



# COVID-19 Pandemic Response Ottawa City Council Update

Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health  
August 26, 2020

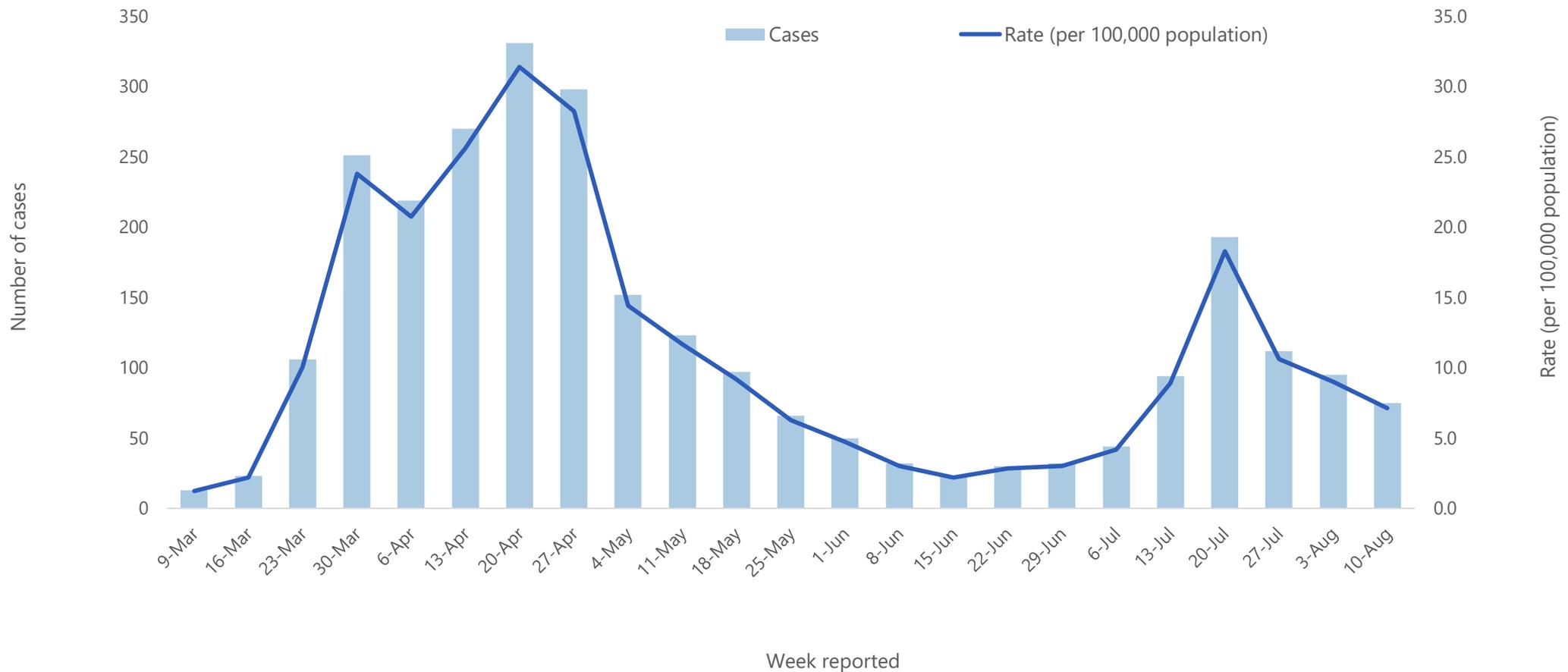
# What is the Current COVID-19 Situation?

Since the last meeting of Council:

- Number of people with COVID-19 increased mid-July to early Aug
- Numbers since stabilized with higher rates in people under 40
- Hospitalizations are steady at below 10 currently in hospital
- Outbreaks are still occurring but have declined
- OPH is meeting targets for follow-up with contacts
- Testing volumes are steady, slight increase in % testing positive but still under 1% on average

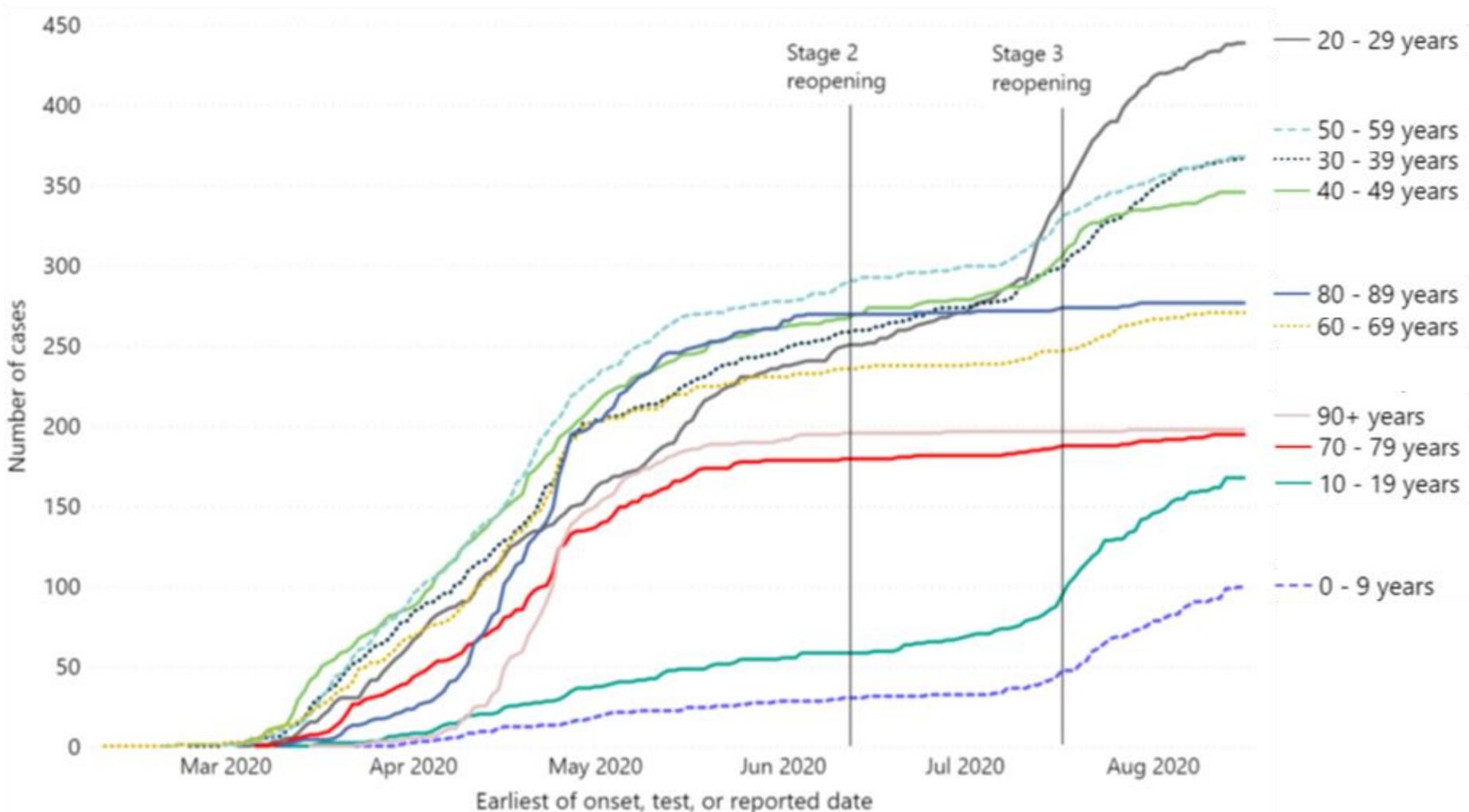
# Ever-present risk of resurgence exists

