

Public Health Measures Impacts on Covid-19 Cases

**Weekly Analysis
As of March 27, 2021**

Purpose/Overview

- The purpose of this deck is to retrospectively examine the pandemic trajectory in the different provinces and territories and to analyse the impacts the introduction of Public Health Measures (i.e. restrictions) have had overtime
 - Weekly average epidemiological data (case counts, rate of new cases per 100k), public health measures, and the Oxford Stringency Index over a period of 16 weeks are analyzed to observe trends
- This current version includes BC, AB, MN, SK, ON, QC, NB, NS, PE, NL, and NU
- It is important to note that factors beyond Public Health Measures such as the roll-out of vaccines, testing and contact tracing, and measures in workplaces and other congregate settings may influence case numbers

How to read the slide deck for each Province/Territory

Slide A

- Graph of 'weekly average daily cases' and 'weekly average rate per 100k' over the past 16 weeks – source of data : PHAC
- Bars of weekly average daily cases colour coded by Stringency Index categories
- Rate per 100k was added to facilitate comparison across Provinces and Territories
- Timeline of major Public Health Measures show when measures were implemented

Slide B

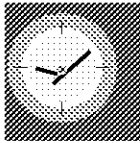
- Describes the major Public Health Measures implemented over the past 16 weeks
- Icons facilitate comparison of different measures implemented over time between and within provinces

Slide C

- Brings together the Oxford Stringency Index after the implementation of key Public Health Measures over the past 16 weeks and shows the trends observed after implementation
- Some text is added to contextualize the measures and changes observed

Note: Slide A often has a more detailed timeline to show the progression of measures that is reflected in slides B & C. Only major changes are described in detail in slide B & C. Recent changes may not be reflected in slide C as enough time may not have passed for an observation of trends that may be reflected in slide B to show changes in PHM restrictions.

Key Findings

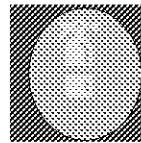


Timing

Effective timing of implementation of measures is critical to impact on containing the spread of the virus.

NB and SK both implemented targeted restrictions in specific regions this past week to reduce rising rates.

NU and NL both implemented lockdown-type measures to target increasing cases, with good success. There are minimal or 0 active cases in both regions.



Pace

Phased and gradual approaches to restrictions in the context of significant community spread have had limited effect in curbing growth (e.g. AB, SK, ON and QC).

Fast, short, and narrowly targeted “circuit-breaker” restrictions had greatest impact in provinces (i.e. Atlantic provinces) with relatively lower demographic density and no significant community spread



Stringency

The Stringency Index has tended to decline in recent weeks reflecting the relaxation of restrictions.

AB, BC, SK, have maintained lower stringency levels (under 70) since the beginning of January. MN, ON, QU have had higher rates of stringency(70-80s) as measured by the Stringency Index

Higher levels of stringency in the Atlantic and Nunavut coincide with short targeted lockdown measures (e.g. circuit breakers).



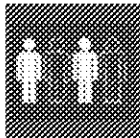
Different Strategies

BC has maintained a consistent set of measures since the second wave, did not see significant spikes in COVID-19 cases compared to other Provinces until mid-February. However, rates have recently increased with no additional measures being implemented to reduce cases.

Rates in **AB** and **MB** had steadily declined following implementation of restrictive measures in late 2020 and continued to decrease as restrictions were relaxed in a staged approach in from January to mid-March. However, they are **now starting to see an increase as of March 18**. **AB** decided to not progress to Step 3 reopening this week.

ON & QC tried a staged approach in fall 2020 with little impact on case counts, subsequently imposed a stay-at-home order (ON) and a curfew (QC) which resulted in a significant decrease in case counts in February. Since early March, they are easing progressively measures which has resulted in increased cases in ON and a plateau in QC.

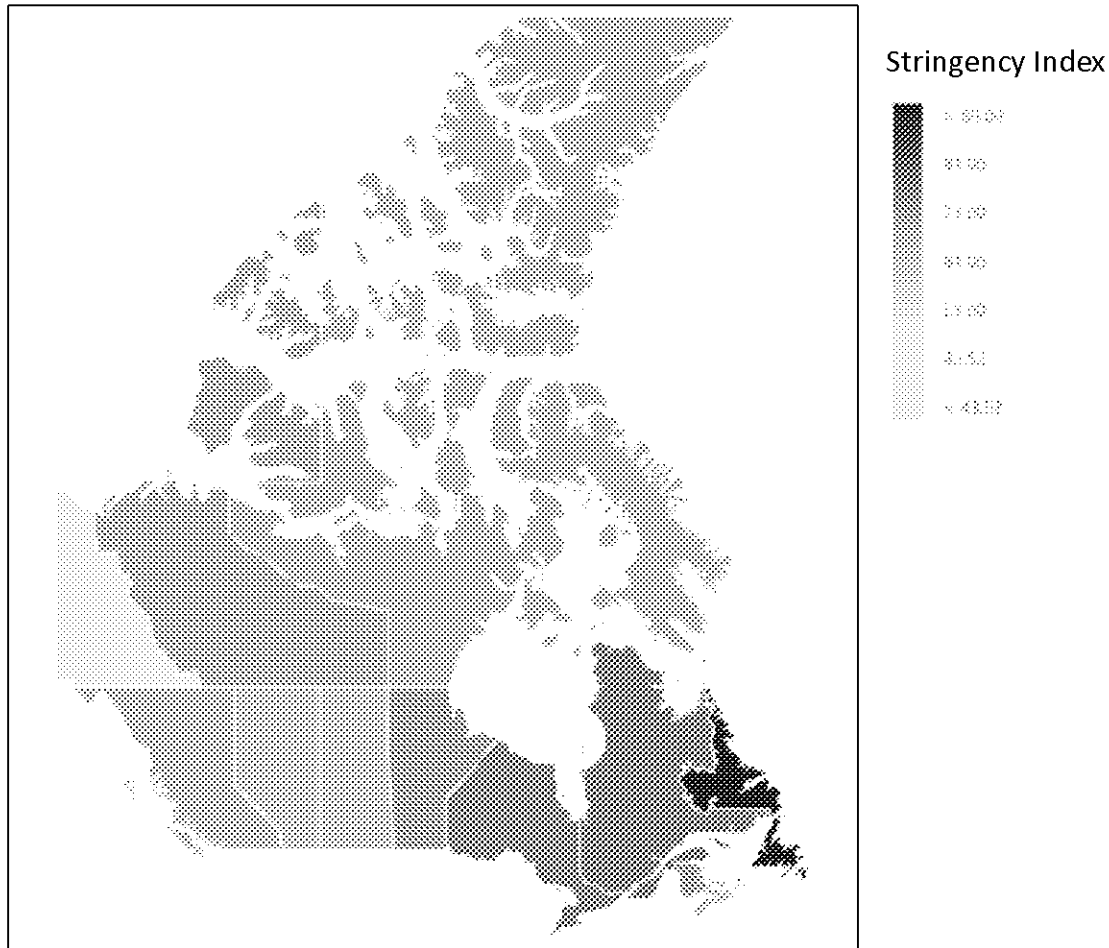
Atlantic and Territories: Self-isolation for all incoming travelers maintained. The Atlantic provinces have tended to quickly implement more restrictive measures for short periods of time (Circuit breaker) when active cases rise. This appears to remain effective in quickly prevent outbreaks from spreading.



Public Health Measures

Over the past 2 weeks **many provinces have relaxed Public Health Measures even though cases have begun to increase**. At the same time, Atlantic provinces and SK have introduced more stringent local measures to deal with outbreaks. AB has also postponed Step 3 reopening this week due to increasing cases.

Oxford Stringency Index Map - Canadian Provinces and Territories*



Oxford Stringency Index (see Sources page)

- OxCGRT collects publicly available information on 19 indicators of government response aggregated into 4 indices
- Stringency Index records the strictness of 'lockdown style' policies (based on **9 indicators**)
 - C1-School closing
 - C2-Workplace closing
 - C3-Cancel public events
 - C4-Restrictions on gathering size
 - C5-Stay at home requirements
 - C6-Restrictions on internal movement
 - C7-Restrictions on international travel
 - C8-Public Information campaign
 - H1-Public information campaign

*Map reflects most recent data (March 4) of the Oxford Stringency Index for all Canadian provinces and territories, downloaded March 25, 2021.

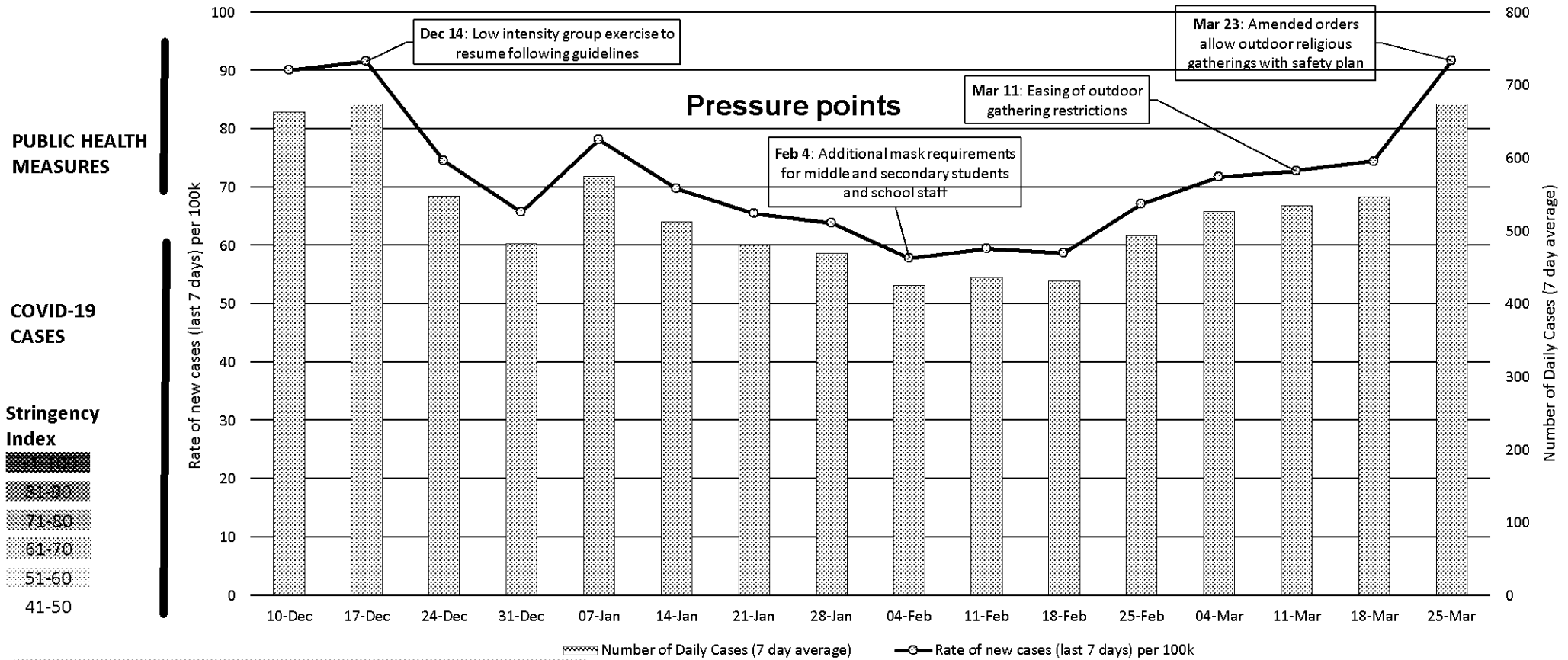
Weekly Oxford Stringency Index by Canadian province/territory

Stringency Index
 91-90
 81-90
 71-80
 61-70
 51-60
 41-50

	03-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec	07-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	04-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	04-Mar	11-Mar
British Columbia	65	65	65	65	65	65	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Alberta	64	66	66	66	66	66	62	62	64	60	58	58	58	58	58
Saskatchewan	52	52	56	56	56	53	55	55	55	55	57	57	54	57	57
Manitoba	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	74	74	69	67	72	75
Ontario	63	63	63	68	85	85	83	83	83	83	75	72	72	72	68
Quebec	64	64	66	66	66	66	73	73	73	73	69	72	72	68	68
New Brunswick	65	65	65	56	56	69	69	74	85	84	71	71	66	66	51
Newfoundland	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	75	91	91	87	87
Nova Scotia	66	66	66	60	60	55	51	53	51	51	51	53	51	57	51
Prince Edward Island	58	76	76	60	60	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	67	68
Northwest Territories	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
Nunavut	73	73	62	62	62	62	48	48	62	62	62	62	62	62	49
Yukon	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	44	44	44	44	44
Canada	67	67	67	67	67	70	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75

Source: Oxford Stringency Index, downloaded March 27 2021

A - British Columbia - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- Despite increasing cases in March more restrictive Public Health Measures have not been imposed and some restrictions have even been relaxed to permit outdoor social (Mar 11) and religious gatherings (Mar 23). The Astra-Zeneca vaccine is currently being used to address workplace outbreaks.
- Variants of concerns (including P1) continue to increase with more than 1,900 cases identified and 4,13% of active cases attributed to VOC (against 0,2% early March)
- Province-wide restrictions prohibiting events and gathering were implemented Nov 19 to curb increasing cases. Subsequent restrictions were implemented Dec 2 on sports events, with re-opening of some low-intensity group exercise Dec 14.

