

Residents in their 20s lagging behind in vaccinations

As York Region Public Health awaits word from the Province this week on eligibility for those looking to receive a COVID-19 vaccination booster, the Region's Acting Medical Officer of Health is encouraging residents in their twenties to step up and get the shot.

According to Dr. Richard Gould, the Region has reached over 90 per cent vaccination coverage with two doses in several age brackets, including those between the ages of 40 and 44 and residents 75 years of age or older. But the vaccination rate among younger residents between the ages of 25 and 29 stood at just under 79 per cent at the start of the week.

"We would really like to see more uptake in this age group and we strongly recommend all residents in their twenties to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible," said Dr. Gould. "You can't rely on your age to protect you; we have seen young adults fall seriously ill from the virus, even with no underlying health conditions."

Another concerning trend noted by Dr. Gould in his weekly update was residents putting off getting assessed for COVID-19 as soon as symptoms occur.

"Everyone should be mindful of the symptoms they are feeling. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, even mild, seek assessment and testing at a COVID-19 assessment centre as soon as possible and stay home otherwise. We are noticing a concerning trend where individuals are not going and testing right away when they develop symptoms. It is important to get tested right away. Even if you are fully vaccinated, we do not want to lose the progress we have made and can't assume it is not COVID-19. We all have a role to play, which includes following current public health measures and getting vaccinated."

In Aurora, the number of residents aged 12 and up who have received at least one dose stood at 90.1 per cent at the start of the week, while eligible residents with two doses was at 87.6 per cent.

As of Tuesday, November 2, the community has seen 2,064 cases of COVID-19, 7 of which remain active.

There have been 48 fatalities attributed to the virus and 2,009 cases are now marked as recovered.

Of the 7 active cases, all are attributed to local transmission, close contact or unknown exposure.

By Brock Weir Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter