of Primary Care Education for the School of Medicine at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), Brampton, 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.

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!

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), Erin Plenert (DFCM)

Previous webinars & related resources:'

<https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/past-changing-way-we-work-community-practice-sessions>



Dr. Daniel Warshafsky – Panelist

Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health



Dr. Allison McGeer – Panelist

Infectious Disease Specialist, Mount Sinai Hospital

Speaker Disclosure

- Faculty Name: **Dr. Daniel Warshafsky**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
 - Grants/Research Support: N/A
 - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: N/A
 - Others: N/A

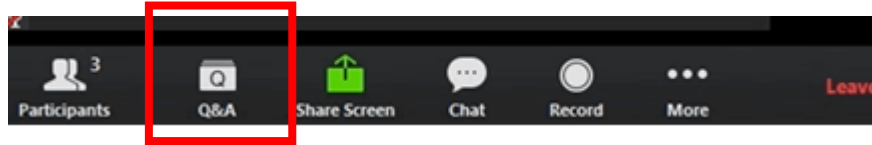
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Allison McGeer**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
 - Grants/Research Support: Pfizer, SanofiPasteur, CIHR, CITF, PSI, PHAC, CIRN, Appili Therapeutics
 - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Novavax, SanofiPasteur, GSK, Merck, Roche, Seqirus
 - Others: N/A

Speaker Disclosure

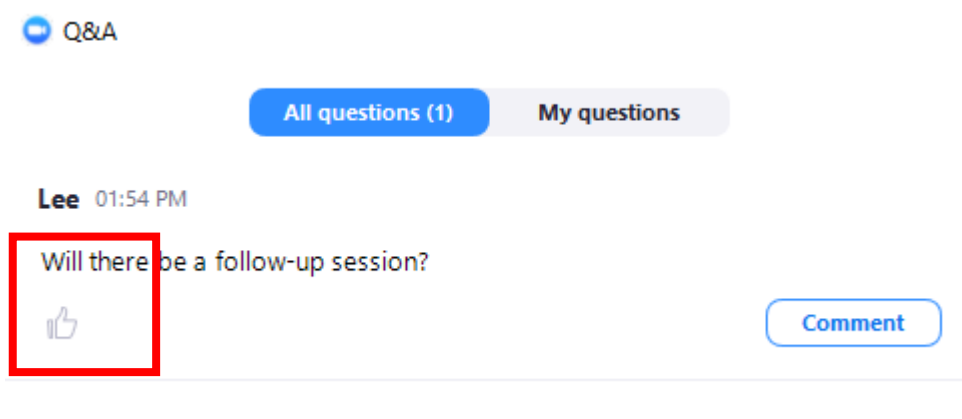
- Faculty Name: **Dr. Jobin Varughese**
- Relationships with financial sponsors:
 - Grants/Research Support: N/A
 - Speakers Bureau/Honoraria: Ontario College of Family Physicians
 - Others: Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Medicine (Interim Assistant Dean of Primary Care Education), William Osler Health System (Associate Vice President of Academics)
- 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

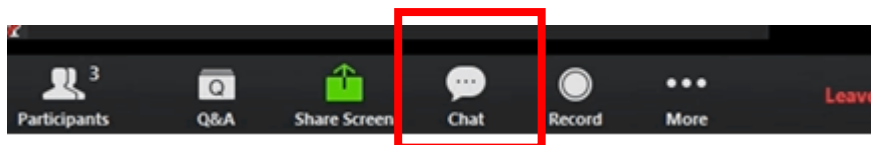
- All questions should be asked using the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen.



- 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. Daniel Warshafsky – Panelist

Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health



Dr. Allison McGeer – Panelist

Infectious Disease Specialist, Mount Sinai Hospital

- Keep measles on your differential for fever and rash
- Ask about measles status in adults born after 1970
- Offer vaccine to 6-12 month-olds travelling to measles endemic countries

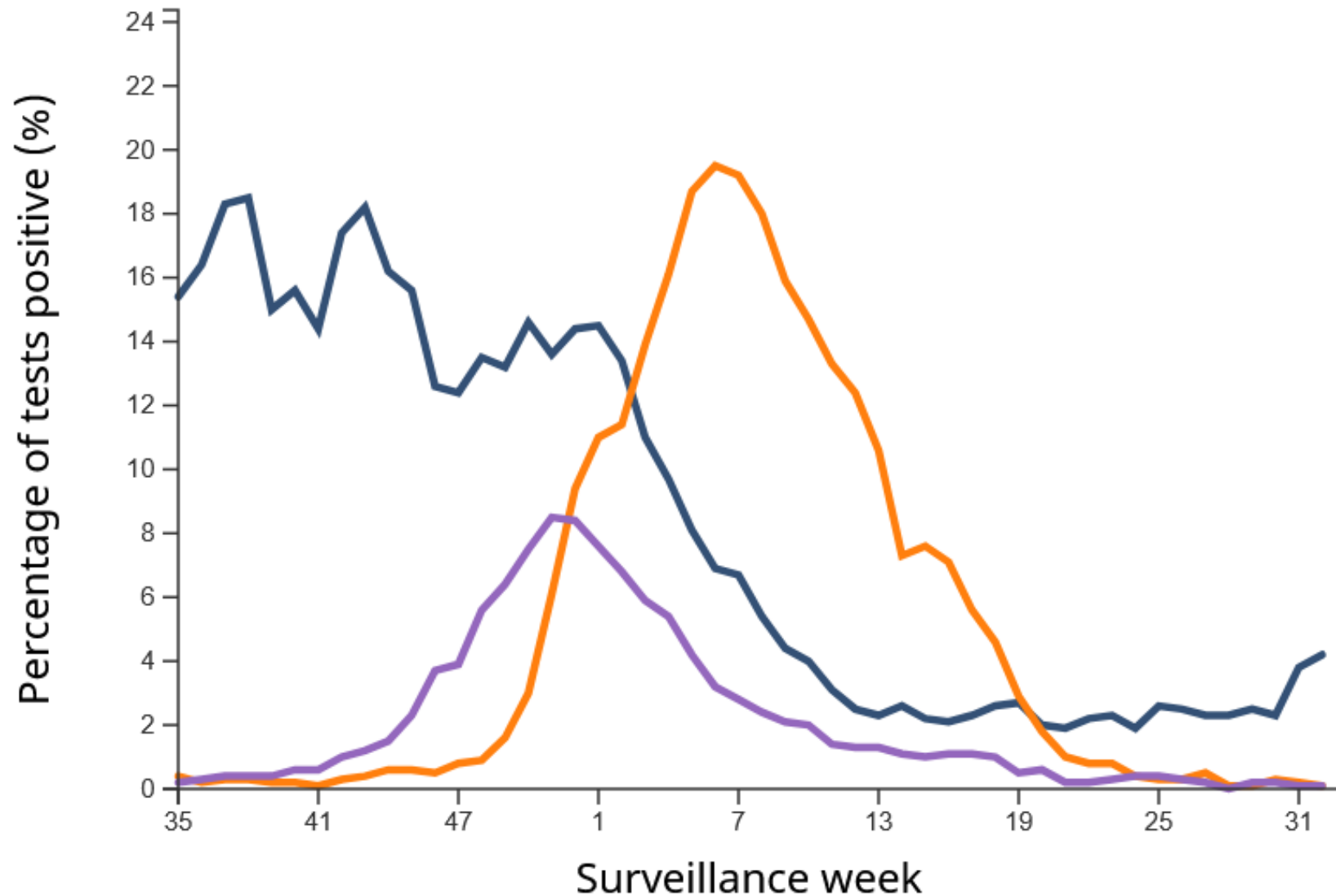
| Test Requested | Required Requisition(s) | Specimen Type | Minimum Volume | Collection Kit |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Measles Virus Diagnosis | General Test Requisition | Nasopharyngeal swab ^{3,4} | 1 swab in transport media contained in kit | Virus Respiratory Kit order#: 390082 |
| Measles Virus Diagnosis | General Test Requisition | Throat swab ^{3,5} | 1 swab in transport media contained in kit | Virus Culture Kit order#: 390081 |
| Measles Virus Diagnosis | General Test Requisition | Urine ^{3,6} | Minimum volume 10mL | Sterile container |

7 days

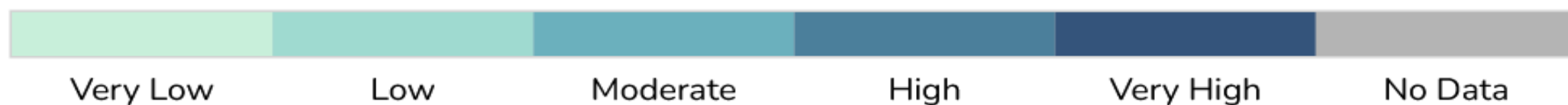
7 days

14 days

COVID-19, influenza, RSV, Ontario 2024-2025

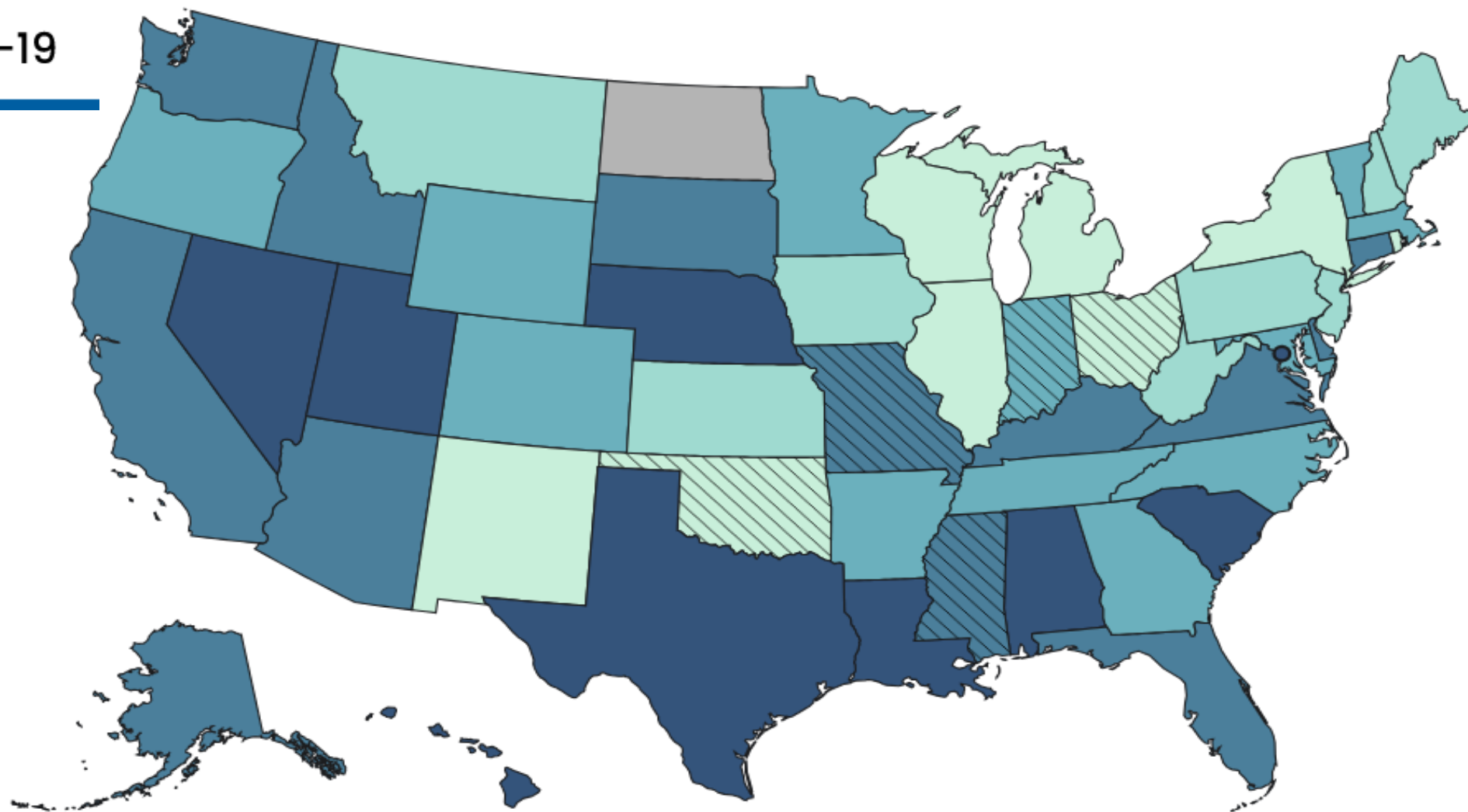


Wastewater Viral Activity Level

