Highlights

- The peak of the Omicron wave is behind us.
- We continue to see stable or improving trends in our key indicators.
- Due to vaccination and public health measures, we are in a much better place than we were two years ago.
- Provincially and locally, we are shifting to a longer-term approach to living differently with and managing the impacts of COVID-19.

Overall trends

Our key indicators are stable or improving:

1. Wastewater signals:
   - The wastewater data indicates that the SARS-CoV-2 wastewater signal continues to plateau. We expect some variability in wastewater signals from week to week and continue to monitor for sustained trends.

2. Per cent positivity:
   - The 7-day moving average of per cent positivity is stable at 8.3% (same as last week).

3. Outbreaks and hospital capacity:
   - The number of outbreaks in high-risk settings continues to decline. There were 5 active outbreaks as of yesterday, including 0 in long-term care and retirement homes, 2 in congregate settings, and 3 hospital outbreaks.
   - Hospitalizations are stable. As of our latest update yesterday, there were 21 total hospitalizations and 9 in the ICU.
Provincial updates

- The Province has announced that on March 21 masking requirements will be removed for most places (except public transit, health-care settings, long-term care, retirement homes and congregate care settings).
- Masking remains an evidence informed intervention to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. As such, residents, particularly those at elevated risk or anyone who wishes to continue employing an added layer of protection, may choose to continue wearing a mask and community members should be respectful of these choices.
- The Province also updated its isolation guidance for household and non-household close contacts, effective immediately.
- Household contacts should generally self-isolate while the individual with COVID-19 symptoms is isolating, with the following exceptions:
  - Household members who are 18 years of age and older and have already received their booster dose are not required to self-isolate
  - Household members who are under 18 years of age and are considered fully vaccinated are not required to self-isolate
  - Household members who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days are not required to self-isolate and can attend high-risk settings, as long as they remain asymptomatic
  - Household contacts who complete self-isolation at 5 days, or are not required to self-isolate AND non-household contacts should follow precautions for 10 days including:
    - Self monitor for symptoms
    - Wear a mask and avoid activities where mask removal would be necessary
    - Do not visit anyone who is at higher risk of illness
    - Do not attend work in the highest-risk settings (unless they have previously tested positive in the past 90 days)

Closing remarks

- Thanks to vaccination, public health measures, and a cautious and phased approach to reopening, we are now able to shift to a longer-term approach to managing the impacts of COVID-19.
- Please respect anyone who chooses to continue wearing a mask beyond the lifting of mandatory masking requirements.
- Individuals who are at greater risk of serious illness will benefit from continuing to wear a mask, especially in indoor or crowded spaces.
- Due to high vaccination rates and public health measures, we have been able to manage the impact of the Omicron wave.
- Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe.