

# COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall



**With Dr. Alex Summers**

**Join us and ask your questions**

**Monday, August 31**

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**For more information, visit [www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)**

# COVID-19

## Virtual Townhall

Dr. Alex Summers, Associate Medical Officer of Health

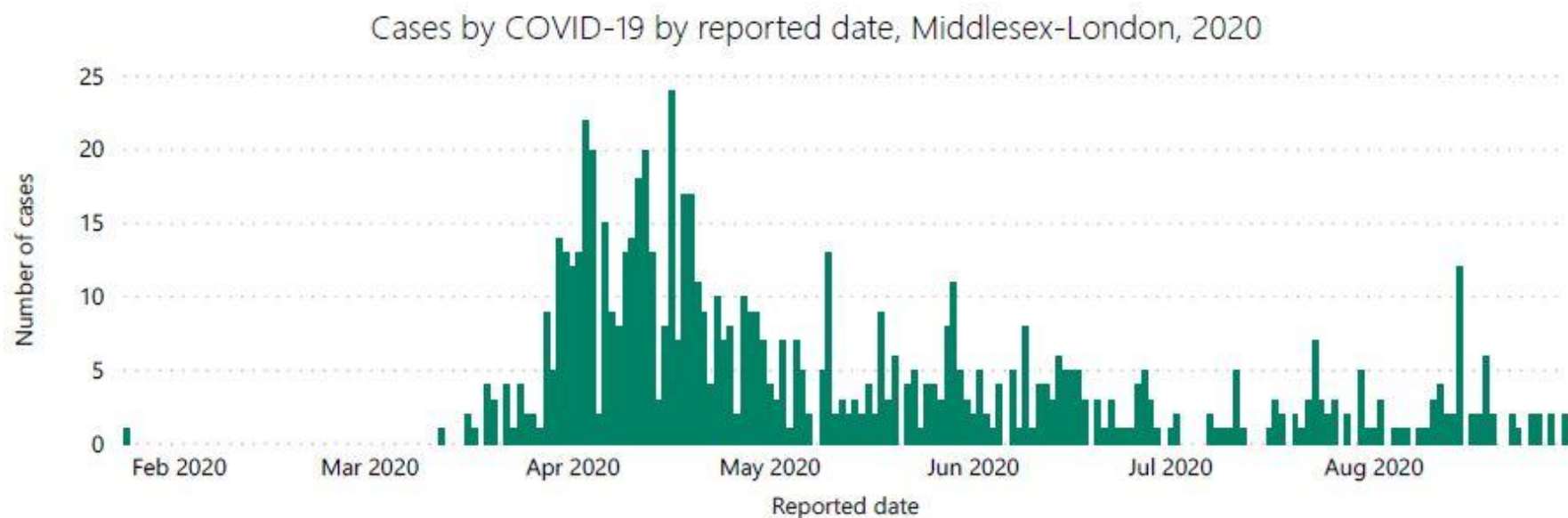
Middlesex-London Health Unit

August 31, 2020

## Agenda

- Local COVID-19 Situation
- General COVID-19 Information
- Return to School
- Your questions (submitted through the Microsoft Teams question forum)