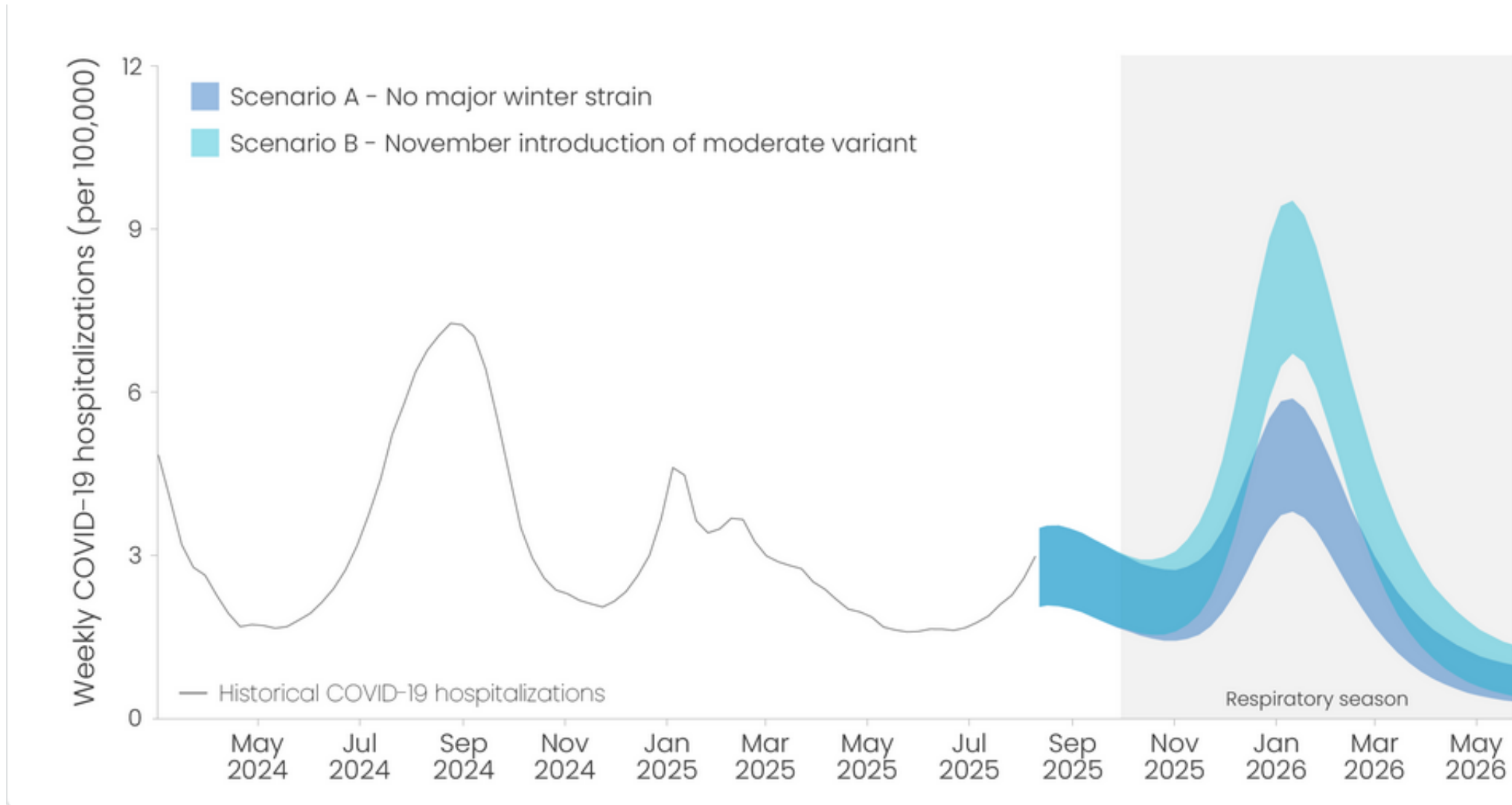


⊘ Limited Coverage*

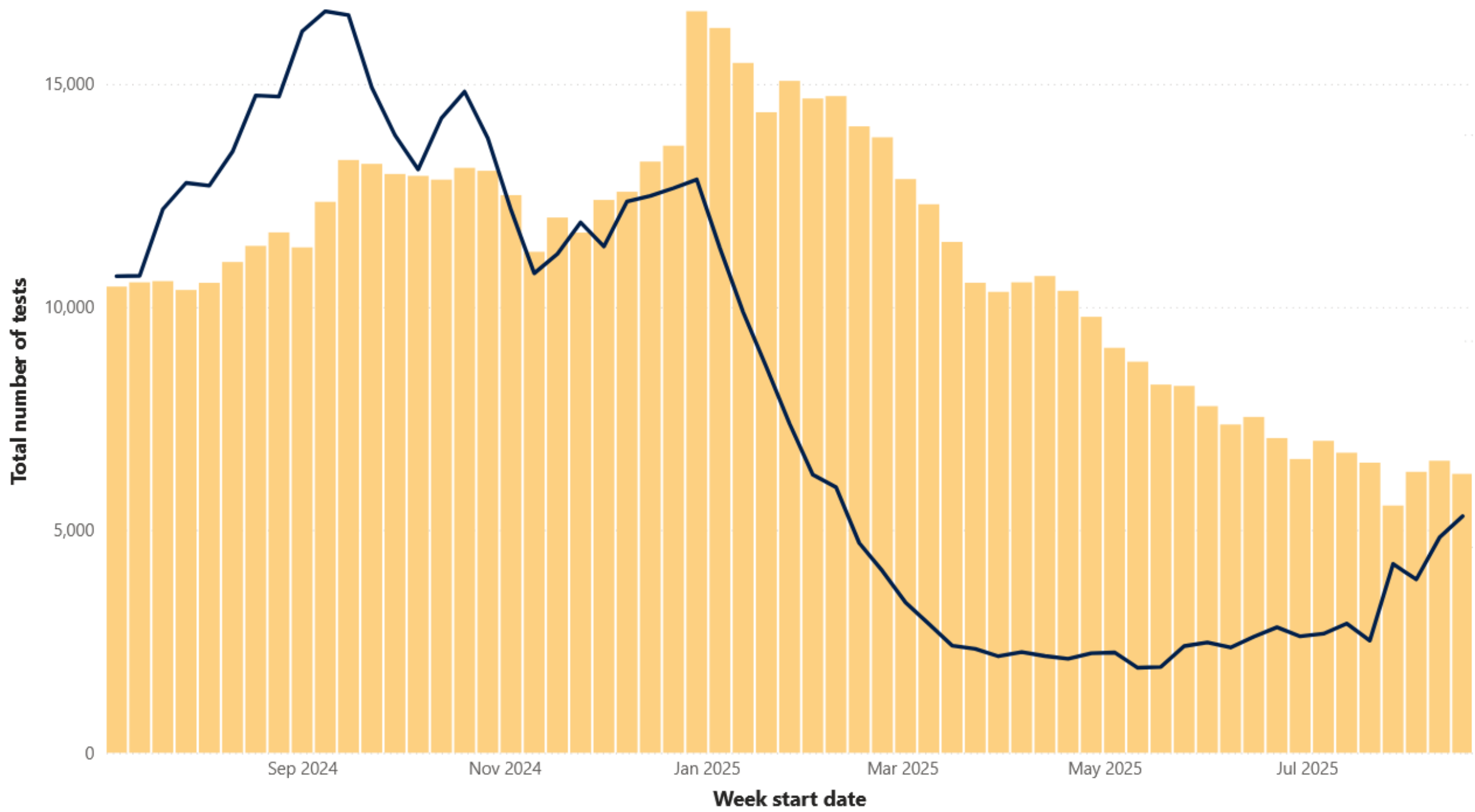
COVID-19



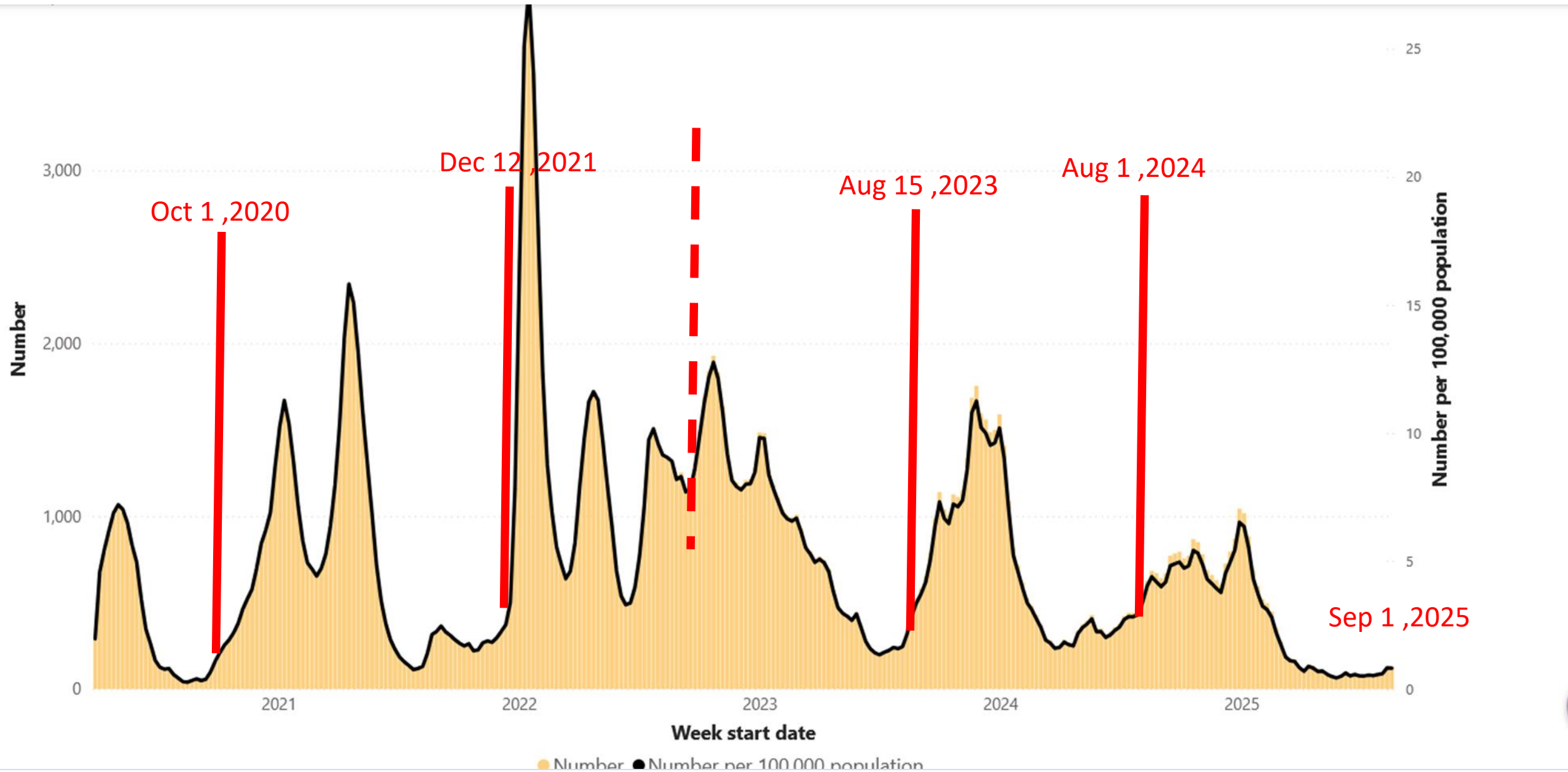
US CDC projections for COVID-19 2025-2026



