



MEETING AOC 134-19-21

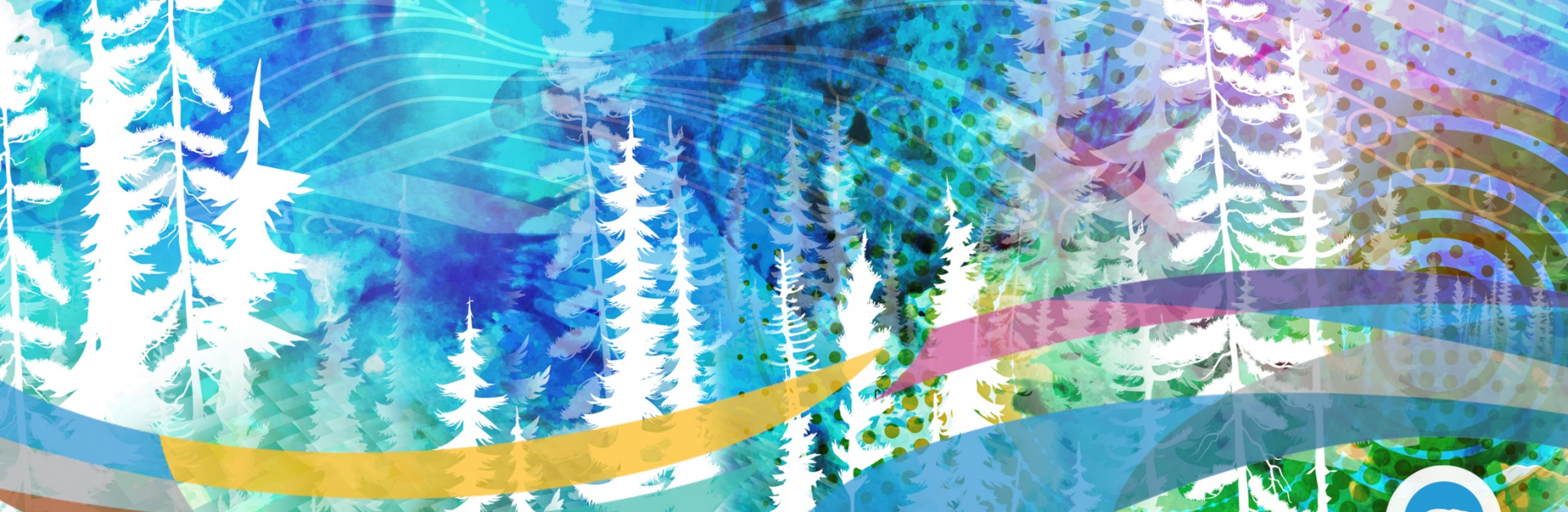
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT**

~  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021**  
**CAUCUS ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**7:00 P.M**

---

**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
  - a) COVID-19 Update Presentation with the Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Premier, the Hon. Julie Green, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Dr Kami Kandola, Chief Public Health Officer.
5. In-Camera Matters
  - a) Wrap-up discussion
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Friday, June 4, 2021 at 8:00 am.
7. Adjournment



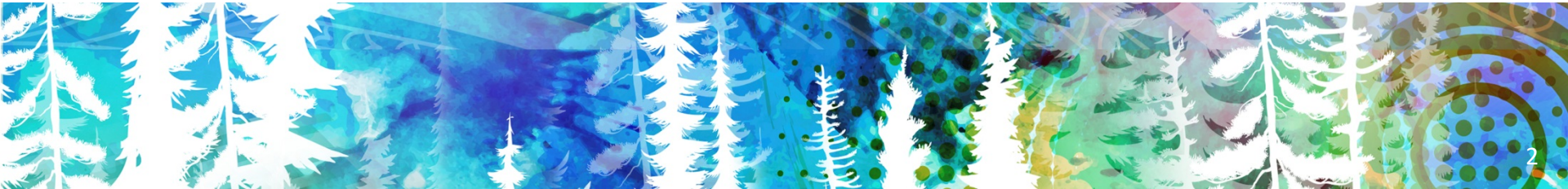
# COVID-19 Update

Accountability and Oversight Committee

June 3, 2021

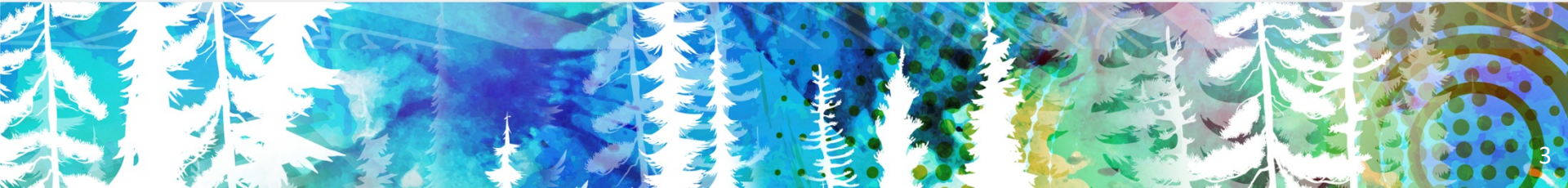
# Overview

1. Current situation - Globally, Canada, NWT
2. Emerging Wisely
3. NJ Macpherson School Outbreak



# COVID-19—Current situation

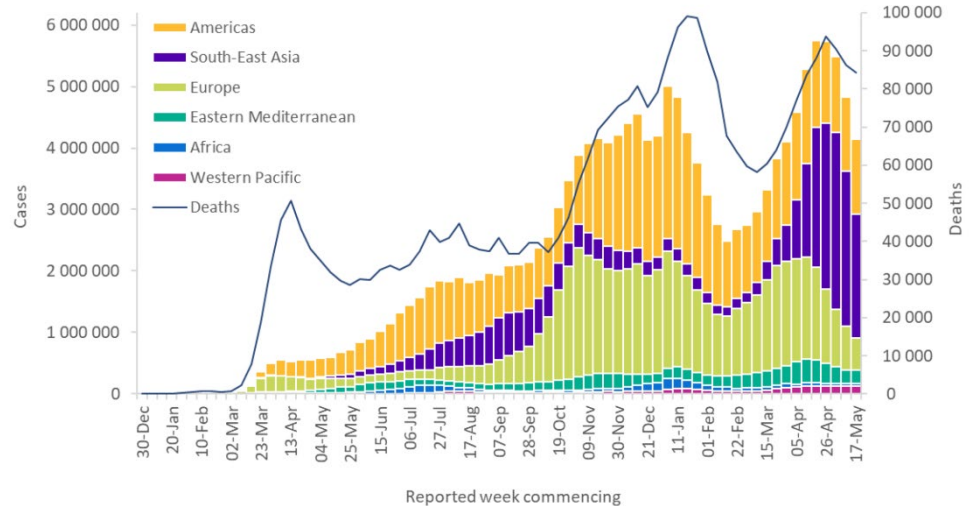
June 3, 2021



# Global Situation

- Number of new cases and deaths decreasing
- Highest number of cases in India, Brazil, Argentina
- Variants of Concern

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 23 May 2021\*\*

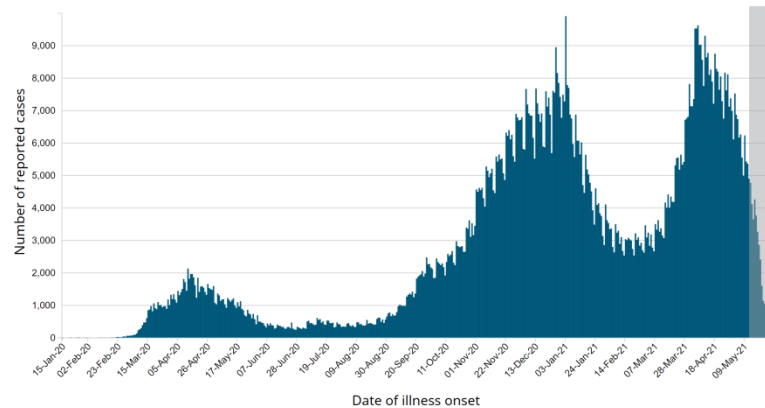


<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---25-may-2021>

# Situation in Canada

- Number of daily new cases decreasing
- Vaccine Rollout and public health measures
- Ongoing challenges in some jurisdictions

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases (n=1,369,883 <sup>1</sup>) in Canada by date of illness onset <sup>2</sup> as of May 28, 2021, 7 pm EST (total cases <sup>3</sup>)



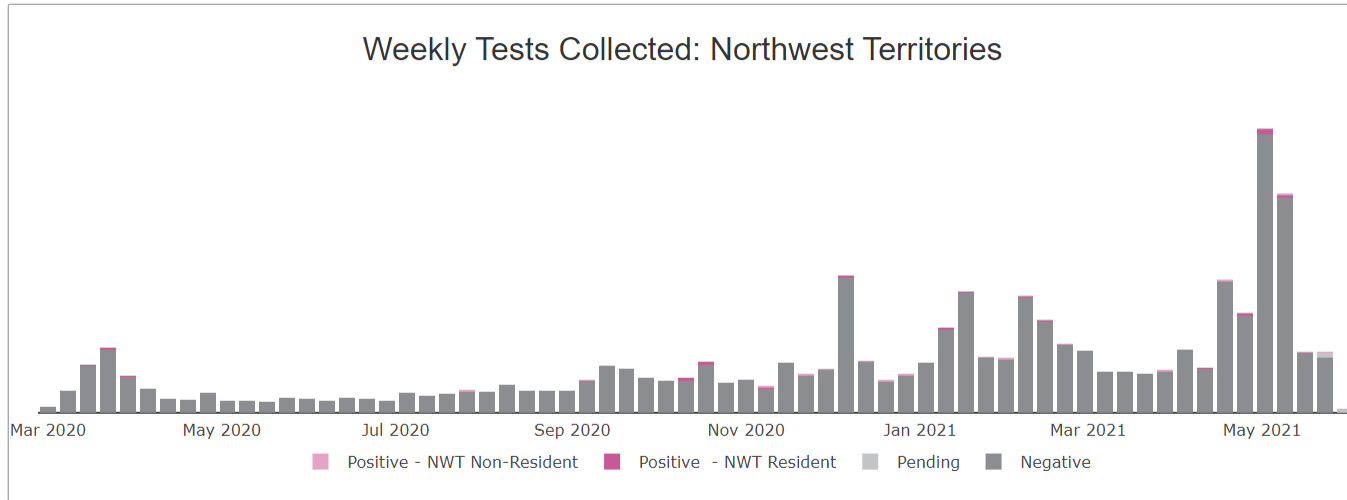
<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

# Situation in NWT

Total Active Cases in NWT	
3	
NWT Residents	Non-NWT Residents
0	3

Confirmed Cases		
167		
NWT Residents	Non-NWT Residents	NWT Residents OOT*
121	38	8

Resolved Cases		
164		
NWT Residents	Non-NWT Residents	NWT Residents OOT*
121	35	8



# COVID-19 Roles

## OCPHO

- Responsible and accountable administering Public Health Act, protecting the public from communicable diseases
- Create public health orders
- Communicate to the public
- Immunization strategy and plan
- Outbreak management
- Public health surveillance
- Management guidelines
  - COVID guidance document for case and contact management, reporting
  - Technical support to NTHSSA

## NTHSSA

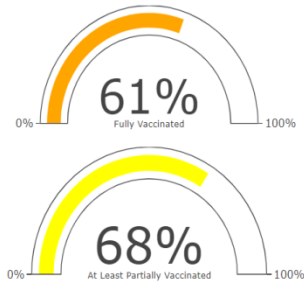
- Infection prevention and control
- Occupational Health and Safety for health facilities
- Diagnosing COVID-19 assessments and testing
- Reporting to OCPHO
- Managing people with COVID-19
- Contact tracing, managing people who are contacts to COVID-19

## COVID Secretariat

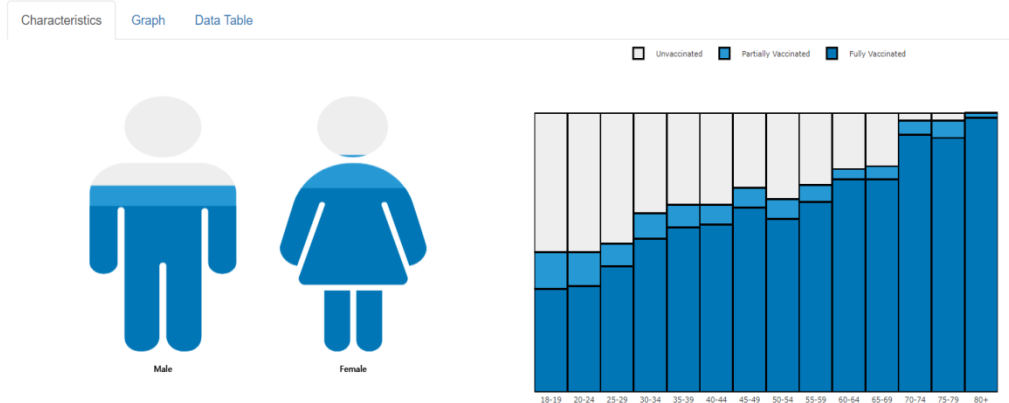
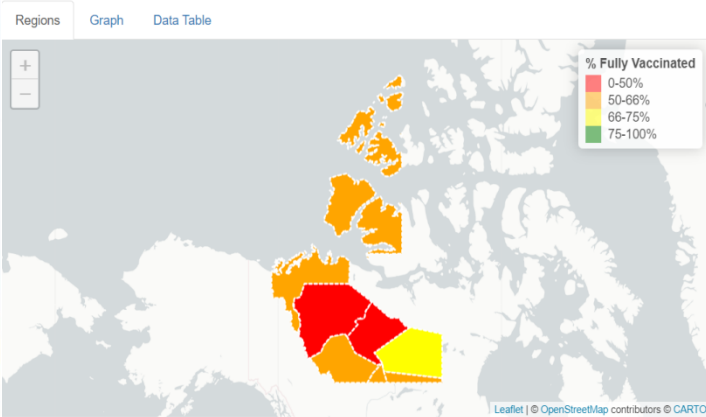
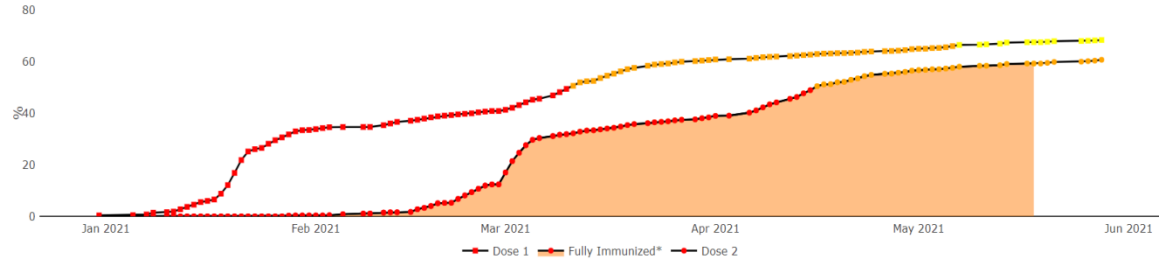
- COVID communications support to OCPHO
- Providing information to individuals through ProtectNWT
- Monitoring compliance with public health orders



# Situation in NWT, vaccine coverage June 3, 2021



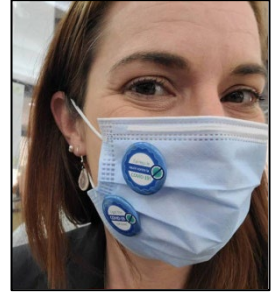
COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage: NWT Residents (18+)



# Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

What has worked:

- Direct, 1-on-1 conversations with community members have yielded some of the most meaningful progress
- Social marketing team has led on-the-ground outreach
  - pop-up information booths,
  - door-to-door campaigns, and
  - walk-in clinics at high traffic locations
- Direct calls from frontline health care workers
- Community Vaccine Promotion Fund





# Emerging Wisely

- Updated Emerging Wisely plan will be released June 9
- Public health measures have protected the public, but they take a toll
- Goal is to prevent severe outcomes from COVID-19 and maintain societal functioning and wellbeing
- Objectives include communicating to public on how to ultimately live with COVID-19 risk, and relax restrictions slowly and safely, beginning with outdoor activities and lower risk activities



# N.J. Macpherson – Key Events

## Outbreak declared May 1, 2021

- First case confirmed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with four presumptive
- Information collected in first 24 hours (age, class) determined extensive transmission within school
- Multiple public risk exposure sites, with risk of introduction to multiple schools
- Contact tracing, testing and isolation of contacts and management of households

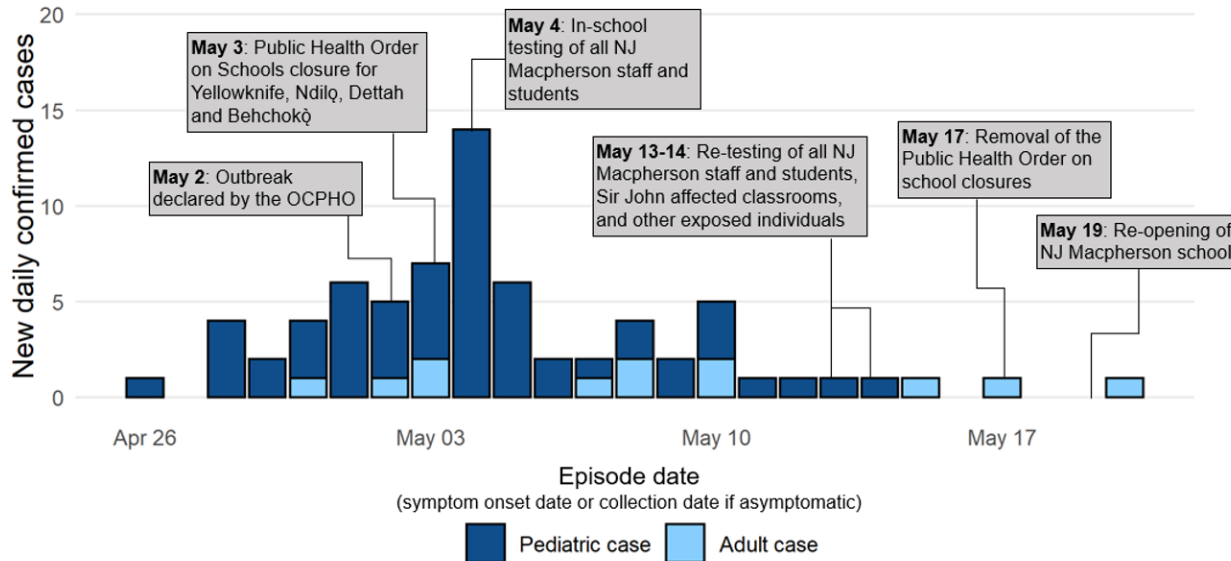
## Measures Implemented

- School closure Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Behchoko
- Indoor masking for Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Behchoko
- Suspension of extracurricular activities for those under 18
- Public health order of May 5, 2021: contacts and their households must isolate

# Testing related to N.J. Macpherson

## NJ Macpherson School Outbreak

Confirmed cases	Resolved cases	Active cases	Households affected	Contacts identified
71	68	3	43	1,077

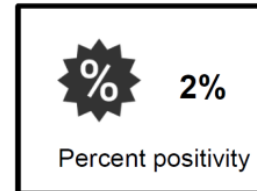
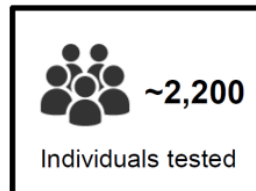
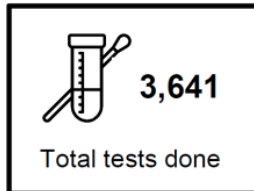


# N.J. Macpherson Outbreak (June 3, 2021)

## Cases and contacts information

	Children	Adults	Total	
<b>Status</b>	<i>Primary case</i>	43	0	43
	<i>Secondary case</i>	16	12	28
<b>Gender</b>	<i>Female</i>	20	8	28
	<i>Male</i>	39	4	43
<b>Mean age (range)</b>	8.4 (0-16)	41 (26-68)	13.9 (0-68)	
<b>Asymptomatic</b>	24 (40.7%)	2 (16.7%)	26 (36.6%)	
<b>Mean # of contacts (range)</b>	24.1 (2-127)	7.2 (0-37)	21.2 (0-127)	
<b>Vaccine status</b>	<i>Fully vaccinated</i>	0	6	6
	<i>Not fully vaccinated</i>	59	6	65

## Testing information





# Ongoing Outbreak Management

- As of May 31 all cases had exposures either at school or within household setting
- Continued management of households, “exit tests” for contacts.
- We did not have capacity for active daily monitoring of contacts.
- No transmission to staff at work demonstrated so far
- No transmission between children during recreational activities identified

May 17<sup>th</sup> – School Reopening  
Working with Education Culture and  
Employment and NTHSSA

- Enhanced screening
- Enhanced protections at school
- Dedicated testing for school-aged children



# NJ Outbreak— Isolation Requirements

- Difference between isolation for cases/contacts and self-isolation for travelers—less risk in returning travelers
- Extended isolation is challenging – exemptions for outdoor time and wellbeing





# Public-Facing Communications

- Public Exposure Notifications
- Daily Updates
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information Sheets
- Social Media



# Analysis and Lessons Learned

## What Worked

- Effective response – testing and contact tracing
- Businesses and activities remained open
- Targeted Pfizer Vaccine Rollout
- Schools Reopened on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Strong buy-in for public health measures
- Strong community support for those who were isolating
- Strong partnerships with ECE, Schools, NTHSSA
- Direct Communications from OCPHO

## Areas to Improve

- Communications challenges
- Support for people in isolation
- Rapid Surge Response
- Lessons learned debrief for reporting and system improvement will be conducted



# Questions