B - British Columbia - Timeline and Public Health Measures



Dec 14

Low intensity exercise to resume

-  **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory for workers and customers in indoor retail, indoor public places, schools (specific grades, etc.)
-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Indoor dining limited to 6 /table at restaurants; alcohol sales ending at 10pm.
 - Nightclubs, banquet halls, party buses and limousines closed
-  **Places of worship**
 - In person services prohibited
-  **Organized sports and recreation**
 - All indoor and outdoor adult team sports prohibited and restrictions on children's sports
-  **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open with distancing for individual workouts. Indoor low intensity group exercise allowed, high intensity group exercise prohibited
-  **Business and Retail**
 - In person shopping allowed with capacity limits
-  **Public places/venues**
 - All outdoor events prohibited
-  **Social gatherings**
 - No social gathering any size indoor or outdoor with anyone other than household/core bubble

Feb 4

Strengthening of mask requirements

-  **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory for workers and customers in indoor retail, indoor public places, schools (specific grades, etc.); Middle/secondary students and staff required to wear masks except when seated in classroom
-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Indoor dining limited to 6 /table at restaurants; alcohol sales ending at 10pm.
 - Nightclubs, banquet halls, party buses and limousines closed
-  **Places of worship**
 - In person services prohibited
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 - In person shopping allowed with capacity limits
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Mar 11

Easing of gathering restrictions

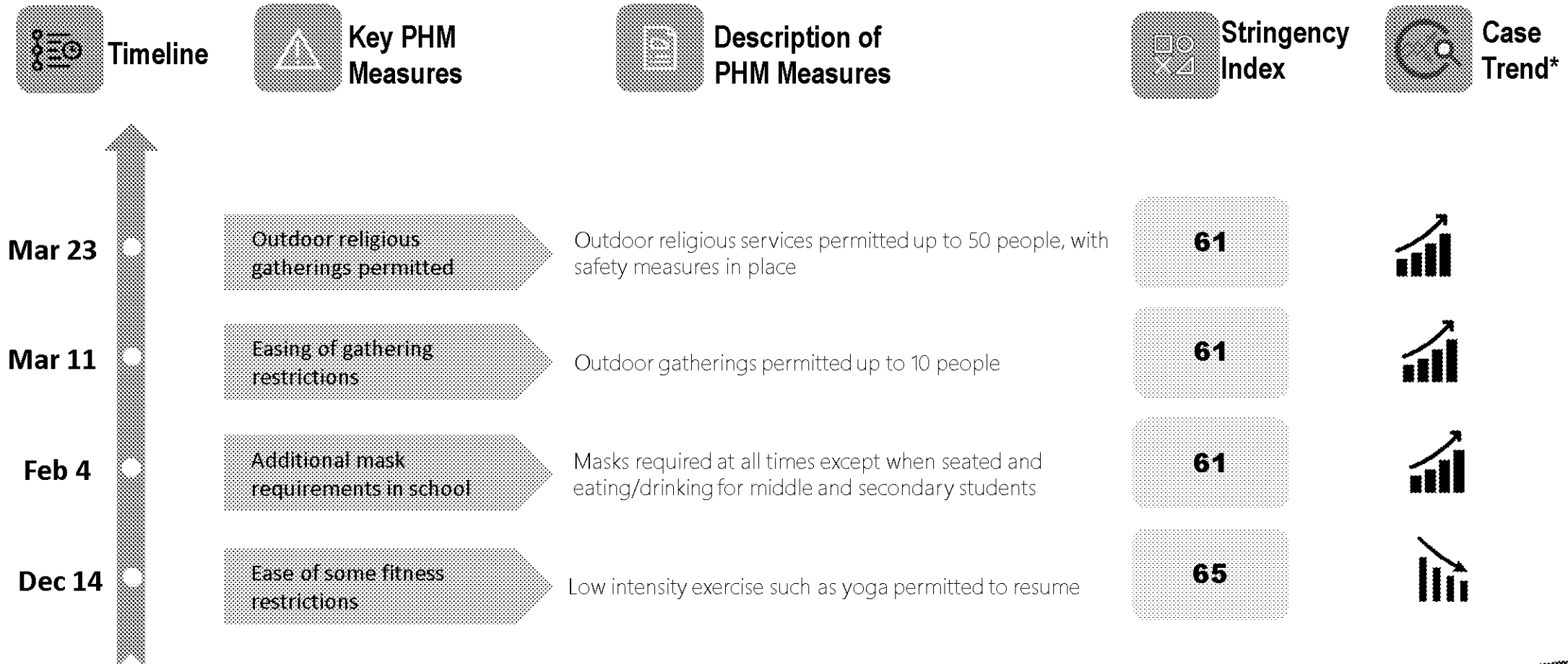
-  **Non-medical mask use**
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-  **Restaurants and bars**
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 - Nightclubs, banquet halls, party buses and limousines closed
-  **Places of worship**
 - In person services prohibited
-  **Organized sports and recreation**
 - All indoor and outdoor adult team sports prohibited and restrictions on children's sports
-  **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open with distancing for individual workouts. Indoor low intensity group exercise allowed, high intensity group exercise prohibited
-  **Business and Retail**
 - In person shopping allowed with capacity limits
-  **Public places/venues**
 - All outdoor events prohibited
-  **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gatherings allowed up to 10 people
 - Children can play outside together

Mar 23

Outdoor religious gatherings permitted

-  **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory for workers and customers in indoor retail, indoor public places, schools (specific grades, etc.); Middle/secondary students and staff required to wear masks except when seated in classroom
-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Indoor dining limited to 6 /table at restaurants; alcohol sales ending at 10pm.
 - Nightclubs, banquet halls, party buses and limousines closed
-  **Places of worship**
 - Outdoor services permitted with safety plans in place, up to 50 people
-  **Organized sports and recreation**
 - All indoor and outdoor adult team sports prohibited and restrictions on children's sports
-  **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open with distancing for individual workouts. Indoor low intensity group exercise allowed, high intensity group exercise prohibited
-  **Business and Retail**
 - In person shopping allowed with capacity limits
-  **Public places/venues**
 - All outdoor events prohibited
-  **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gatherings allowed up to 10 people
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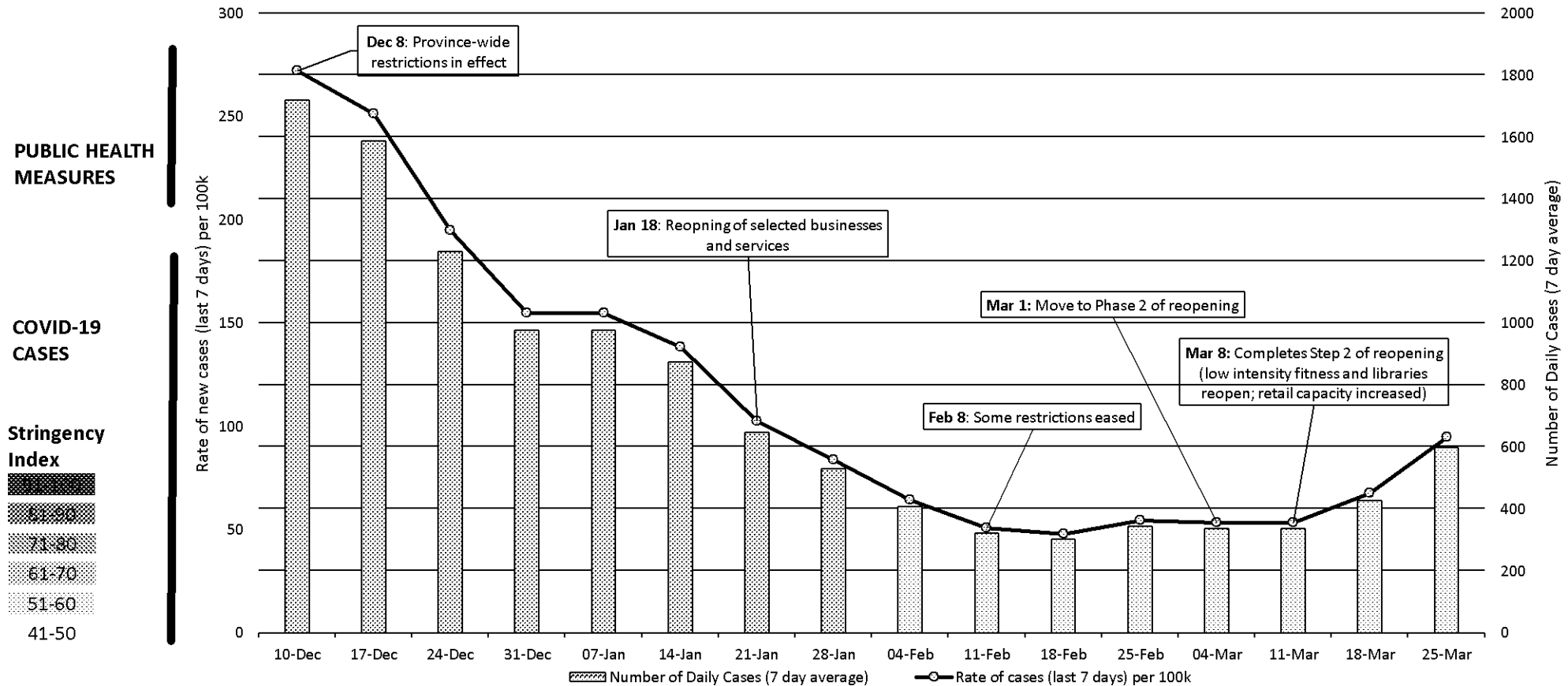
Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.



Alberta - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- AB announced March 22 that they would not progress at this point to Step 3 due to increasing cases/hospitalizations in recent weeks and the fact that variants of concern are also increasing rapidly.
- After stabilizing for much of February, cases have increased significantly in the weeks following Step 2 reopening (March 1-8). Step 2 included re-opening of low intensity exercise fitness and libraries (with restrictions) and increased capacity of retail and businesses. This follows easing of restrictions on Jan 18 to permit reopening of salons and other personal services and permit outdoor gatherings up to 10 followed by further restrictions easing Feb 8.