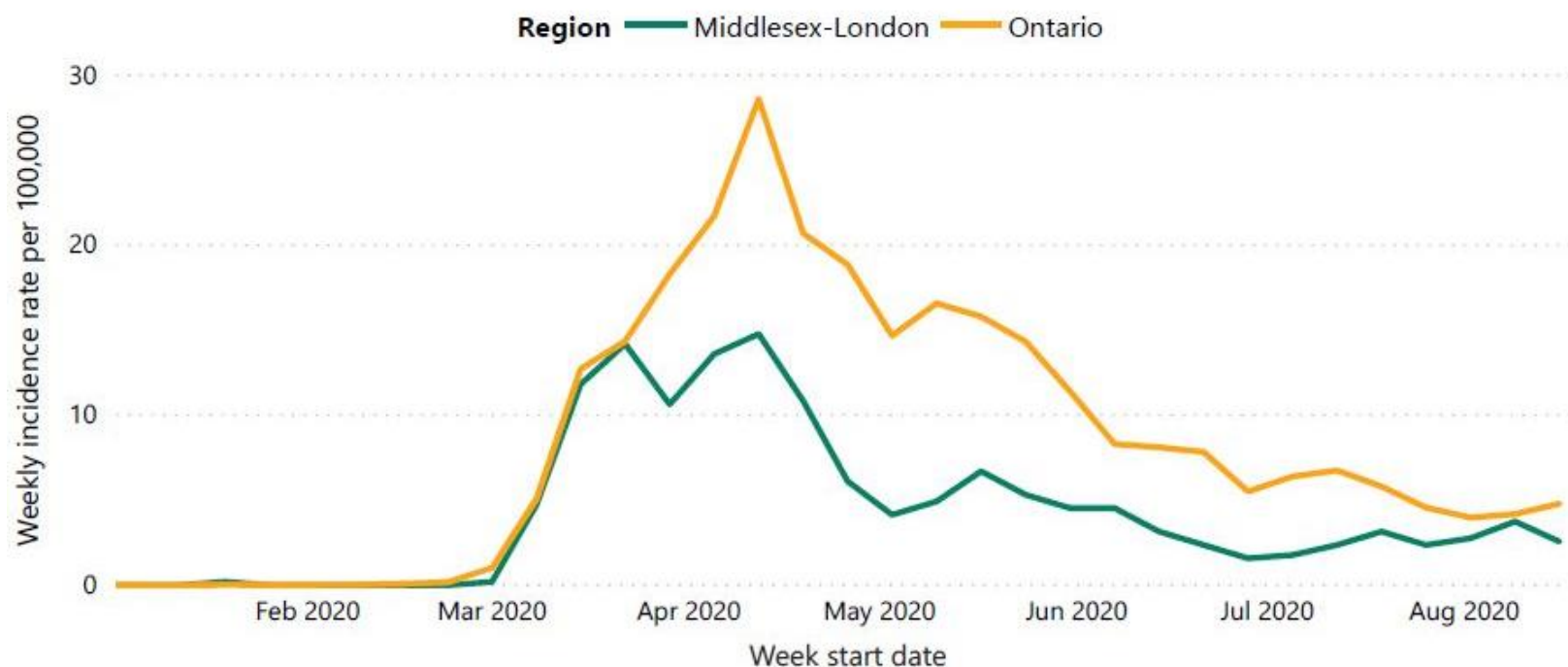
# Cases by Reported Date



**Data source:** MLHU COVID-19 Case and Contact Management System, extracted 2020-08-31 at 08:30 EDT. Data current as of the end of day 2020-08-30

# Weekly Incidence Rates

Weekly incidence rates for Middlesex-London and Ontario



**Data source:** MLHU COVID-19 Case and Contact Management System, extracted 2020-08-31 at 08:30 EDT. Data current as of the end of day 2020-08-30

# Preparing for Back to School

Information and tips  
on sending your child  
back to school safely.



## Return to School



# COVID-19 Transmission: What We Know

- Transmitted by droplets from an infected person (who is within two metres)
  - droplets are emitted when a person talks, sneezes, coughs
- Close contact
  - coming into contact with infected an infected person's saliva/respiratory secretions
  - being closer than two metres from an infected person, especially for periods of time longer than 15 minutes

# Core Public Health Principles for Back-to-School

- Physical distancing
- Proper hand hygiene
- Masking, where appropriate
- Symptom screening
- Exclusion and testing protocols
- Frequent cleaning





# Face Covering Requirements

- Elementary school:
  - Face coverings required for students from JK – Gr. 8, teachers and administrative/support staff
- Secondary school:
  - Face coverings required for students, teachers and administrative staff
- Post-secondary school:
  - Face coverings required on campus (Fanshawe & Western) in all indoor public spaces

## What MLHU is doing to ensure a safe return to school

- Working with school boards as well as post-secondary institutions and providing advice/guidance
- Answering questions (Town Hall, COVID hotline)
- Providing tips for parents to prepare their child for the school year (website/social media)
- Providing tips to reduce COVID transmission on campus
- Continued case and contact management of local COVID-19 cases (low number of people with COVID-19 in our community, even lower for kids)

# Elementary and Secondary School

- Provincial guidance documents
  - Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools
  - COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management

# Work with School Boards to Date

Coordination of internal processes:

- School Health programs as primary point of contact (communication, information, direct support and PH guidance)
- Screening and testing guidance
- Communication processes developed to respond to potential cases or outbreaks
- Coordination of information through Tri-county school health Committee (MLHU, SWPH, Board administrators)
- On-going consultation and support to interpret and operationalize provincial guidance documents

## How to prepare students for back-to-school

- Get back to routines (bed time, packing lunches)
- Talk about the positives (seeing friends, learning new things)
- Develop and practice new habits: hand washing, how to cough/sneeze safely, how to wear a mask, how to visualize 2 metres of space between people
- Talk about what will be new at school and why it's important
- Talk about maintaining social circle, adhering to small gatherings

# To Do List: Back to school

## Getting back to routines

- Bed time
- Packing lunches



## Talking about the changes at school

- Wearing a mask
- Doing your best to keep distance from others
- Online learning

## Focus on the positives

- Seeing friends and teachers
- Learning new things

## New habits

- Washing your hands
- Wearing a mask
- Putting on and taking off your mask
- Coughing and sneezing safely
- Knowing when you're too close to someone



## What we'll continue to do throughout the year, to keep students safe

- Public Health Nurses will work closely with schools (more than 15 MLHU Public Health Nurses working in elementary and secondary schools)
- Respond to and manage COVID-19 cases in school environments rapidly
- Provide education on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools and on campus



## MLHU School Health Program

- Primary point of contact for COVID-19 information and guidance to schools
- Support additional MLHU services in schools (oral health, vaccine preventable diseases)
- School Public Health Nurse as point of contact for COVID-19 questions, communication and information in schools

# Learn More: MLHU's Back-to-School Web Page & FAQ

[www.healthunit.com/covid-19-schools](http://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-schools)



## Post-Secondary Institutions

- MLHU continues to work with Fanshawe College and Western University to review and support back-to-school plans
- Recommend downloading and using the COVID-Alert App
- Recommend students stay within their social circle as much as possible

## HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD ON CAMPUS. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

1

### SOCIAL CIRCLES VS SOCIAL GATHERINGS *KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!*

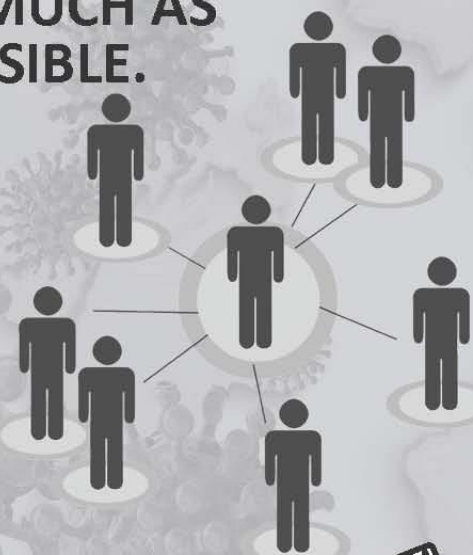
**Social circles** are the exclusive groupings of up to 10 people who do not have to be physically distant from each other.

You cannot belong to more than one circle and your circle should not change. You must maintain physical distance for everyone outside your social circle.

**Social gatherings** refer to groups of people who can gather together at one time while maintaining a physical distance of at least two metres (or six feet) from one another.

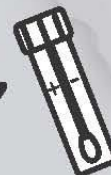
2

### STAY WITHIN YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.



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### IF SYMPTOMATIC, GET TESTED!



3

### DOWNLOAD AND USE THE COVID ALERT APP



## COVID Alert Mobile App

- Exposure notification app, completely voluntary
- Runs in the background using minimal data and battery power
- You will get an alert if the app detects that you've been within 2 metres, for more than 15 minutes, of another user who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days
- The app will then provide you with the latest public health advice
- No collection of personal information

# Questions?