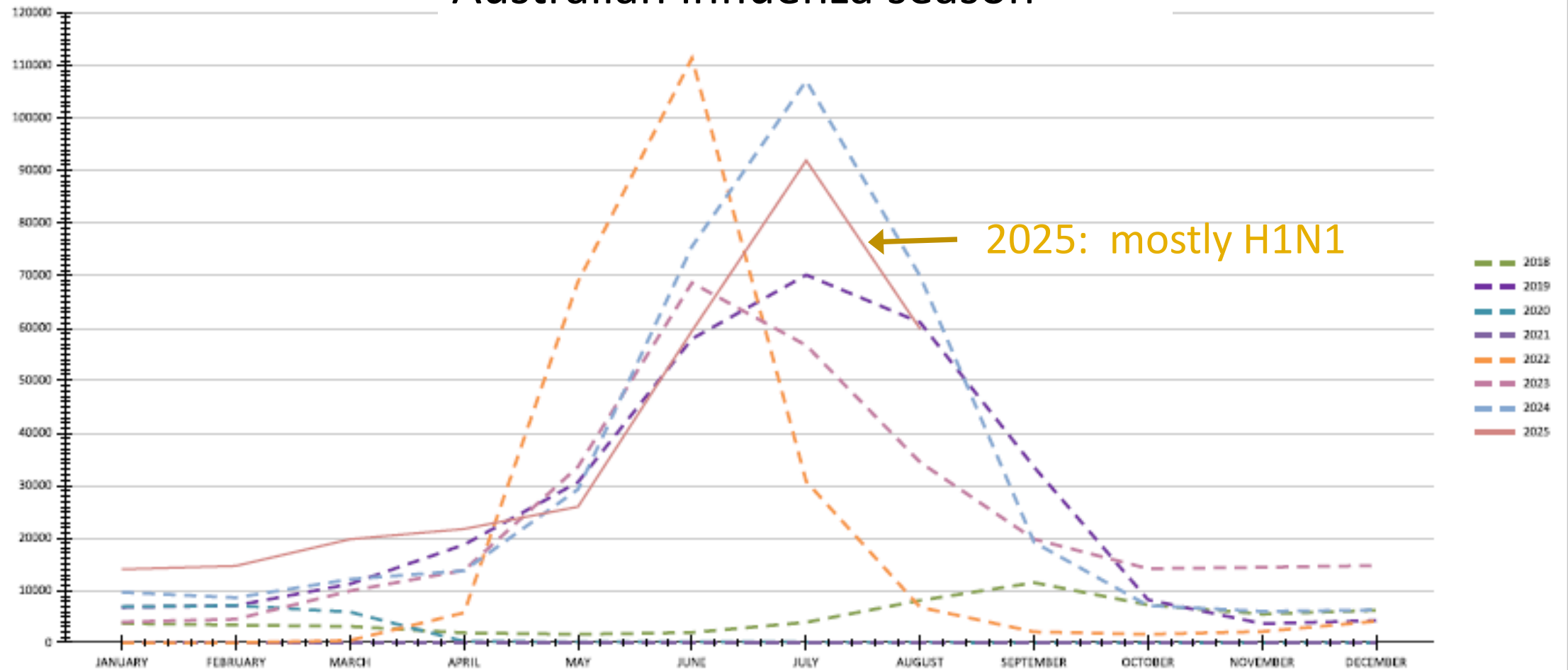
SARS-CoV-2 weekly total tests and percent positivity in Ontario (Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS))



COVID hospital occupancy over time; 2020-2025






Australian influenza season



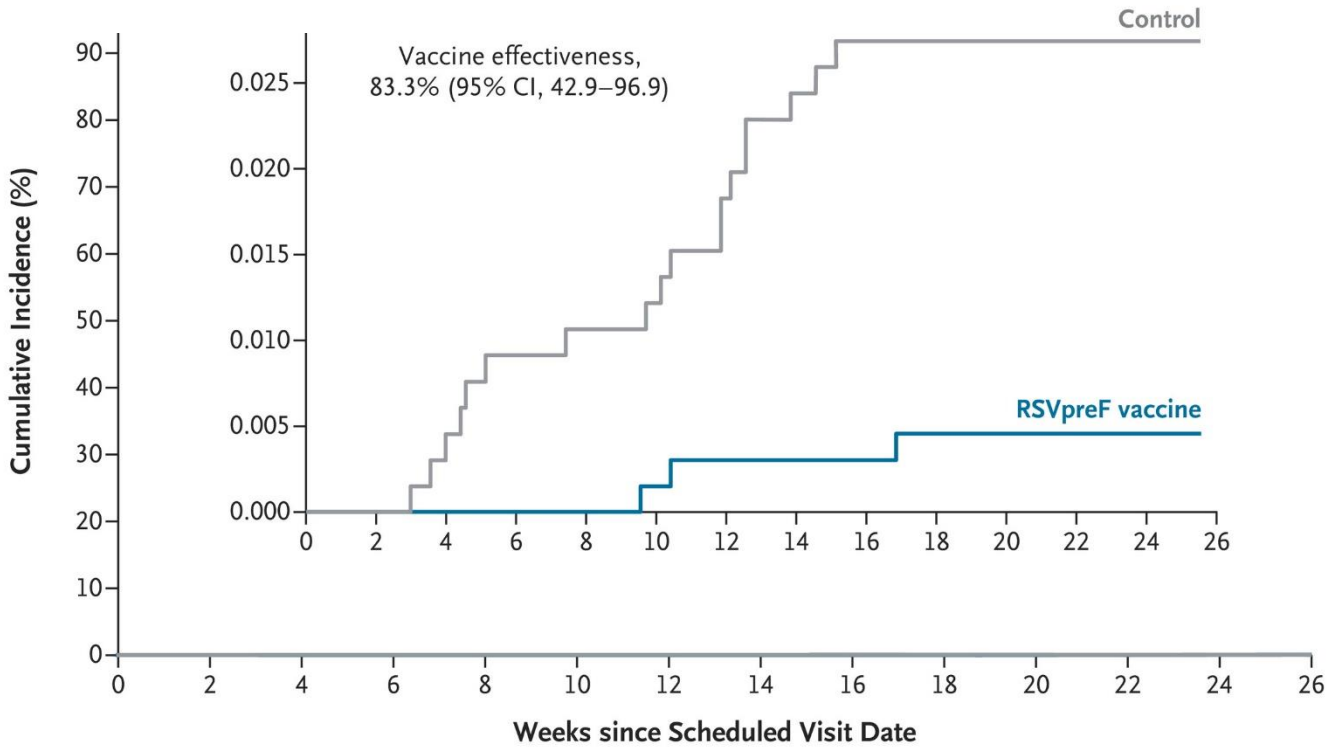
Reference: These statistics are taken from the Aust Government Department of Health, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

RSV Prefusion F Vaccine for Prevention of Hospitalization in Older Adults

Authors: Mats C. Højbjerg Lassen, M.D., Niklas Dyrby Johansen, M.D., Ph.D.  , Sine H. Christensen, M.Sc., Negar Aliabadi, M.D., Kristoffer G. Skaarup, M.D., Daniel Modin, M.D.  , Brian L. Claggett, Ph.D.,  +27 , and Tor Biering-Sørensen, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

Published August 30, 2025 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2509810 | Copyright © 2025