B - Alberta - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Dec 8

Province wide restrictions including mask mandate

Jan 18

Re-opening of salons and outdoor gatherings up to 10 people


Feb 8


Restrictions eased to allow for limited in-person dining, some fitness activities, and some children's activities

March 1-8


Stage 2 reopening begins


 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory indoor public masking extended province-wide

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining

 **Places of worship**
 - Limited to 15% capacity

 **Business and retail**
 - Limited to 15% capacity

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed including recreational facilities

 **Social gatherings**
 - Indoor/outdoor social gatherings prohibited
 - Close contact limited to household only

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory indoor public masking extended province-wide

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining

 **Places of worship**
 - Funeral ceremony attendance permitted up to 20 people

 **Business and retail**
 - Personal wellness services allowed open by appointment only

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed including recreational facilities

 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor social gatherings limited to 10 people

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory indoor public masking extended province-wide

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open for dine-in services; max 6 people per table who reside in the same home

 **Places of worship**
 - Funeral ceremony attendance permitted up to 20 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Lessons and practices may occur for indoor team-based minor sports/activities

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Individual training now permitted for indoor fitness activities

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed including recreational facilities

 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor social gatherings limited to 10 people

 **Schools**
 - K-12 can use off-site facilities for curriculum related educational activities

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory indoor public masking extended province-wide

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open for dine-in services; max 6 people per table who reside in the same home

 **Places of worship**
 - Funeral ceremony attendance permitted up to 20 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Youth sports teams and activities to resume with up to 10 participants (March 8)

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Low intensity individual and group fitness now permitted

 **Business and retail**
 - Businesses can increase capacity to 25% (March 8)

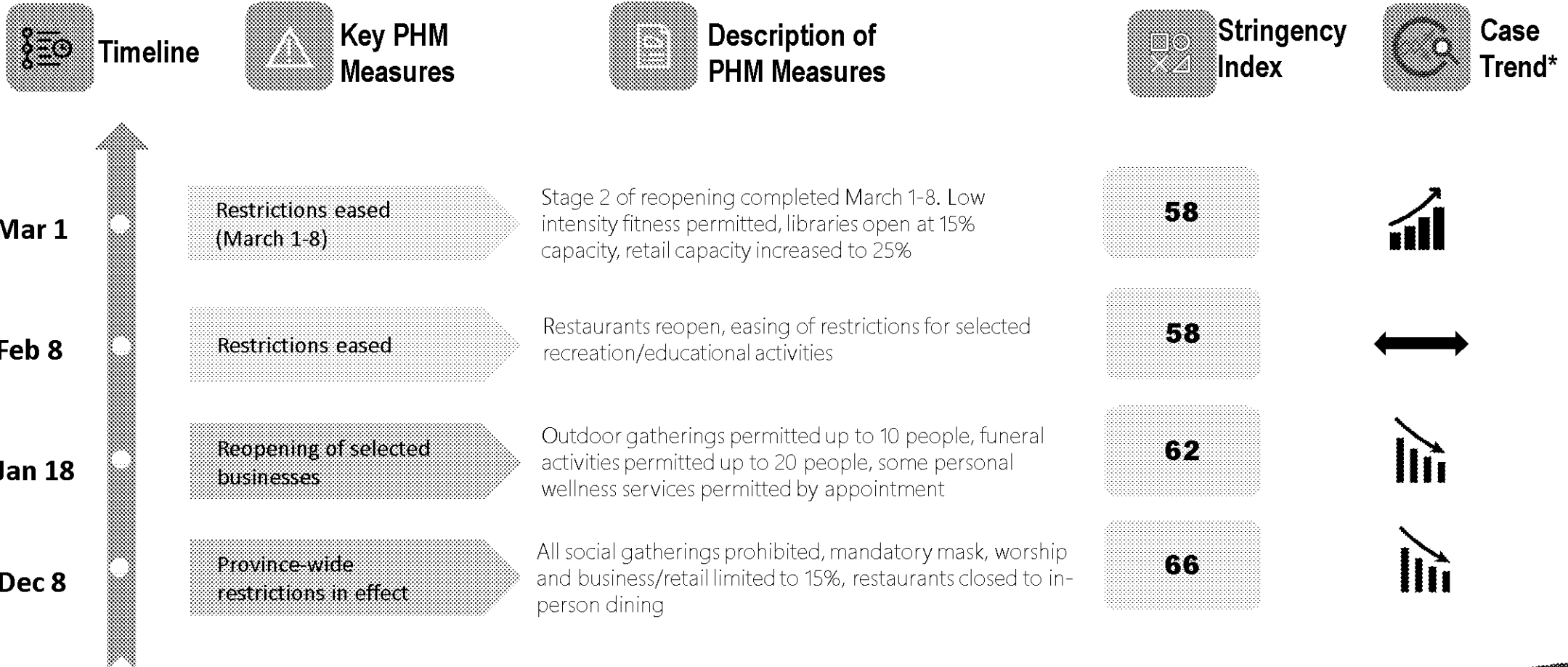
 **Public places/venues**
 - Libraries open at 15% capacity

 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor social gatherings limited to 10 people

 **Schools**
 - K-12 can use off-site facilities for curriculum related educational activities

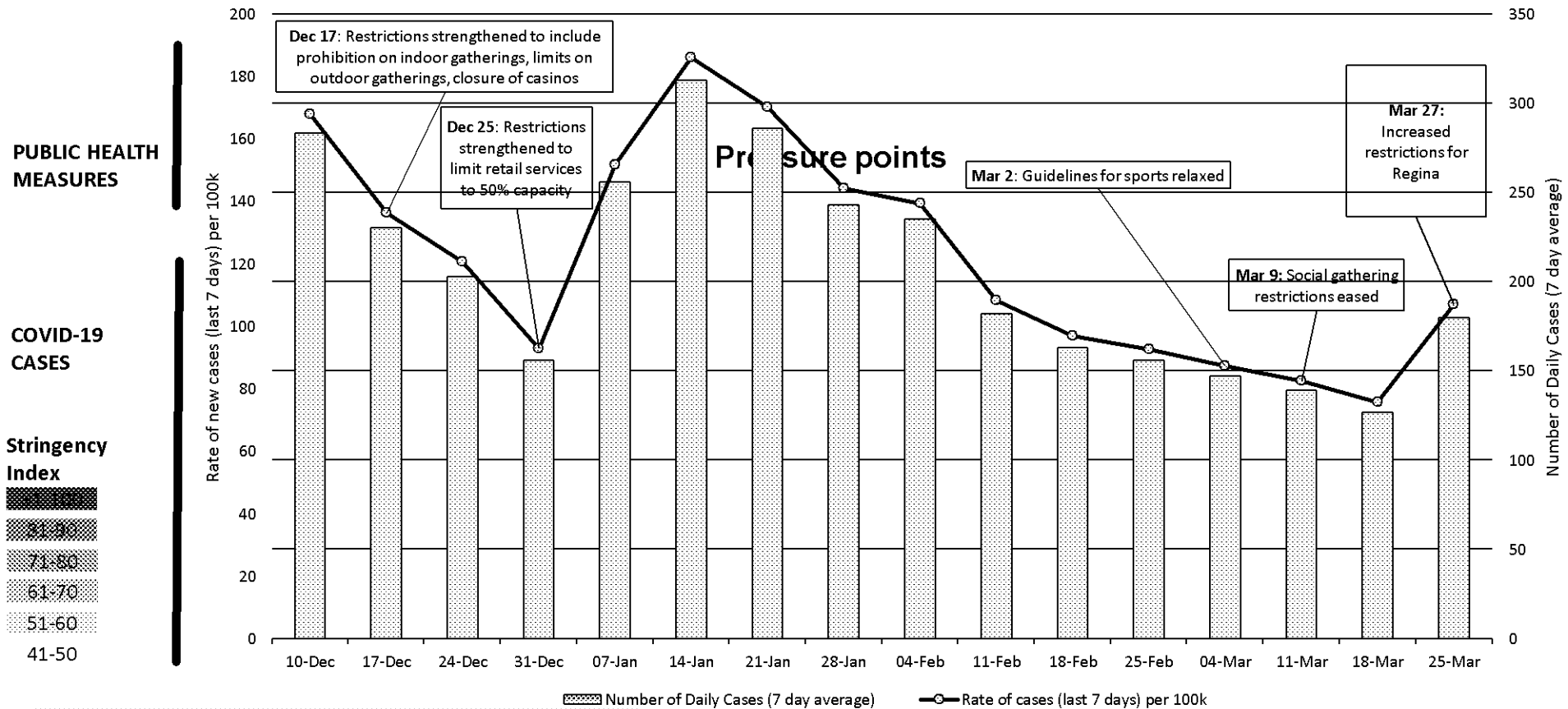


Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



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B - Saskatchewan - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- Following increasing cases in recent weeks, additional restrictions have been enacted for Regina and surrounding areas (effective Mar 27) to attempt to reduce increasing case rate. On March 9, SK relaxed social gathering rules to allow household bubbles of 10.
- Overall, SK has enacted less stringent measures than other PTs, as measured by the Stringency Index, and the rate of new cases per 100k is higher than many other PTs. Rates have increased in the week ending March 25.
- Clear uptick following Christmas and New Year gatherings was observed and rates have continued to decline in January and February with no additional measures being implemented. Sharp increase in the most recent week's report.

B - Saskatchewan - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Dec 10-17

Further restrictive measures implemented

Dec 25

Additional measures on business and retail

March 9

Social gathering guidelines eased

March 27

Increased restrictions for Regina

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory province-wide indoors

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open at 50% capacity (4 per table)
 - Alcohol consumption ends by 11pm

 **Places of worship**
 - Limited to 30 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Suspended all sports activities, including games and practices, in all amateur and recreational leagues for all age groups

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open - group aerobic classes limited to 8 people

 **Business and retail**
 - 50% capacity stores and personal services

 **Public places/venues**
 - Casinos and bingo halls closed
 - Event/facilities venues limit to 30 individuals

 **Social gatherings**
 - 10 people outdoors
 - Household only indoors

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory province-wide indoors

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open at 50% capacity (4 per table)
 - Alcohol consumption ends by 11pm

 **Places of worship**
 - Limited to 30 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Suspended all sports activities, including games and practices, in all amateur and recreational leagues for all age groups

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open - group aerobic classes limited to 8 people

 **Business and retail**
 - 50% capacity stores and personal services
 - 25% capacity at large retail locations greater than 20,000 sq feet

 **Public places/venues**
 - Casinos and bingo halls closed
 - Event/facilities venues limit to 30 individuals

 **Social gatherings**
 - 10 people outdoors
 - Household only indoors

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory province-wide indoors

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open at 50% capacity (4 per table)
 - Alcohol consumption ends by 11pm

 **Places of worship**
 - Limited to 30 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Suspended all sports activities, including games and practices, in all amateur and recreational leagues for all age groups


 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open - group aerobic classes are limited to 8 people


 **Business and retail**
 - 50% capacity stores and personal services
 - 25% capacity at large retail locations greater than 20,000 sq feet


 **Public places/venues**
 - Casinos and bingo halls closed
 - Event/facilities venues limit to 30


 **Social gatherings**
 - Households permitted to create bubble of 2 to 3 households up to 10 people

Additional Restrictions for City of Regina and surrounding areas

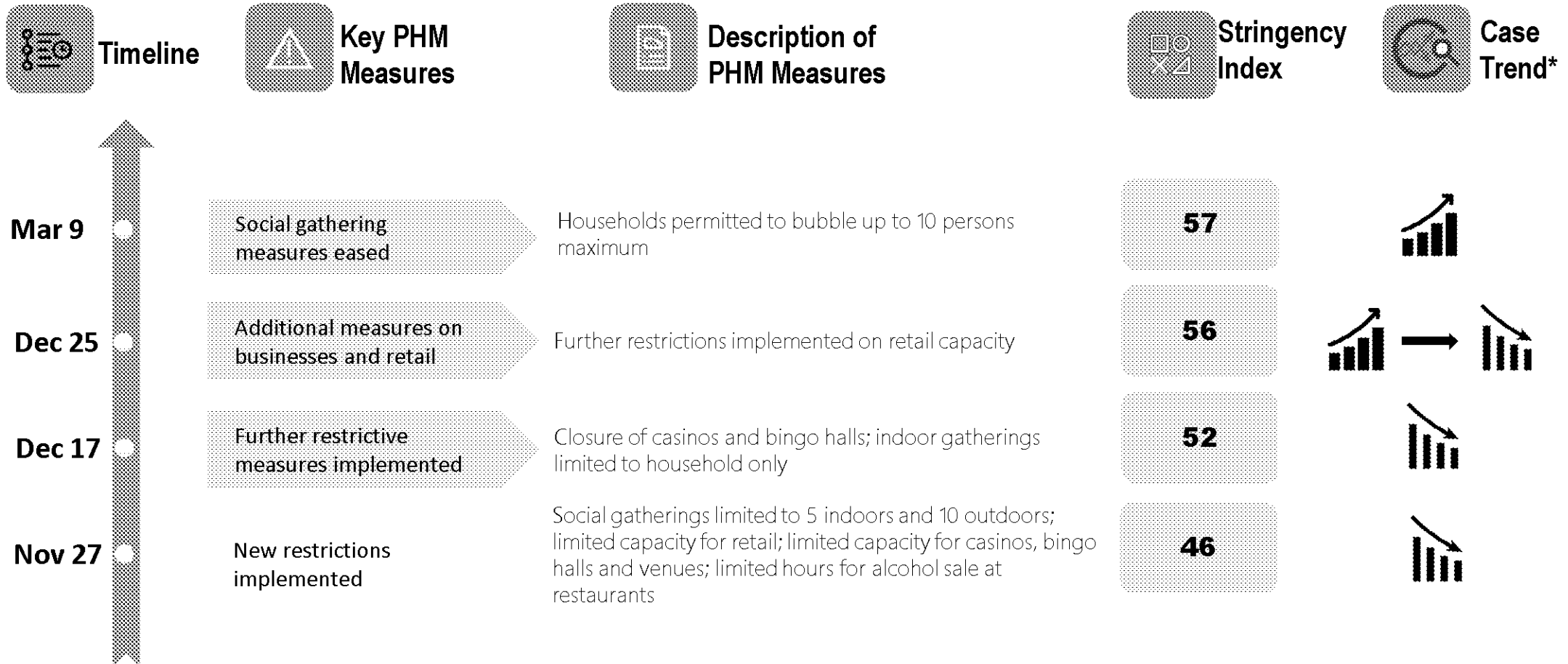
 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Indoor dining closed

 **Business and retail**
 - 50% capacity stores and personal services
 - 25% capacity at large retail locations greater than 20,000 sq feet

 **Public places/venues**
 - Event/facilities venues closed

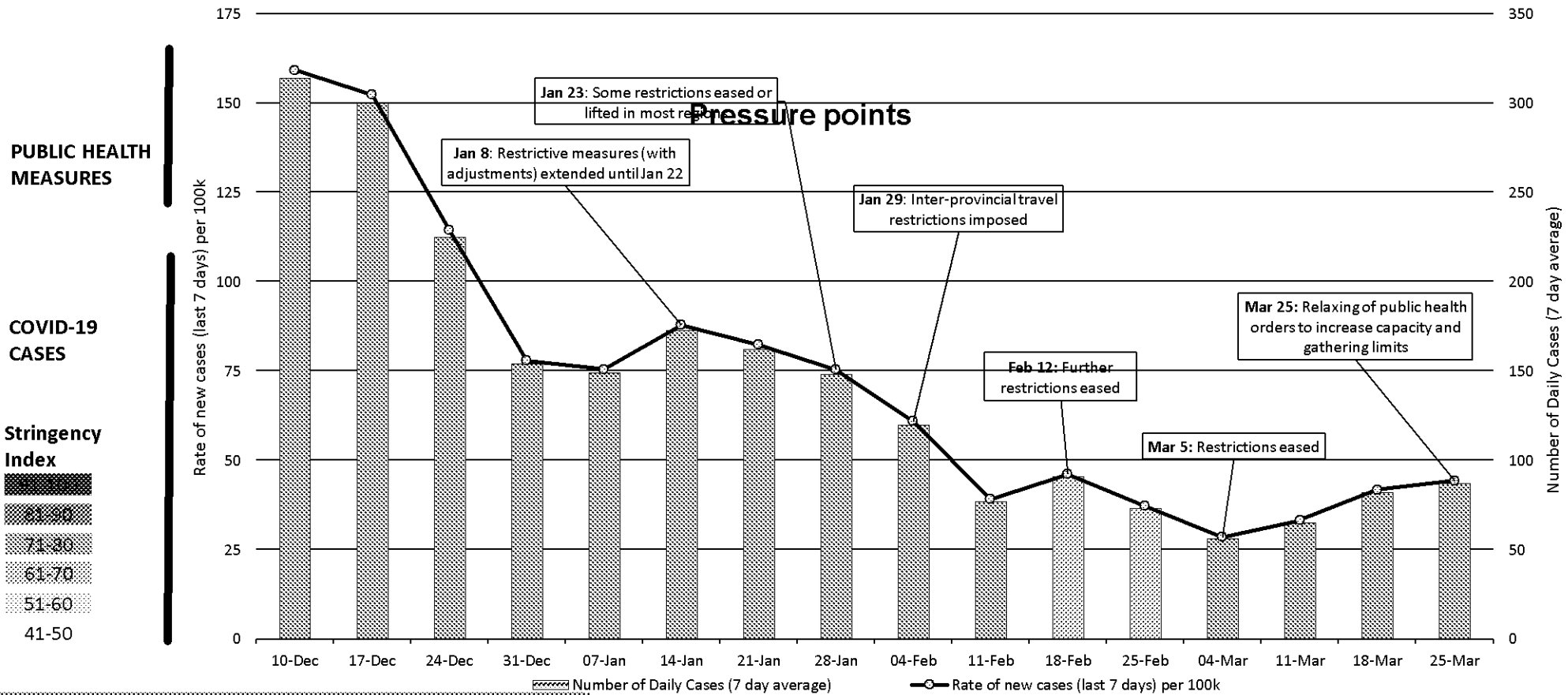
 **Social gatherings**
 - Indoor gatherings limited to household

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



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Manitoba - Weekly Trends in Cases




Key Observations


- Despite increasing cases in the past 2 weeks, further relaxing of some public health orders were announced March 25. However, the province remains in 'Code Red' and approximately 30% of new cases in Manitoba are now attributable to variants of concern.
- Following a sustained reduction of cases in January and February, further easing of restrictions on March 5 allowed indoor recreation facilities to operate, forming of 2-household bubbles, and outdoor gathering sizes doubled to 10. Initially cases declined as restrictions were eased but since March 5 they have increased steadily in recent weeks, likely due to outbreaks in Northern Manitoba associated with new variants.


B - Manitoba - Timelines and Public Health Measures

Jan 23

Some restrictions eased or lifted in most regions for 3 weeks

 **Places of worship**
 - Funerals permitted up to 10 people

 **Business and retail**
 - All stores permitted to open at 25% capacity
 - Hair salons can open

 **Social gatherings**
 - 2 people allowed per household visits
 - Outdoor visits permitted up to 5 people

Feb 12

Restrictions easing lasting 3 weeks

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Reopen at 25% capacity

 **Places of worship**
 - regular services not to exceed 10% capacity or 50 people
 - Weddings allowed up to 10 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Outdoor sports facilities open

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Reopen at 25% capacity

 **Business and retail**
 - Personal service businesses to reopen at 25% capacity

 **Public places/venues**
 - museums, art galleries and libraries open at 25% capacity

 **Social gatherings**
 - 2 people allowed per household visits
 - Outdoor visits permitted up to 5 people

Mar 5

Further easing of restrictions

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Restaurants at 50% capacity

 **Places of worship**
 - Reopen at 25% capacity up to 100 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Indoor sports facilities to operate at 25% capacity
 - Outdoor sports facilities open

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Group fitness to resume at 25% capacity

 **Business and retail**
 - Can operate at 50% of capacity including personal services and malls

 **Public places/venues**
 - museums, art galleries and libraries open at 25% capacity

 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gathering limit increased to 10
 - Bubble can be formed with another household

Mar 25

Further easing of restrictions

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Restaurants at 50% capacity

 **Places of worship**
 - Reopen at 25% capacity up to 100 people; people can leave cars for drive-in service

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Indoor sports facilities to operate at 25% capacity
 - Outdoor sports facilities open

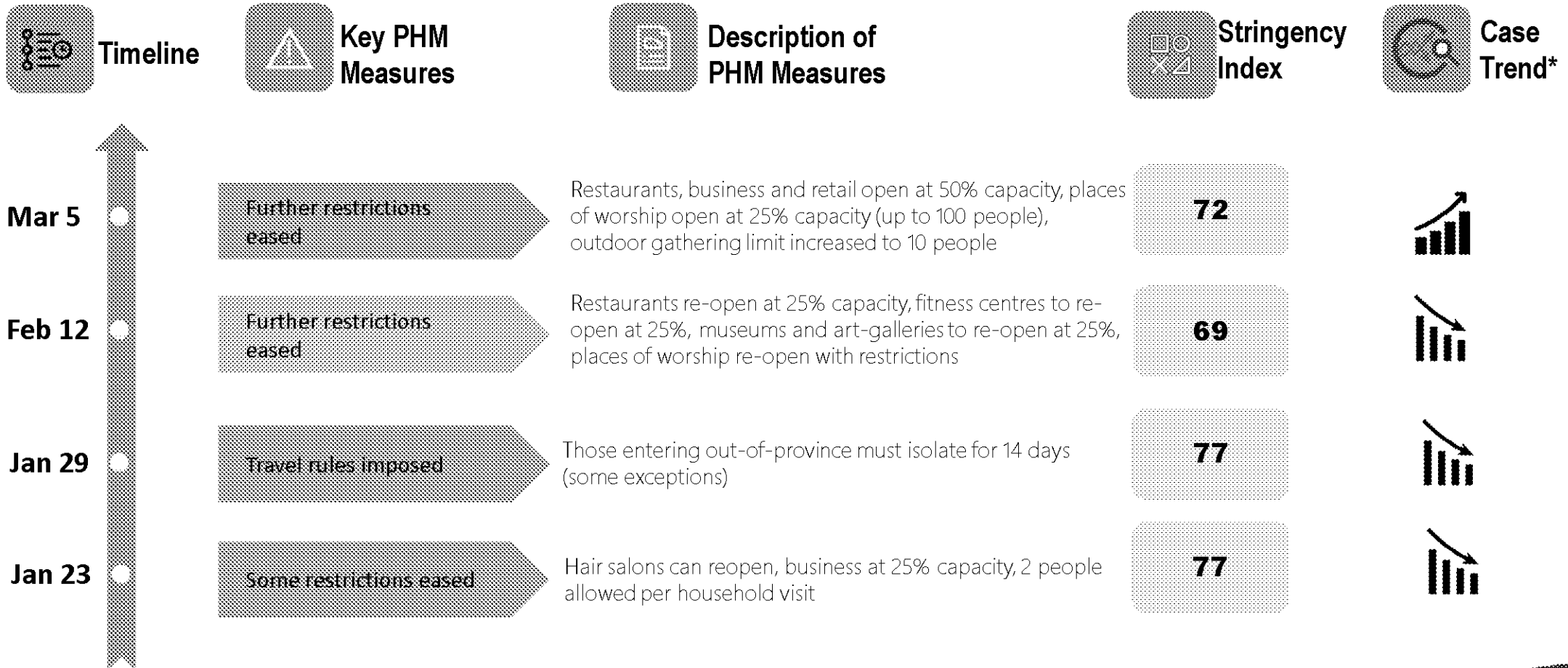
 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Group fitness to resume at 25% capacity

 **Business and retail**
 - Can operate at the lower of 50% of capacity or 500 people including personal services and malls

 **Public places/venues**
 - museums, art galleries and libraries open at 25% capacity

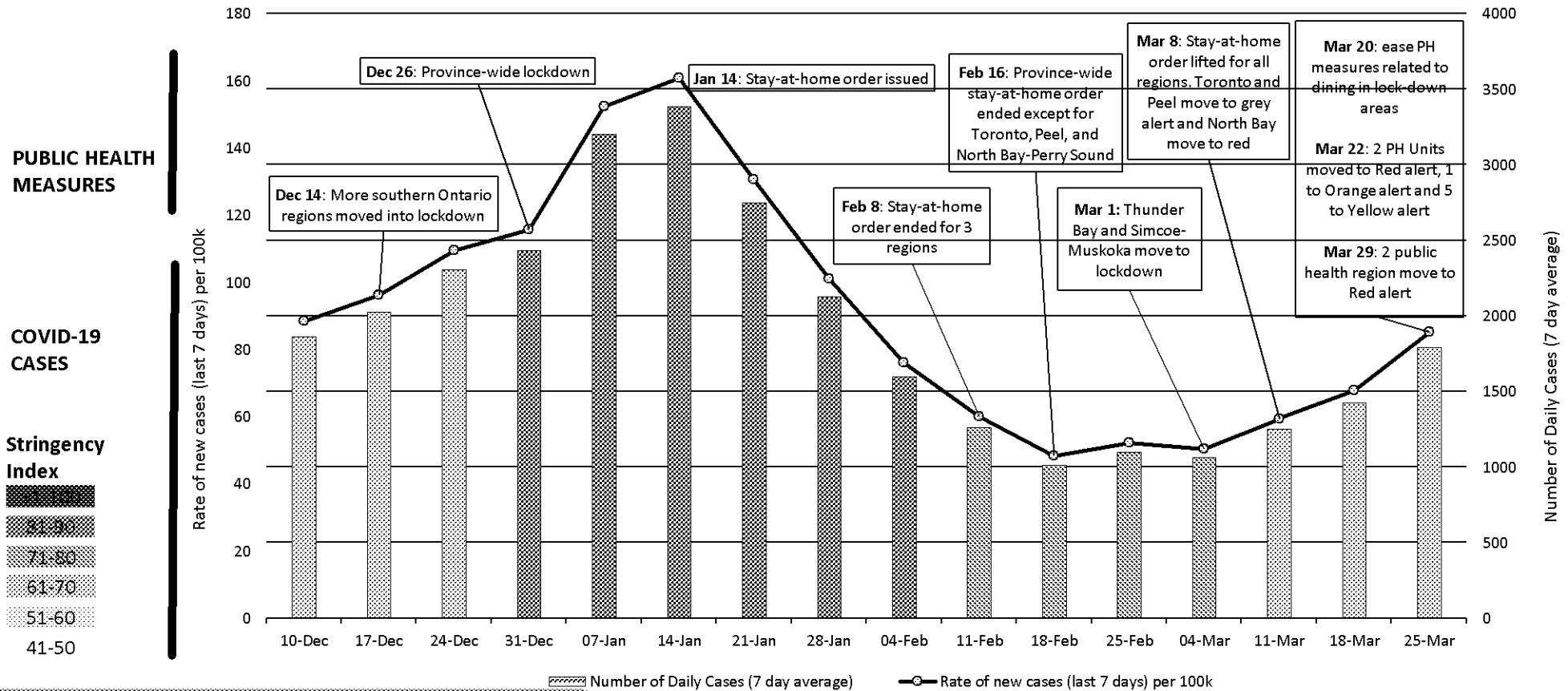
 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gathering limit increased to 25
 - Bubble can be formed with another household

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



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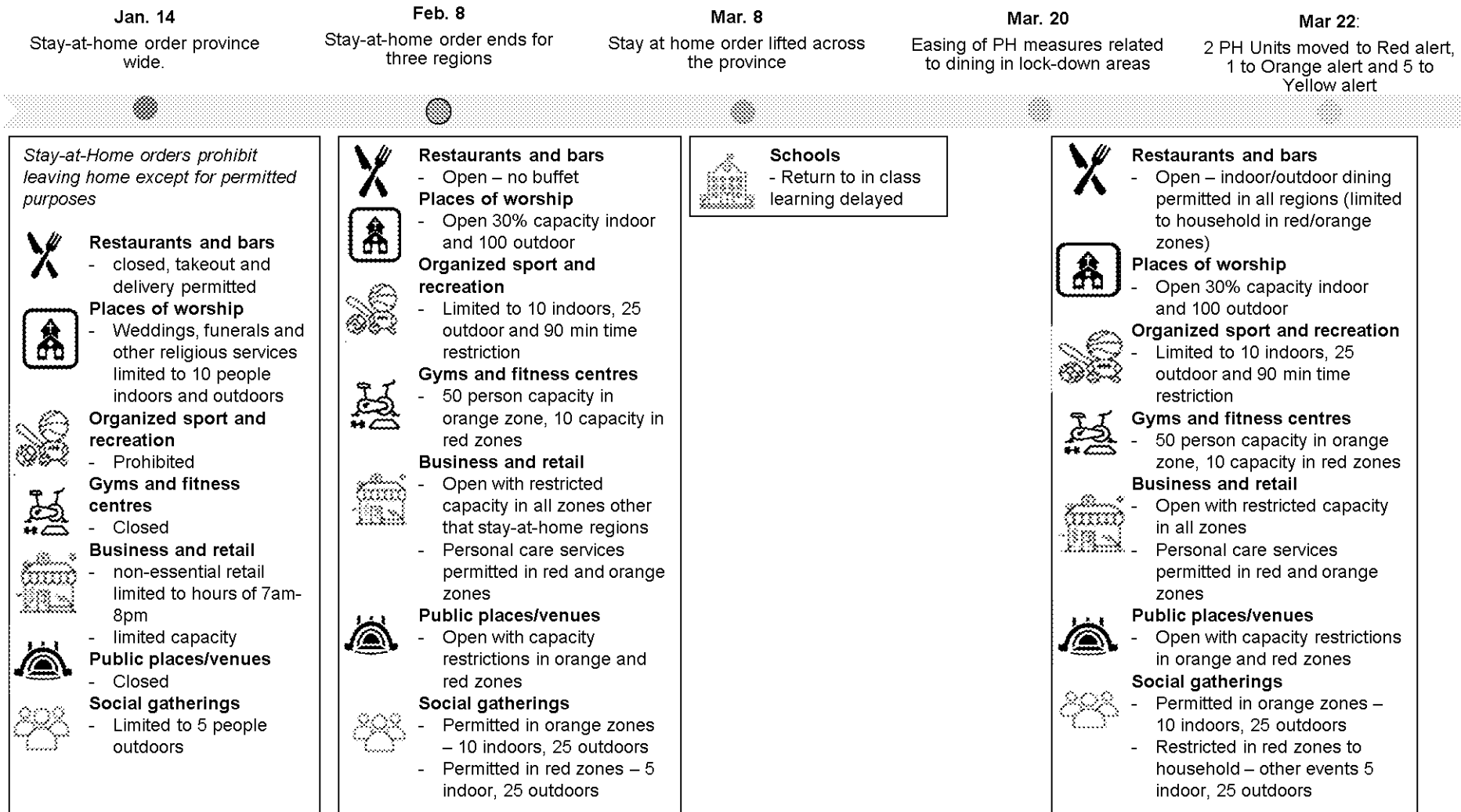
A - Ontario - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- ON is officially experiencing a third wave at a time when some restrictions seem to be relaxing. Adaptation of public health measures on a regional basis is the current approach. Cases are continuing to rise and hospital pressures are reflected in some transfers of ICU patients. Lifting of stay-at-home orders in Toronto and Peel regions since Mar 8, coupled with relaxing rules for indoor and outdoor dining have coincided with an increase in cases.
- Currently, 10% of all known active cases involve primary and secondary students.
- VOCs account for more than 55% of new COVID-19 confirmed cases this week, an increase from 40% last week.

B - Ontario – Timeline and Public Health Measures



Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases

Timeline	Key PHM Measures	Description of PHM Measures	Stringency Index	Case Trend*
Mar 22	Relaxation of orange and red rules for some regions	8 PH regions with changes: 5 to Yellow alert from red, 2 moved to Red alert, 1 to Orange alert.	68	
Mar 20	Dining rules eased for some regions	Raised indoor dining limits with conditions: outdoor dining allowed in lockdown, with household members and indoor dining limited to household members in red/orange	68	
Mar 8	Stay at Home Orders lifted for all regions	Stay-at-home order lifted for all regions. Toronto and Peel move to grey alert (lockdown) and North Bay move to red	72	
Feb 16	Stay at home orders ended for most regions	Province-wide stay-at-home order ended except for Toronto, Peel, and North Bay-Perry Sound	75	
Jan 14	Stay at Home Order province wide	Stay-at-Home Order province wide prohibits leaving home unless necessary for a permitted purpose	83	

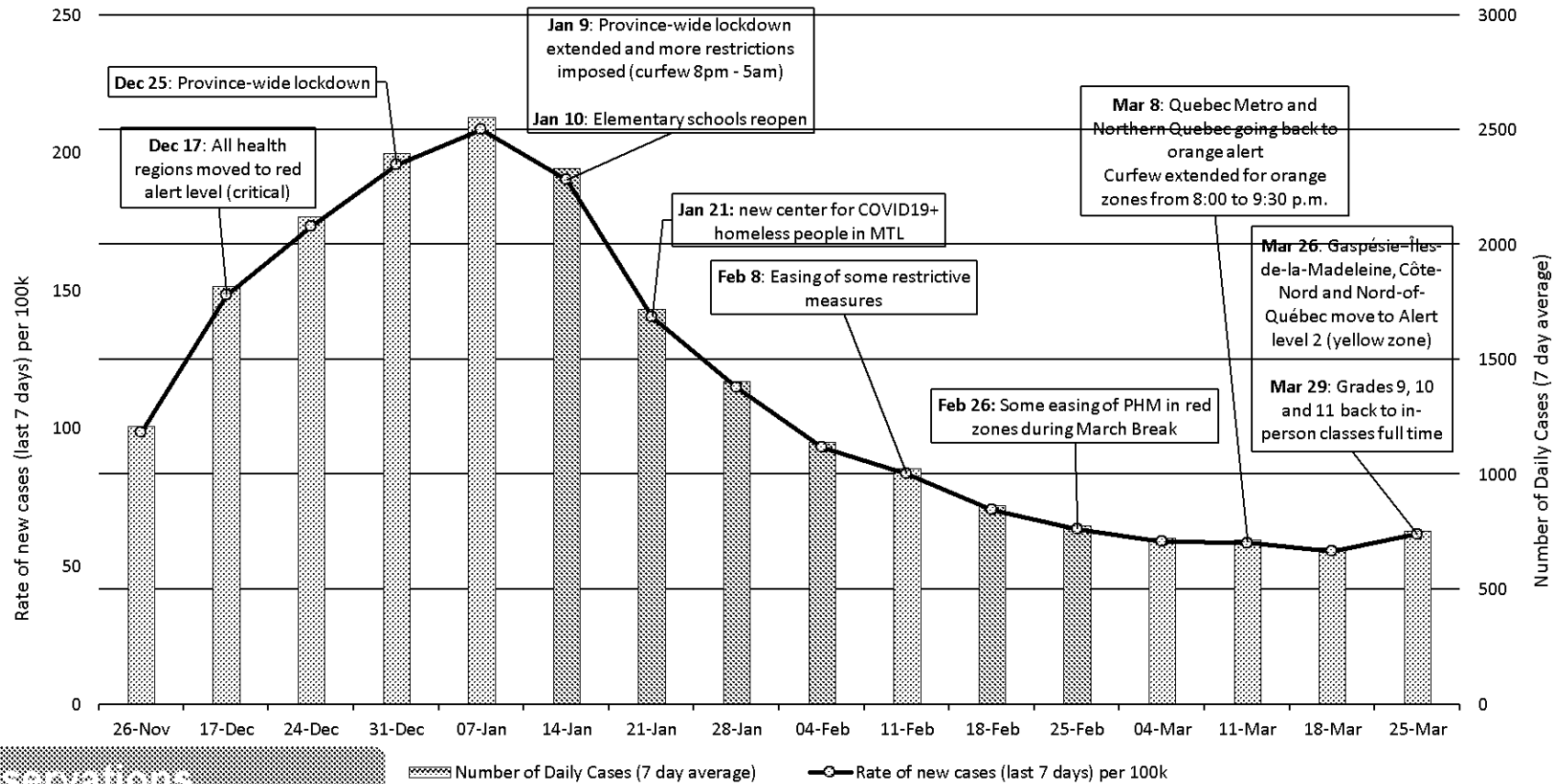
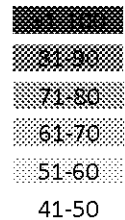
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A - Quebec - Weekly Trends in Cases

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

COVID-19 CASES

Stringency Index



Key Observations

- Following a re-introduction of more restrictive PHM with province-wide lockdowns on Jan 9, cases began to decline the week of Jan 14. Stricter measures followed including overnight curfews for all regions, further declining cases through January and February. Measures began to ease in anticipation of March Break, on March 8 QC allowed opening of theaters and easing of other recreational activities. New daily case counts have plateaued between the weeks of 4-18 March, with cases beginning to increase the week of 25 March, notably driven by a sudden rise in VOCs, particularly in the MTL area.
- The number of VOCs in the province increased by 30% on 26 March from the previous week.
- Although the trend of daily cases is beginning to increase, the health system does not yet show significant signs of stress. Vaccination of people aged 60+ is well underway.

