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NEWS

UNVACCINATED ACCOUNT FOR MOST LOCAL COVID-19 CASES: MOH

HERE'S THE NEW DATA

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Residents who have yet to be vaccinated against COVID-19 are driving local case counts, says Halton's medical officer of health.

The detail was among several Dr. Hamidah Meghani shared with regional council during its Sept. 15 session, when she revealed that of the 440,960 Halton residents who've received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, only 0.08 per cent have gone on to be diagnosed with the virus.

When taking a closer look at the week of Sept. 6 to 12, Meghani said that almost two thirds of Halton's COVID-19 cases, or 63 per cent, were among individuals who haven't received the shot.

"The minority of people who are unvaccinated in the population are now counting for the majority of our case burden," she said.

She also told council that "at this point, children who are ineligible for vaccination are not the main driver of case counts locally."

She explained that of



Spencer B. Davis/Pixabay

Unvaccinated residents accounted for two thirds of recent COVID-19 cases in Halton.

the cases among the unvaccinated from Sept. 6 to 12, only 33 per cent were in the under 12 demographic.

Keeping case counts low among children is something health officials are focusing on now that in-person school has resumed.

In Halton, youth aged 12 to 17 are among the most vaccinated groups, with 90 per cent having received at least one dose and 84 per cent having both doses.

Increasing vaccination rates quickly in the overall community is something that will help keep schools open going forward, said Meghani, in addition to families reducing their contacts for non-essential reasons.

"We all have a part to play in keeping our schools safe and open," she said.

Taking the message one

step further, Oakville Coun. Tom Adams went on to introduce a motion, which was passed by council, that asks the province to first examine and choose methods to reduce community contacts other than closing schools when responding to rising COVID-19 cases.

He said he knows how important schools are for the community, parents and the children attending "in terms of their need to be able to learn, and for their own mental health."

The sentiment was echoed by Meghani.

"I would suggest schools should continue to be the last place to close because of the importance of education for young people," she said.

For further details on local COVID-19 case numbers and vaccinations, visit halton.ca/COVID19.

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