- Danish pragmatic RCT
- Adults 60yrs plus
- Primary outcome:
 - Hospitalization for RSV-related respiratory tract infection



| Age | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|--|---|----------------------|
| 60–74 yr | 1/51,803 | 10/51,781 | |  | 90.0 (29.7 to 99.8) |
| ≥75 yr | 2/13,839 | 8/13,853 | |  | 75.0 (–25.0 to 97.4) |

Perceptions among health professionals of adult vaccination programs in Canada

English Survey:

Link: <https://redcap.utoronto.ca/surveys/?s=J88NNLM8DY3N3R9P>



French Survey:

Link:

<https://redcap.utoronto.ca/surveys/?s=PCC8MJDFTDJ7FD3E>



NOTE: Please skip questions 5-17 if you are short on time: Q18-26 are easier and MORE IMPORTANT

UIIP and COVID-19 Supply & Logistics Timeline

Dependent on product approval and availability

| | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan / Feb | April | May |
|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|-----|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| Roll-out | | High-risk | High-Risk | General | | | High-risk C19 | High-risk C19 |

Delivery timing

- Influenza
 - Objective is to maximize HD and Adj vaccine doses for early delivery
- COVID-19
 - Market withdrawal of current Pfizer vaccines expected (Moderna all expired this year), details have been shared

UIIP and COVID-19 2025-26 Products

| Vaccine Product | Eligibility | Format |
|---------------------|--------------|----------|
| UIIP | | |
| TIV Standard Dose | 6mos+ | MDV, PFS |
| TIV-Adj Senior Dose | 65yrs+ | PFS |
| TIV-HD Senior Dose | 65yrs+ | PFS |
| COVID-19 | | |
| Pfizer/Moderna | 12yrs+ | MDV |
| Pfizer/Moderna | 12yrs+ | PFS |
| Moderna | 6mos – 12yrs | MDV |
| Pfizer | 5yrs – 11yrs | SDV |

Fact sheets

- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals ≥ 65 years of age
- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age
- **Highlights of changes:**
 - Switch from quadrivalent inactivated vaccines (QIV) to trivalent inactivated vaccines (TIV) for influenza vaccines

Fact sheets

- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: 2025/2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Program
- **Highlights of changes:**
 - Transition to annual program with one fact sheet for the respiratory season
 - High-risk groups and priority populations remain the same, however, high-risk populations have been divided into two groups
 - Timing of immunization more explicit
 - For individuals who have completed their primary series, only the minimum interval between subsequent doses is specified

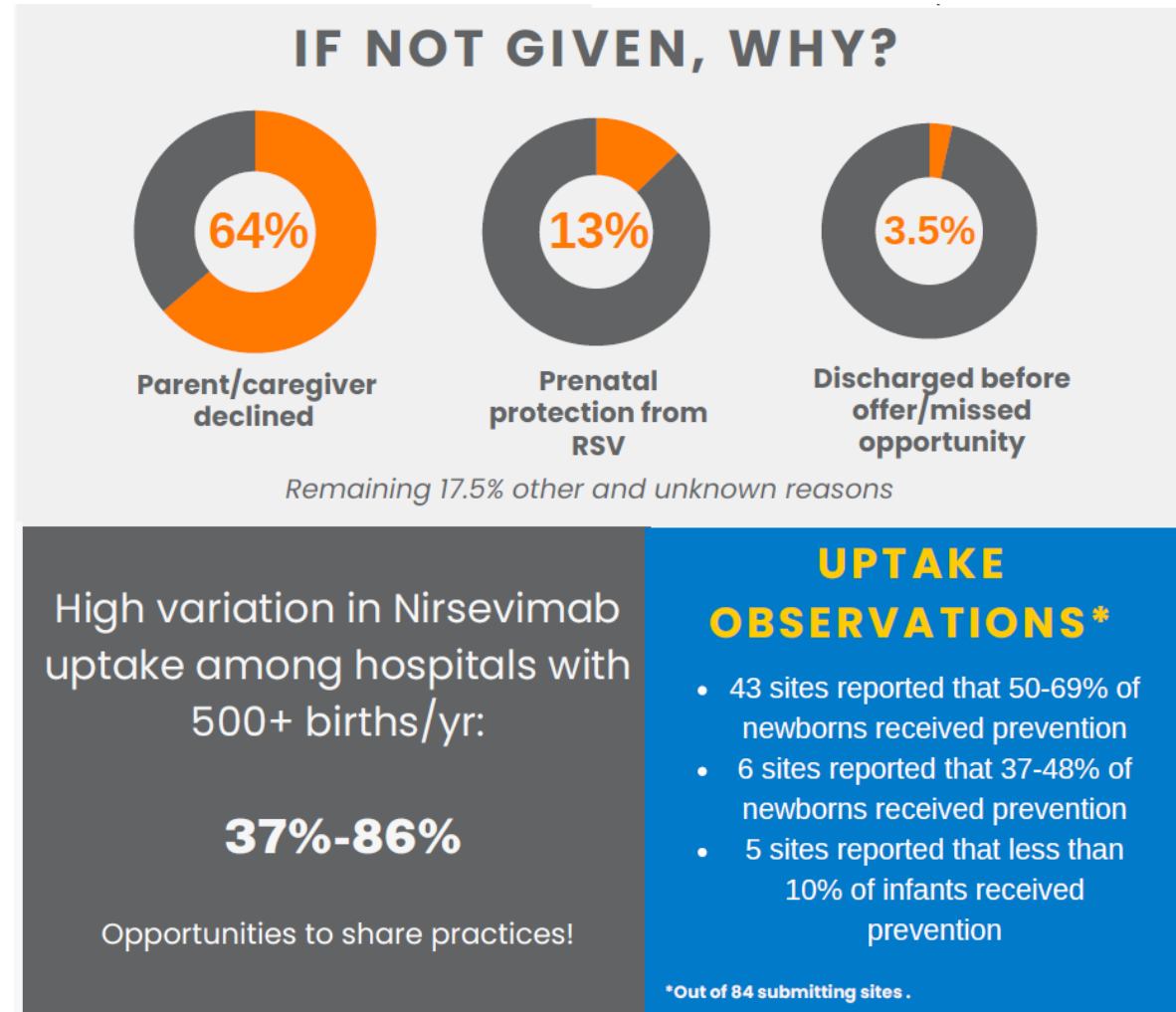
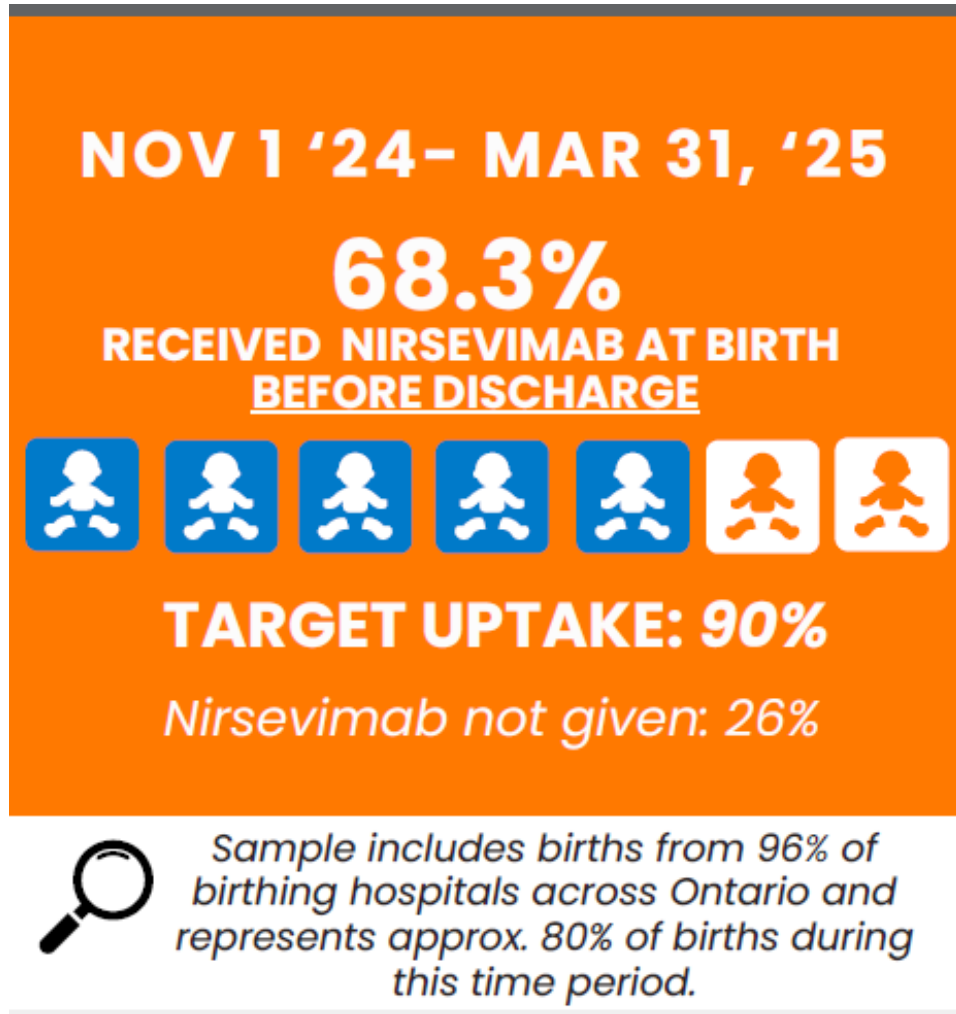
Pharmacy Participation