B - Québec - Timeline and Public Health Measures







<p>Dec 17</p> <p>Strict measures extended for all regions in red alert level</p>	<p>Jan 9</p> <p>Extension of current measures and new restrictions until Feb 8, including curfew</p>	<p>Feb 8</p> <p>Easing of measures. Minimal changes in red zones</p>	<p>Feb 26</p> <p>Relaxing restrictions in red zones for March Break</p>	<p>Mar 8</p> <p>Quebec Metro and Northern Quebec going back to orange alert</p>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>Rural areas in Northern QC move to Alert level 2 (yellow zone). Relaxing measures all zones</p>
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-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining
-  **Places of worship**
 - Closed, funerals postponed/limited to 10 people
-  **Organized sport and recreation**
 - indoor sports activities prohibited
 - Outdoor activities limited to bubble
 - Ski resorts open without evening skiing
-  **Business and retail**
 - All businesses must close by 7:30pm
-  **Public places/venues**
 - Closed
-  **Social gatherings**
 - No bubble exceptions for singles
 - Curfew between 8pm and 5am
- Schools**
 - In person school delayed with elementary returning Jan 11 and high school a week after

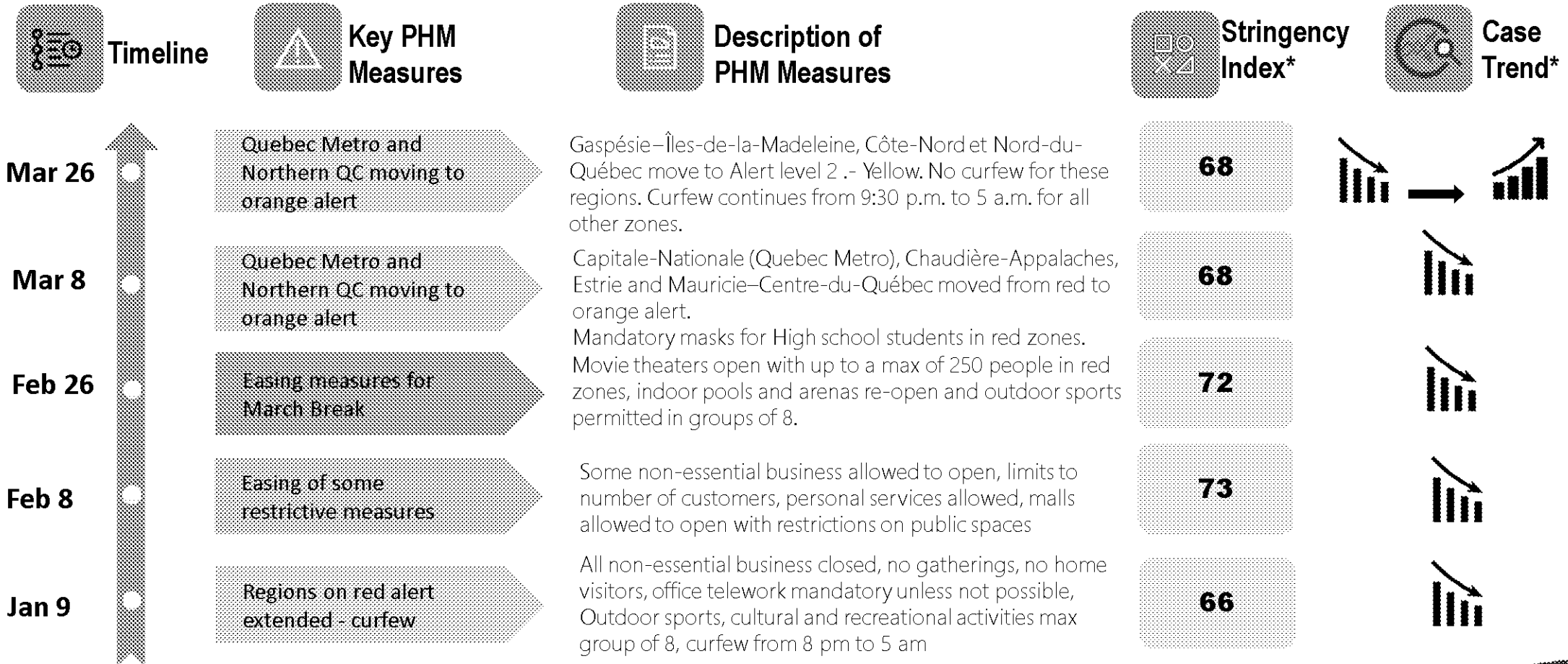
-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open to 2 adults in orange zones
-  **Places of worship**
 - Open up to 25 people in orange zones
-  **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open for 1-2 people or family in orange zones
-  **Business and retail**
 - Nonessential businesses permitted to open
-  **Public places/venues**
 - Museums and libraries open in orange zones

-  **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Permitted outdoors up to 8 people in orange zones
-  **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Pools and arenas allowed to partially reopen in red zones
-  **Public places/venues**
 - Movie theatres open in red zones (max 250 people)
-  **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor activities permitted in red zone

Curfew orange and red: 9:30 p.m. - 5:00 a.m.

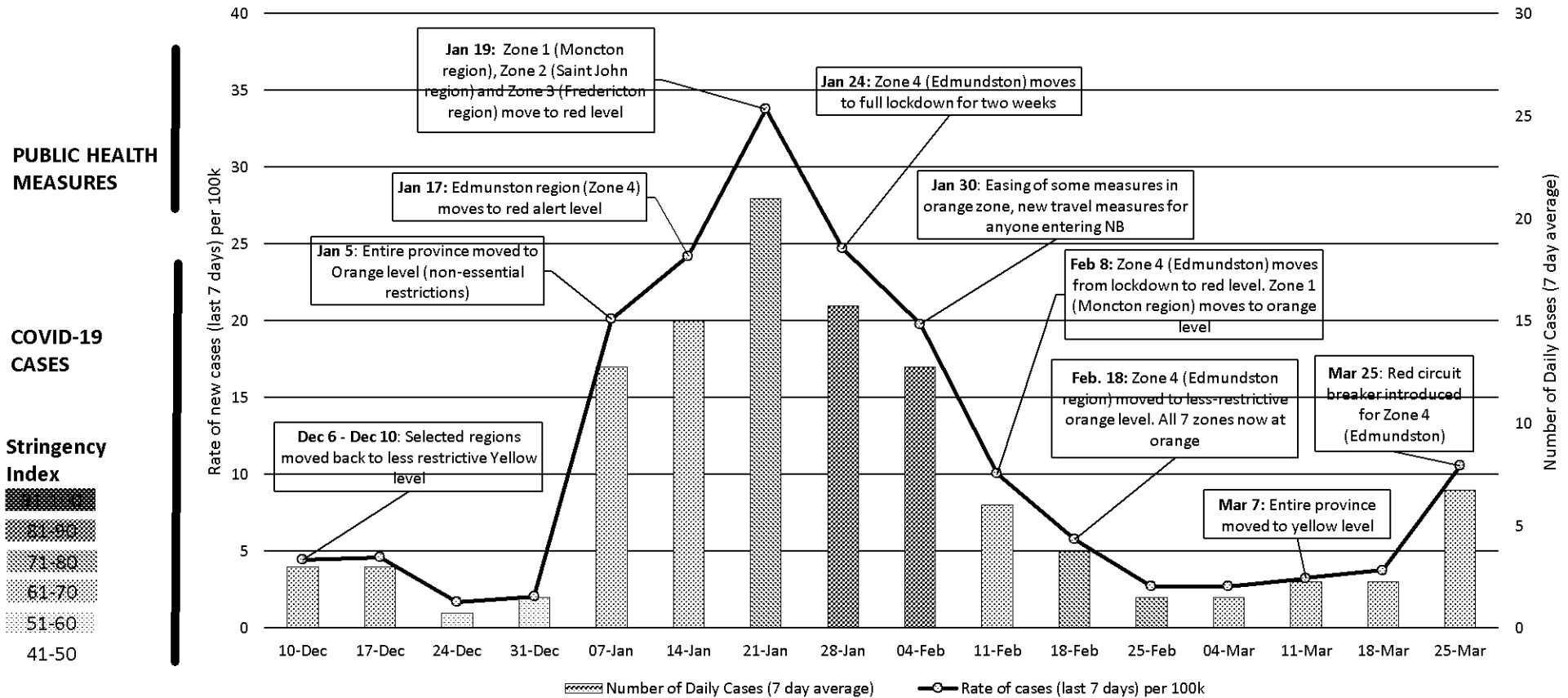
-  **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining in red, open to 2 p/table in orange
 - Bars closed in red and orange
 - Open in yellow
-  **Places of worship**
 - Open for up to 250 p. all zones
 - Funerals/weddings limited to 25 people in red/50 in orange zones
-  **Organized sport and recreation**
 - indoor sports activities prohibited
 - Outdoor activities limited to bubble
 - Ski resorts open without evening skiing
-  **Business and retail**
 - All businesses must close by 7:30pm
-  **Public places/venues**
 - Closed
-  **Social gatherings**
 - No bubble exceptions for singles
 - Curfew between 8pm and 5am
- Schools**
 - In person elementary
 - Alternating online/in person high school

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.

A - New Brunswick - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- NB has managed its outbreaks through quick regional moves to higher levels of alert and short and timely circuit breakers
- The first large outbreak in the Edmundston region was declared on Dec 10th, moving the entire region to orange due to increasing case numbers and an outbreak in a LTC facility. Edmundston subsequently moved to full lock down on Jan 23rd, even as cases in the province began to decline.
- Following a return to yellow alert on Mar 7, Zone 4 was placed on a “circuit-breaker” red alert on Mar 25 for at least 4 days following an outbreak in schools related to the UK variant that is driving the most recent increase in cases.

B - New Brunswick - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Jan 24

Zone 4 moves to full lock down for a minimum of 14 days while the rest stays in orange

Feb 8

Easing of measures in Zone 4 back to red zone from full lockdown and Zone 1 to orange; Minimal changes in red zones

Feb 19

Entire province moves to orange alert until March 8

Mar 7

Entire province moved back to yellow level

Mar 26

Zone 4 (Edmundston) moves to circuit-breaker red alert for 4 days



Restaurants and bars

- Only dine with household members and/or 10 steady contacts



Places of worship

- Open up to 25 people in orange zones



Gyms and fitness centres

- Open under PH operational plan



Business and retail

- Nonessential businesses permitted to open with a plan



Public places/venues

- Museums and libraries open in orange zones



Social gatherings

- Household bubble expanded to 10 steady contacts from outside household
- Outdoor gatherings with physical distancing of 50 people



Restaurants and bars

- Closed to in-person dining



Places of worship

- Closed, funerals limited to single-household bubble



Organized sport and recreation

- All sports activities closed



Business and Retail

- Non-essential business closed



Public places/venues

- Closed
- Virtual work when possible



Social gatherings

- No bubble exceptions for singles
- No formal or informal gatherings indoor or outdoors



Inter-jurisdictional travel

- No unnecessary travel allowed in and out of lockdown zones.