**Weekly cases of confirmed COVID-19 among Ottawa residents  
as of August 17, 2020 (n=2,729)**



# All ages <70 have seen increases in Stage 3

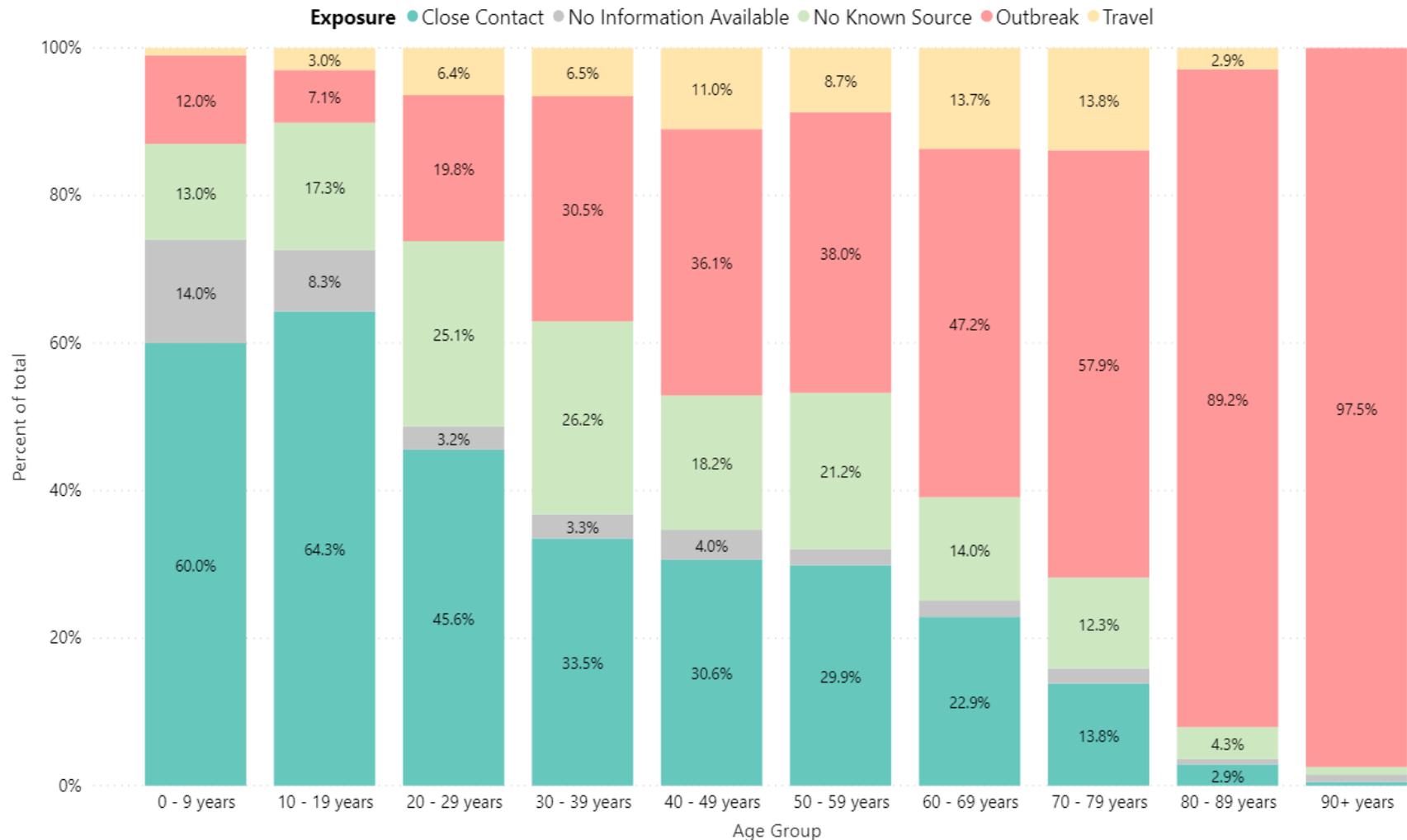
Cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19 among Ottawa residents over time, by age group



Data on cases are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on August 18, 2020.

# Main sources: household contacts, outbreaks

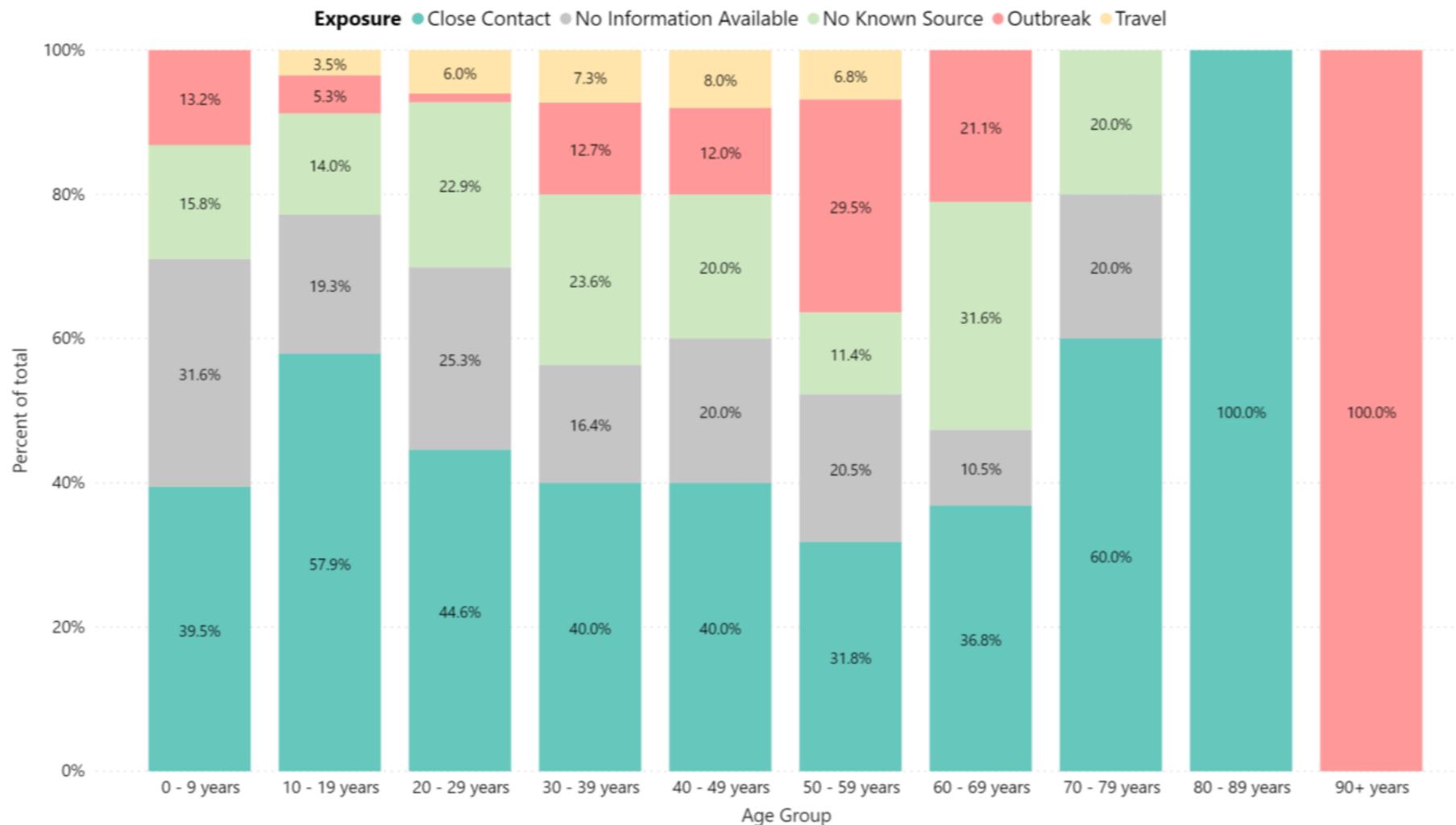
## Exposures reported for Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19 by age group



Data on cases are from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on August 18, 2020.

# Main sources: household contacts

Exposures reported for Ottawa residents with confirmed COVID-19 by age group – since August 1, 2020



Data for August: based on cases from the COD as of 2:00 p.m. on August 23, 2020.

# Significant efforts underway for fall

- Preparing for Influenza immunization
- Supporting school reopening
- Advising workplaces with returning workers
- Adjusting behaviours as people move indoors
- Public health remains essential to economic recovery
- City contributions critical – surge capacity, facilities, enforcement, communications, HR, IT



# Back to School

## Mitigation Strategies

- Keep community spread low
- Screen staff and students
- Mask/Physical Distancing
- Hand Hygiene
- Early detection of people with symptoms
- Adapt Schedules/Student Flow
- Promote active transportation
- Communications/Feedback
- Scenario Planning

## OPH's Role

- Support School Boards, staff
- Knowledge Exchange
- Infection prevention advice
- Follow-up with people diagnosed with COVID, contacts and outbreaks
- Support access to testing
- OPH nurses in schools
- Provide age appropriate resources for students and families
- Mental Health promotion, referral



# Mask By-law requires extension

- COVID-19 is present and circulating in our community
- Possible to have no symptoms or be pre-symptomatic and still be able to transmit the virus
- Increasing evidence shows the benefits of wearing a mask when in
  - Public and shared spaces
  - and when physical distancing is not possible
- Need protection with schools reopening, Influenza on the way
- Although not *required* in all spaces, mask use is still strongly recommended in any space where physical distancing is difficult to maintain



# It's in Your Hands!

## Be COVID Wise

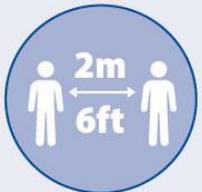
[OttawaPublicHealth.ca/COVIDWise](https://OttawaPublicHealth.ca/COVIDWise)



**W**ear a mask



**I**solate yourself when you're sick



**S**tay two metres (six feet) apart from others



**E**xercise proper hand hygiene

- Everyone's actions have helped reach goal so far
- Socializing and household spread are key risks for resurgence
- Uncertainty exists with schools reopening
- Let's keep caring for one another