- ~4000 pharmacies participating in UIIP
- ~3300 pharmacies participating in COVID immunization program
- **Administration numbers**
 - ~1.5 million doses of COVID vaccine
 - ~1.8 million doses of influenza vaccine
 - ~850k co-administered

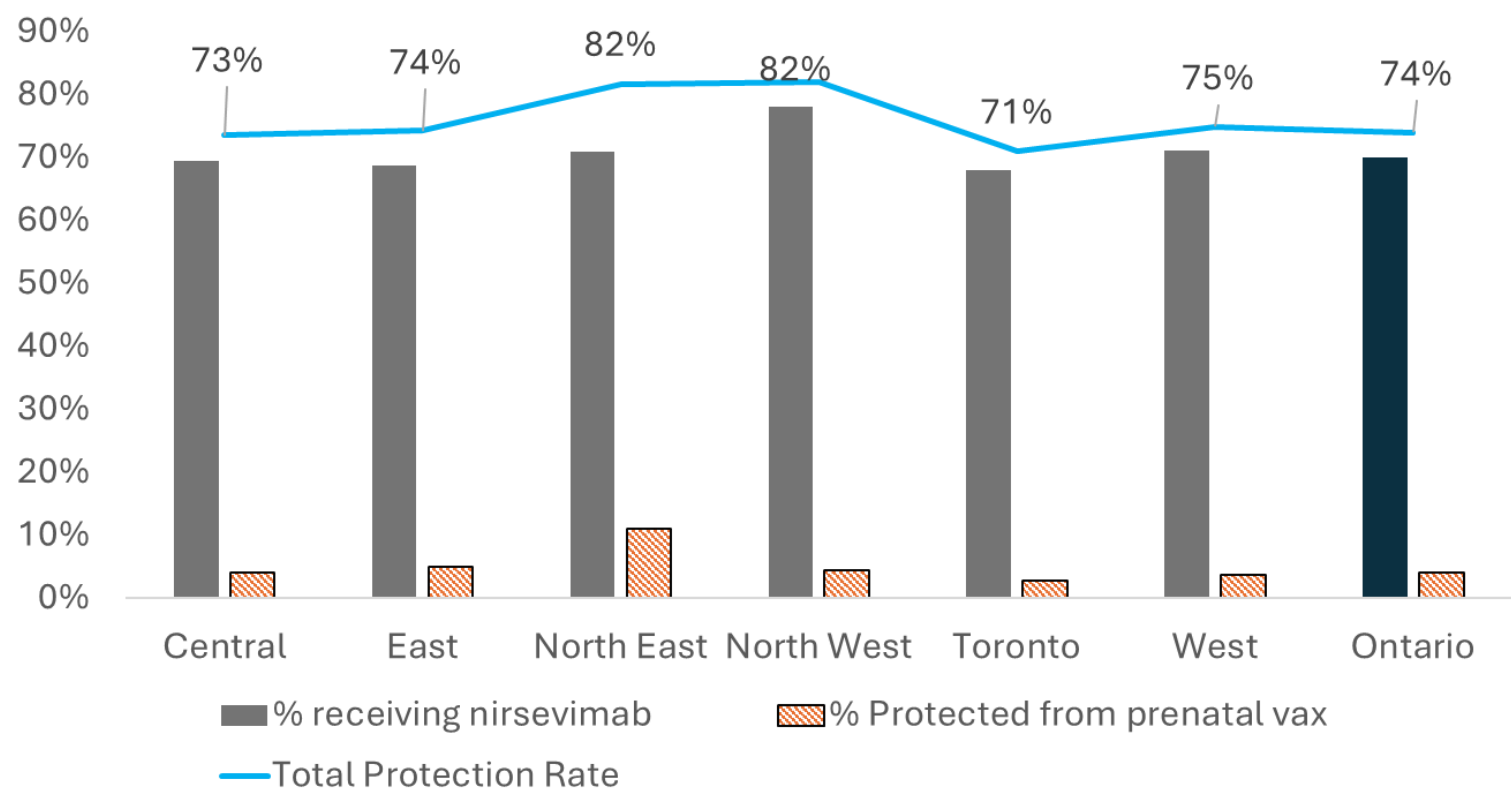
RSV Prevention Program – Infants and High-Risk Children

- **Products:**
 - Infant RSV – Beyfortus 50mg – PFS
 - Infant RSV – Beyfortus 100mg – PFS
- **Infant RSV Guidance for Health Care Providers**
 - Vaccination in pregnancy (Abrysvo):
 - No change in recommendations
 - Immunization with Beyfortus preferred but pregnant person can choose Abrysvo
 - Infant eligibility and high-risk children eligibility (Beyfortus):
 - Change in infant eligibility – infants born on or after April 1 (i.e., after the RSV season) up to 8 months of age
 - High-risk eligibility remains unchanged
- Program start expected October 1, 2025
 - Delivery of new product expected to start to be shipped to Ontario in early September

Infant RSV Prevention Program



RSV immunization uptake in infants at birth in Ontario by OH region (before discharge from hospital) Nov 24 – Mar 25



Open dataset – data collection continues: Information derived from data on 48,194 infants born between Nov 2024 and Mar 2025 in Ontario hospitals for whom valid RSV immunization information was reported to BORN by Apr 8, 2025. 82 of 96 birthing centres reporting. Due to missingness (~20%) interpret with caution and curiosity. Note: Missingness is unrelated to RSV immunization practices, but rather timing and completeness of birth record data submission from hospitals.