Schools

- In person school closed in lockdown zone



Restaurants and bars

- Only drive-through, pick-up and delivery in red zones
- Open to 2 adults in orange zones



Places of worship

- Outdoor (drive in) only in red zones



Gyms and fitness centres

- Open up to 25 people in orange zones



Gyms and fitness centres

- Closed in red zones
- Open for 1-2 people or family in orange zones



Business and retail

- Nonessential businesses permitted to open with a plan



Public places/venues

- Closed in red zones
- Museums and libraries open in orange zones



Restaurants and bars

- Open following PH Measures
- Closed for red zones



Places of worship

- Open up to 50 people with physical distancing
- Closed for red zones



Gyms and fitness centres

- Open under PH operational plan
- Closed for red zones



Business and retail

- Open with operational plan – keep records for seated venues
- Non-essential Closed for red zones



Public places/venues

- Museums and libraries open with restrictions
- Closed for red zones



Social gatherings

- Household bubble expanded to 15 steady contacts from outside household
- Outdoor gatherings with physical distancing of 50 people
- No bubble exceptions for singles, no formal or informal gatherings for red zones

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases

Timeline	Key PHM Measures	Description of PHM Measures	Stringency Index	Case Trend*
Mar 25	Entire province moves to yellow alert	Red circuit breaker introduced for Zone 4 (Edmundston) for at least 4 days following a spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases related to the UK variant.	68	
Mar 7	Entire province moves to yellow alert	All zones moved back to yellow alert following a sustained decline in confirmed COVID-19 cases	68	
Feb 19	Entire province moves to orange alert until March 8	Some non-essential business allowed to open, limits to number of customers, personal services allowed, malls allowed to open with restrictions on public spaces	71	
Feb 8	Zone 4 back to red zone and Zone 1 to orange	Zone 4 moves to the Red level – single family bubble, K-12 schools can reopen with enhanced measures, Retail to open with an operational plan, gyms and entertainment venues closed.	84	
Jan 24	Zone 4 moves to full lock down	Following an increase in cases, Edmundson (Zone 4) moves to full lock down for a minimum of 14 days while the rest stays in orange. Primary and secondary schools move to virtual learning	74	

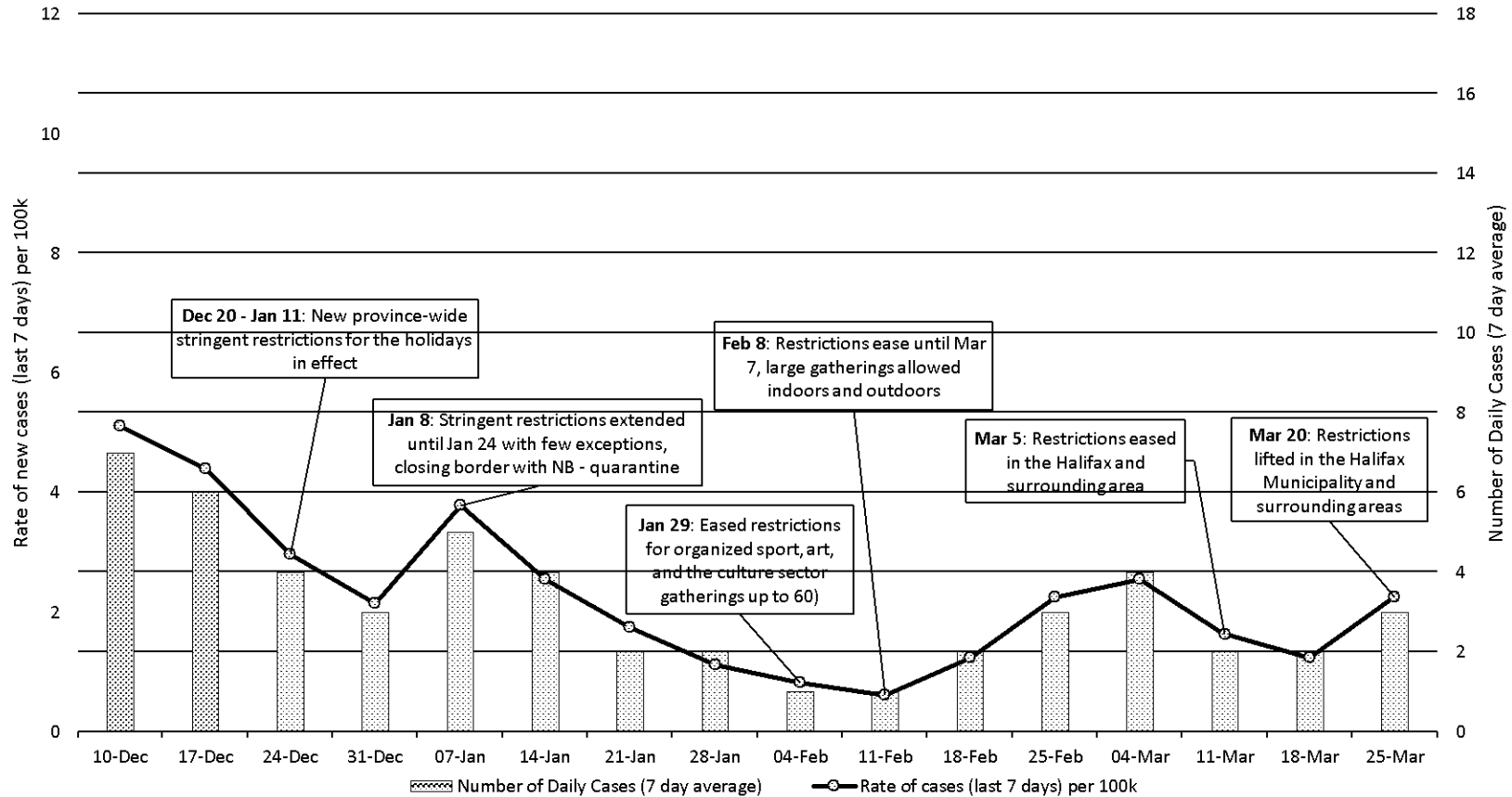
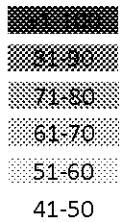
*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.

A - Nova Scotia - Weekly Trends in Cases

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

COVID-19 CASES

Stringency Index



Key Observations

- Despite cases gradually declining following an earlier lockdown, the province introduced more restrictive measures during Dec 21-Jan 11 to avoid a spike in cases during the holiday season. Cases continued to decline steadily.
- On Jan 8, the province announced tightening border controls for people coming from NB given the increased daily numbers in that province. NS was spared from a significant spike in numbers during the second wave as measures were extended until March 8.
- Border restrictions with New Brunswick were lifted on Mar 20, although residents were cautioned not to travel to Northern NB after a cluster of cases was identified and the region moved to red alert on 25 March. Daily cases in NS continue to stabilize and the vaccination campaign advances, albeit more slowly than in other provinces.

B - Nova Scotia - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Dec 20

New province-wide stringent restrictions for the holidays in effect until Jan 4

Jan 8

Stringent restrictions extended until Jan 24 with few exceptions, closing border with NB - quarantine

Feb 8

Entire province on yellow alert easing of PHM until March 5

Mar 5

Restrictions eased in Halifax and surrounding areas

Mar 20

Restrictions lifted in the Halifax and surrounding areas.



Restaurants and bars

- In dine only until 9 pm – must close by 10.
- Pick up and delivery permitted



Places of worship

- Max 150 people outdoors 50 per cent of an indoor venue's capacity, to a maximum of 100
- Weddings and funerals can have up to 10 people including officiants



Organized sport and recreation

- indoor sports activities prohibited
- Outdoor activities limited to bubble
- Ski resorts open without evening skiing



Business and retail

- Operating at 50% capacity



Public places/venues

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Social gatherings

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Restaurants and bars

- In dine only until 9 pm – must close by 10. Pick up and delivery allowed



Places of worship

- Max 150 people outdoors 50 per cent of an indoor venue's capacity, to a maximum of 100
- Weddings and funerals can have up to 10 people including officiants



Organized sport and recreation

- indoor sports activities prohibited
- Outdoor activities limited to bubble
- Ski resorts open without evening skiing



Business and retail

- Operating at 50% capacity



Public places/venues

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Social gatherings

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Schools

- Closed between 19 Dec to 10 Jan (Open to staff)



Restaurants and bars

- In dine only until 9 pm – must close by 10. Pick up and delivery allowed



Places of worship

- Max 150 people outdoors 50 per cent of an indoor venue's capacity, to a maximum of 100
- Weddings and funerals can have up to 10 people including officiants



Organized sport and recreation

- indoor sports activities prohibited
- Outdoor activities limited to bubble
- Ski resorts open without evening skiing



Business and retail

- Operating at 50% capacity



Public places/venues

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Social gatherings

- Up to 25 people without physical distance



Schools

- Open to in person classes



Restaurants and bars

- Open with restrictions until midnight



Places of worship

- Max 150 people outdoors 50 per cent of an indoor venue's capacity, to a maximum of 100
- Weddings and funerals can have up to 10 people including officiants



Organized sport and recreation

- Sports events not allowed Sports practices and training can have 60 people without physical distance



Business and Retail

- Operating at 75% capacity



Public places/venues

- Social gatherings, special events and festivals hosted by a recognized business allowed
- 150 people outdoors and 50 percent of capacity to a maximum of 100 people indoors.



Social gatherings

- A bubble with 10 people plus 10 add allowed
- Outdoor gathering limit with social distancing of up to 150 max



Schools

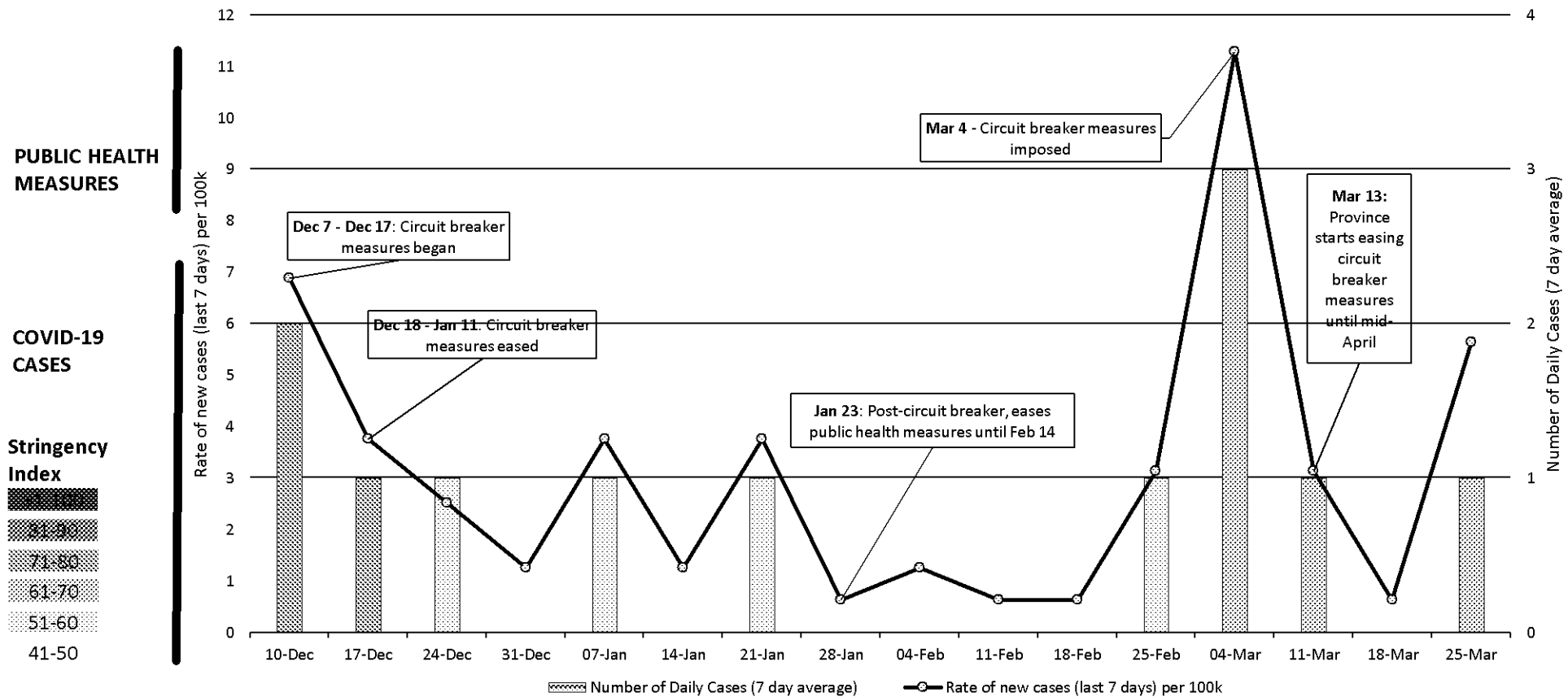
- In person classes

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases

Timeline	Key PHM Measures	Description of PHM Measures	Stringency Index	Case Trend*
Mar 20	Restrictions eased in the Halifax and surrounding areas.	Restrictions eased in the Halifax Regional Municipality and surrounding areas. Some restrictions remain in the province as they still have cases with no known source of infection	51	
Mar 5	Restrictions eased in the Halifax and surrounding areas.	Restrictions eased in the Halifax Regional Municipality and surrounding areas. Some restrictions remain in the province as they still have cases with no known source of infection	57	
Feb 8	Easing of some restrictive measures	Restrictions ease until Mar 5, moving into yellow alert for the entire province - large gatherings allowed indoors and outdoors	51	
Jan 29	Eased restrictions for certain gatherings	Eased restrictions for organized sport, art, and the culture sector gatherings up to 60.	51	
Jan 8	Stringent restrictions extended until Jan 24	Stringent restrictions extended until Jan 24 as cases continue to decline, to avoid cross border infections from NB. Border restrictions with NB implemented.	55	

*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.

