




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	December 12, 2022
SUBJECT:	Respiratory Illness Dashboard Updates – December 2022
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

Update related to Scarsin COVID-19 forecasting

There are a growing number of factors that are contributing to the level of COVID-19 spread in the City of Hamilton as shared with the Board of Health Members on Tuesday, November 30, 2022¹. To reflect these changes, Hamilton Public Health Services will adjust our reporting to focus on the most helpful and accurate respiratory illness information, based on the respiratory illnesses circulating locally.

The Scarsin COVID-19 forecasting can no longer be relied on to capture the complexity of the situation and will be discontinued. A note will be added to the applicable webpage to this end. The City of Hamilton will conclude the contract with the Scarsin Corporation early, which will have the additional benefit of saving approximately \$13,500 for the City and its ratepayers.

Scarsin COVID-19 forecasting has been a valuable tool utilized by Hamilton Public Health Services and its healthcare partners since February 2021 to understand the potential future trajectory of COVID-19 in Hamilton. This forecasting was shared as part of previous Board of Health meetings, beginning April 19, 2021. Starting in July 2022, it was published to the City's Respiratory Virus Transmission Status² biweekly on Wednesdays. Hamilton Public Health Services will adjust the content of the Respiratory Virus Transmission Status in Hamilton and continue to publish it weekly online, so that community members can understand trends related to the presence of respiratory

¹ Board of Health Communication Update: (2022-11-29) Scarsin Forecast Update Frequency Effective November 30, 2022 (<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-11/comm-update-Scarsin-Forecast-Update-Frequency-Effective-November-30-2022.pdf>)

² Respiratory Virus Transmission Status in Hamilton (<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#transmission-status>)

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

illnesses and how individuals can layer up and protect themselves with effective public health measures.

Updates to Hamilton Public Health Services suite of respiratory illness and COVID-19 vaccine data reporting tools

Hamilton Public Health Services is planning to launch several enhancements to its current suite of data reporting web tools the week of December 12, 2022, including a new open data resource located on Hamilton's Open Hamilton platform³ that will enable the community to track active respiratory and enteric illness outbreaks within the City of Hamilton in one easily accessible location. This resource will be updated Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) and will include a list of active and recently declared-over respiratory and enteric outbreaks in the City of Hamilton, beyond COVID-19. Up until this week, Hamilton Public Health Services only published COVID-19 outbreaks to the City's website.

Hamilton Public Health Services is also launching an influenza focused dashboard where community members will be able to monitor the existing COVID-19 Status of Cases⁴ as well as local data related to influenza including total flu cases by type (A & B), total weekly new flu cases by type (A & B), the seven day average of new cases and influenza by report date. The influenza focused dashboard will be refreshed weekly on Tuesdays (delayed one day if a statutory holiday).

In addition, the current City of Hamilton COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution dashboard⁵ will be enhanced to reflect current public health guidance to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination. Staying up to date means that community members have completed their primary series and have received a booster dose in the last six months.

These enhancements align with the City of Hamilton's commitment to transparency and sharing relevant and timely analysis with the community.

Should you have any questions related to the above information, please contact Dr. Bart Harvey, Associate Medical Officer of Health at (905) 546-2424, Ext 3571 or bart.harvey@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

³ Open Hamilton platform (<https://open.hamilton.ca>)

⁴ COVID-19 Status of Cases (<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#status-of-cases>)

⁵ City of Hamilton COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Dashboard (<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/covid-19-data#vaccine-distribution>)