Post-Licensure Safety of Nirsevimab from the Canadian National Vaccine Safety (CANVAS) Network

- Safety data for 2024/2025 season
- Consistent with safety data from the RCT and other observational studies indicating that Nirsevimab is safe and well tolerated
- CANVAS (and other observational studies) observed a higher incidence of local reactions, likely due to strict definitions used in the RCT vs. parent reporting of local site reactions in observational studies
- The overall incidence of health events in the CANVAS data was higher when Nirsevimab was co-administered with vaccines
 - This incidence was similar to historically reported data for these vaccines used alone i.e., the additional health events observed were consistent with those observed from vaccination, and were not likely due to Nirsevimab
- <https://medrxiv.org/cgi/content/short/2025.08.14.25333604v1>

RSV Prevention Program – Older Adults

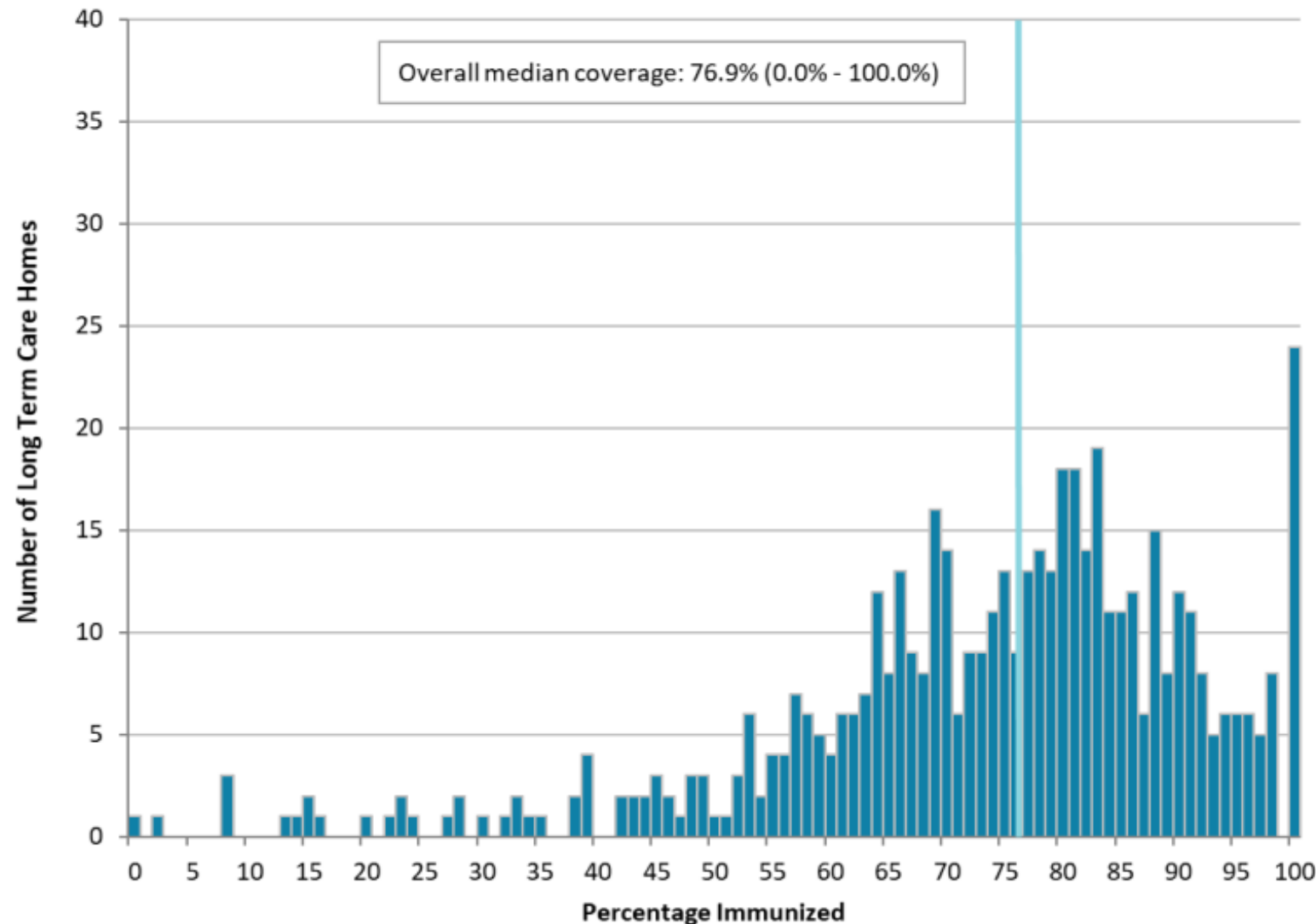
Eligibility for the 2025-26 fall season will be as follows:

- **all seniors age 75 and older (new for the 2025-26 season)**
- **individuals 60 years of age and older who are also (no changes from 2024-25):**
 - residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes including similar settings (e.g., co-located facilities).
 - patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC) including similar settings (for example, complex continuing care, hospital transitional programs)
 - Patients with glomerulonephritis (GN) who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
 - patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
 - recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
 - individuals experiencing homelessness
 - individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis

Studies on RSV vaccine efficacy, show multi-year protection. As such, if an individual previously received a dose of RSV vaccine, they do not need to receive another dose. The need for and timing for subsequent doses is unknown at this time. Studies are ongoing to determine the duration of protection.

Program will include a mix of Arexvy (GSK) and Abrysvo (Pfizer). Both products were used in previous years.

Resident RSV immunization coverage among reporting LTCHs (n=510), 2024-25 respiratory virus surveillance season

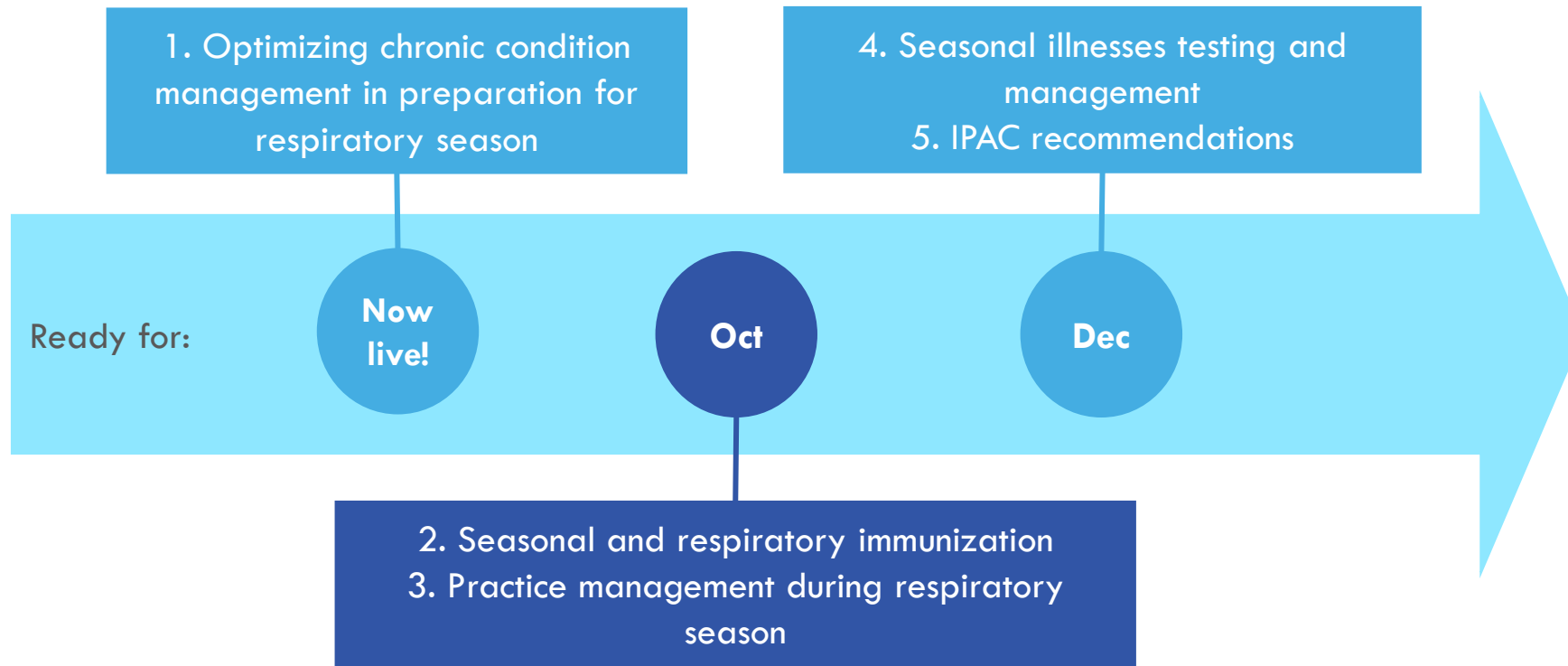


2023-24
Median RSV
vaccine
coverage
among LTCH
residents
was **70.9%**
(results
were
available for
401/626).

CEP seasonal preparedness guide

The CEP has been tasked by the MOH and CMOH to create a guide to support primary care better prepare for respiratory season

Scope and timelines



cep.health/tool/seasonal-preparedness-guide-for-primary-care

OCFP will create and update respiratory tools to support CEP's guide.



For Family Physicians

- Tip sheet: Treating common respiratory illnesses in children
- Office screening tool.
- Summary of the 2025-26 provincial RSV program.



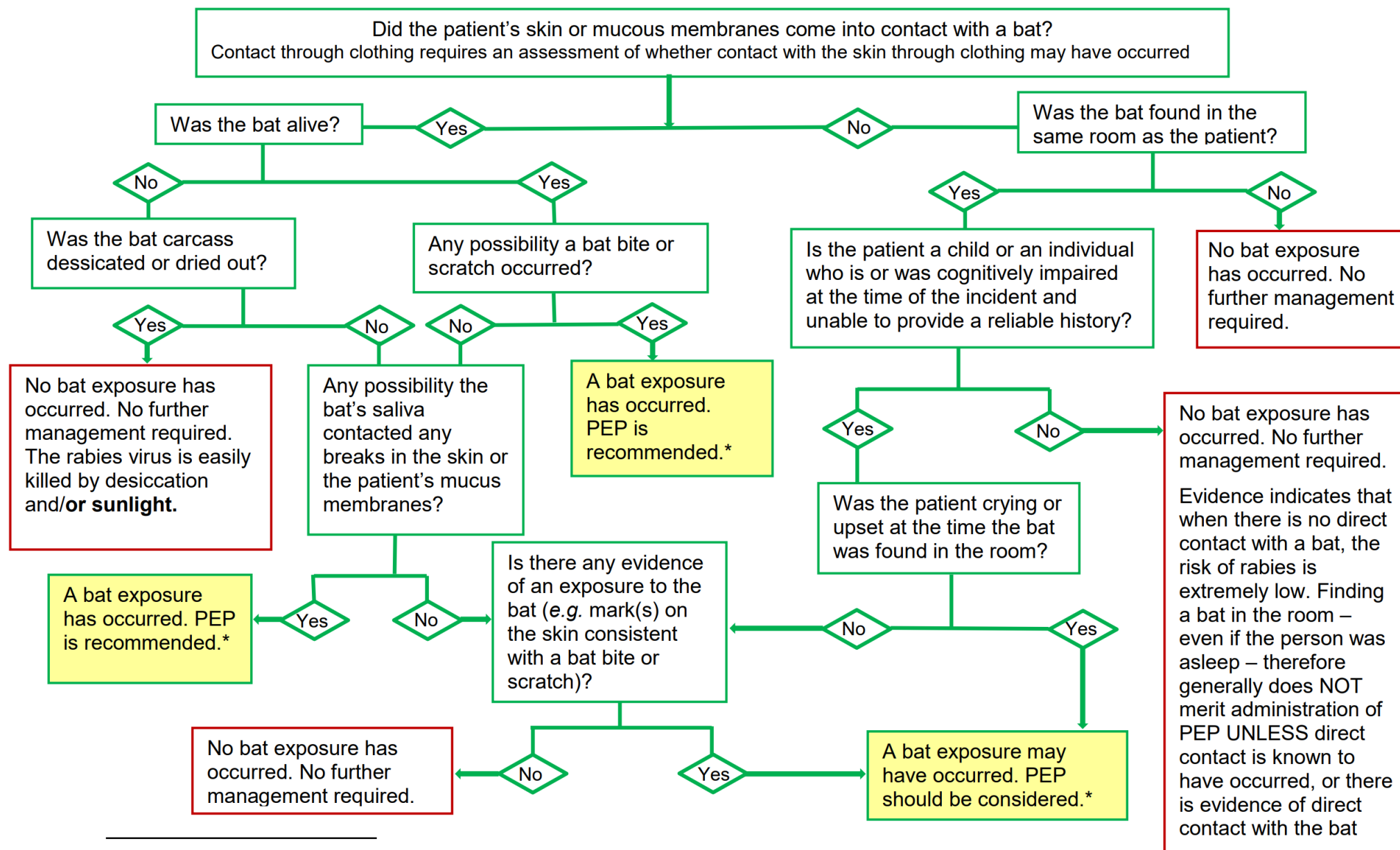
For Patients

- Family Doctor Tips on Caring for Children with Respiratory Symptoms.
- A tool explaining how to manage flu, COVID-19 and RSV, and prevent the spread to others.

Rabies Updates

- This summer we have observed a **significant increase in the use of rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin** across all regions of the province
- As a result of both the increased use in Ontario and global supply limitations, Ontario is currently experiencing fluctuations in the supply of rabies PEP products
- Aside from bats and pets imported from rabies-endemic countries, **rabies is extremely rare in Ontario**
- Follow the exposure algorithm found in the [Management of Potential Rabies Exposure Guideline, 2020](#)
- Notify your [local public health unit](#) immediately when a potential exposure is identified for support with a **risk assessment**

Figure 1: Algorithm for Bat Exposures and PEP administration*



* See Section 2.2 for information on testing the bat for rabies and Section 3 for PEP management

Bat on Hand

**Submit bat for
testing if feasible**

**If not able to submit
then PEP!**



Bat in House

No touchie = No PEP



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

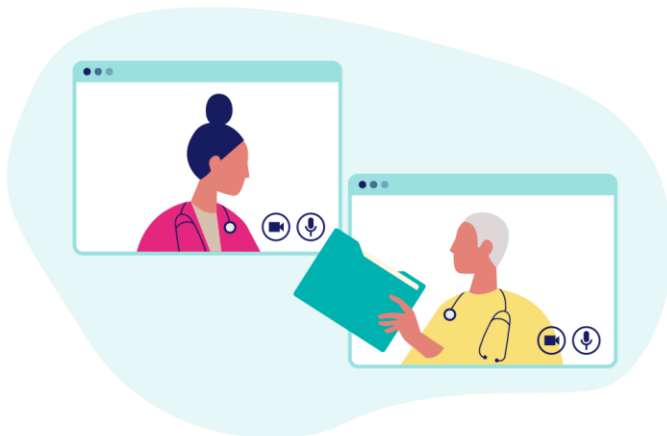
Join upcoming sessions:

[Tips and Tricks for Addressing Burnout \(Sept 17\)](#)

[Authorizing Cannabis \(Oct 22\)](#)

[Caring for Patients during the Pandemic \(Nov 26\)](#)

[Psychedelics and the Use in Treatment of Mental Health \(Dec 10\)](#)



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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.

October 21st, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

\$195 + HST

Three-credit-per-hour Mainpro+ certified program

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RECENT SESSIONS

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| May 2 | Infectious Disease and Management of STIs | Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Rachita Gurtu |
| May 23 | Infectious Disease and Opportunities for Improving the Way We Work | Dr. Allison McGeer Dr. Tara Kiran |
| June 6 | Disease and Management of STIs Part 2 | Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Rachita Gurtu |
| June 27 | AI Tools for Practice and Managing the Summer Heat | Dr. Daniel Warshafsky Dr. Mohamed Alarakhia Dr. Samantha Green |
| July 18 | Infectious Disease and Retirement Planning for Physicians | Dr. Zain Chagla Dr. Mark Soth |

Previous webinars, Self-Learning & Related Resources:

<https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/past-changing-way-we-work-community-practice-sessions>

UPCOMING SESSIONS

| Month | Date |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| September 2025 | September 26 |
| October 2025 | October 17 October 31 |

SAVE THE DATE

Registration link will be emailed
to you closer to the date

Please complete our session evaluation here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GV6MR7W>



Ontario College of
Family Physicians
*Thriving Family Physicians
in a Healthy Ontario*



Family & Community Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Questions?

Webinar recording and curated Q&A will be posted soon:

<https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/past-changing-way-we-work-community-practice-sessions>

Our next Community of Practice: September 26, 2025

Contact us: ocfpcme@ocfp.on.ca

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.