A - PEI - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- Case numbers have remained relatively low in PEI as the province remains very sensitive to case number changes. An increase in case numbers from a weekly average of 2 to 7 in early December triggered the introduction of circuit-breaking measures on Dec 7 which continued until Dec 18. Most new cases were identified as outside the province travel.
- The province continues to rely on aggressive case identification and isolation through targeted testing to manage the virus transmission
- Circuit breaker measures have continued at a cautious level until March, succeeding in maintaining daily case numbers under 4. Province remains at yellow (caution) level until mid-April.

B - PH - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Dec 7

Circuit breaker measures in place until Dec 18

Dec 18

Easing of PH measures and until Jan 24

Jan 23

Post Circuit Breaker Measures adopted until Feb 16

March 4

Circuit Breaker measures again until March 13

Mar 13

Province eases circuit breaker measures until mid-April

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining

 **Places of worship**
 - Service, funerals and weddings limited to 10 people (excl. staff)

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Max. 10 outdoor or indoor (excl. staff)

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Closed

 **Business and retail**
 - Operate at 50% capacity
 - Personal services open for appointments

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed

 **Social gatherings**
 - No personal gatherings.
 - Only two persons outside of their household

 **Schools**
 - In person school
 - High-school in Charlottetown move to virtual learning

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open to in-person dining until 11 pm

 **Places of Worship**
 - Service, funerals and weddings limited to 50 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Max. 50 outdoor or indoor


 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Operate at 50% capacity


 **Business and retail**
 - Operate at 50% capacity
 - Personal services open for appointments


 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed


 **Social gatherings**
 - Up to 10 people outside of household.
 - Up to 50 people in organized gatherings


 **Schools**
 - Schools closed for holidays
 - High-school continue on virtual learning


 **Restaurants and bars**
 - In-person dining until 12 am, max table of 10


 **Places of worship**
 - Service, funerals and weddings limited to 50 people (excl. staff)


 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Max. 50 outdoor or indoor following PH guidance

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - At capacity with physical distancing

 **Business and retail**
 - Operate at capacity providing physical distancing
 - Personal services open for appointments

 **Public places/venues**
 - Museums, libraries, Casinos at capacity with PD

 **Social gatherings**
 - Personal gatherings of up to 10 people outside household

 **Schools**
 - In person school K-12
 - High-school continue virtual learning

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - In-person dining until 10 pm, max table of 6/
 - 12 am max table 10 w/o CB

 **Places of worship**
 - Service, funerals and weddings limited to 50 people (excl. staff)
 - No wedding or funeral receptions

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Max. 50 people outdoor or indoor (excl. staff)

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - 50% operational capacity
 - At capacity with physical distancing w/o CB

 **Business and retail**
 - Operate at 50% capacity
 - Personal services open for appointments
 - Operate at capacity w/o CB

 **Public places/venues**
 - Museums, libraries, Casinos 50% capacity
 - At capacity w/o CB

 **Social gatherings**
 - Up to 6 persons outside of their household
 - Up to 10 w/o CB

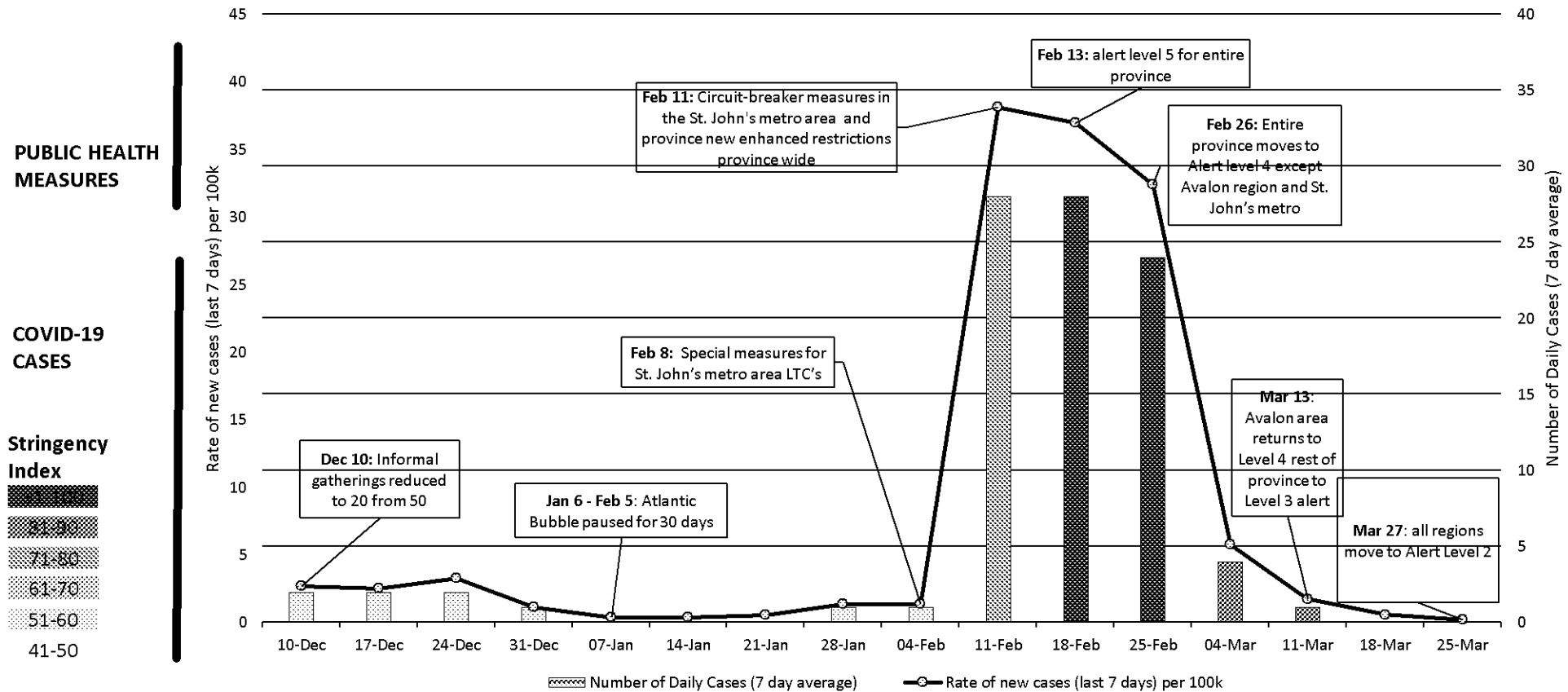
 **Schools**
 - In person school K-12
 - High-school continue virtual learning and in-person/online w/o CB

Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases

Timeline	Key PHM Measures	Description of PHM Measures	Stringency Index	Case Trend*
Mar 13	Circuit breaker measures lifted	Province eased back the circuit breaker measures due to steady decrease in cases. Remains at Yellow (Caution) level	68	
Mar 4	Back to circuit breaker measures until Mar 14	Following a brief 72 hours red alert following a cluster of cases, the province bounced back to caution circuit breaker measures, restricting business and retail capacity once again to 50% capacity and household bubbles to 10 individuals	67	
Jan 23	Post circuit breaker measures in place	Post circuit breaker measures allowed for business to operate at capacity as long as physical distance is respected and PH guidance followed.	58	
Jan 5	Circuit breaker ease extended	Measures from Dec 18 extended until Jan 22 given case numbers remain low in the province.	60	
Dec 18	Circuit breaker measures ease	As numbers remained stable, some circuit breaker measures began to ease, allowing for in-person dining with restrictions and larger social gatherings.	76	

*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.
 Note: Current restrictions imposed the week of March 4 not reflected in most recent Stringency Index download

A - Newfoundland and Labrador - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- NL had managed to avoid high case numbers until February 2021, when a massive school outbreak was identified in St. John's, involving over 185 cases at 22 schools. Further tests confirmed that the variant B.1.1.7 was detected in the St. John's outbreak. Enhanced measures were quickly escalated within a week's time to control the rapidly increasing numbers, going from enhanced measures in the St. John's area to protect LTC residents on Feb 8 to a full province-wide alert 5 (max) on Feb 13.
- On Feb 26, after the initial outbreaks had been contained and case number descended to pre-outbreak levels, the province scaled back to level 4 alert. This quick and aggressive action contributed to a return to less restrictive measures within 3 weeks.
- Following 2 weeks of sustained case stability, the entire province turned to less restrictive Alert level 2- Caution on March 27.

B - Newfoundland and Labrador - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Feb 11

Enhanced special order measures for St. John's metro area and extension of special measures to entire province

Feb 13

Entire province goes to level 5 (maxi) alert following confirmation of UK variant in St. John's outbreak

Feb 26

All areas outside of the Avalon region and Metro St. John's move back to level 4

Mar 27: all regions move to Alert Level 2

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining

 **Places of worship**
 - Services, funerals, weddings limited to 10 people
 - Wakes and receptions prohibited

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Indoor activities suspended
 - Outdoor activities are encouraged with physical distancing

 **Business and Retail**
 - Private clinics can remain open
 - Non-essential services closed
 - Pick up and delivery available

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed

 **Social gatherings**
 - Suspended

 **Schools**
 - Closed in the Avalon peninsula, moved to online learning

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining

 **Places of worship**
 - Services, funerals, weddings limited to 5 people
 - Wakes and receptions prohibited

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Indoor activities suspended
 - Outdoor activities are encouraged with physical distancing


 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Closed


 **Business and retail**
 - Private clinics closed except for urgent care
 - Non-essential services closed
 - Pick up and delivery available


 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed


 **Social gatherings**
 - Gatherings of more than 5 people suspended


 **Schools**
 - Closed


 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Closed to in-person dining


 **Places of worship**
 - Services, funerals, weddings limited to 10 people
 - Wakes and receptions prohibited


 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Indoor activities suspended
 - Outdoor activities are encouraged with physical distancing

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Closed

 **Business and Retail**
 - Private clinics can reopen according to guidelines
 - Retail reopen at 50% capacity
 - Personal services reopen according to guidance

 **Public places/venues**
 - Closed

 **Social gatherings**
 - Gatherings of more than 10 people suspended

 **Schools**
 - Reopened gradually for in-person classes

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open 50% capacity w/PD

 **Places of worship**
 - Up to 50 people

 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Team sports are allowed with return to sport plan
 - Tournaments not allowed

 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Permitted to open in accordance with guidelines

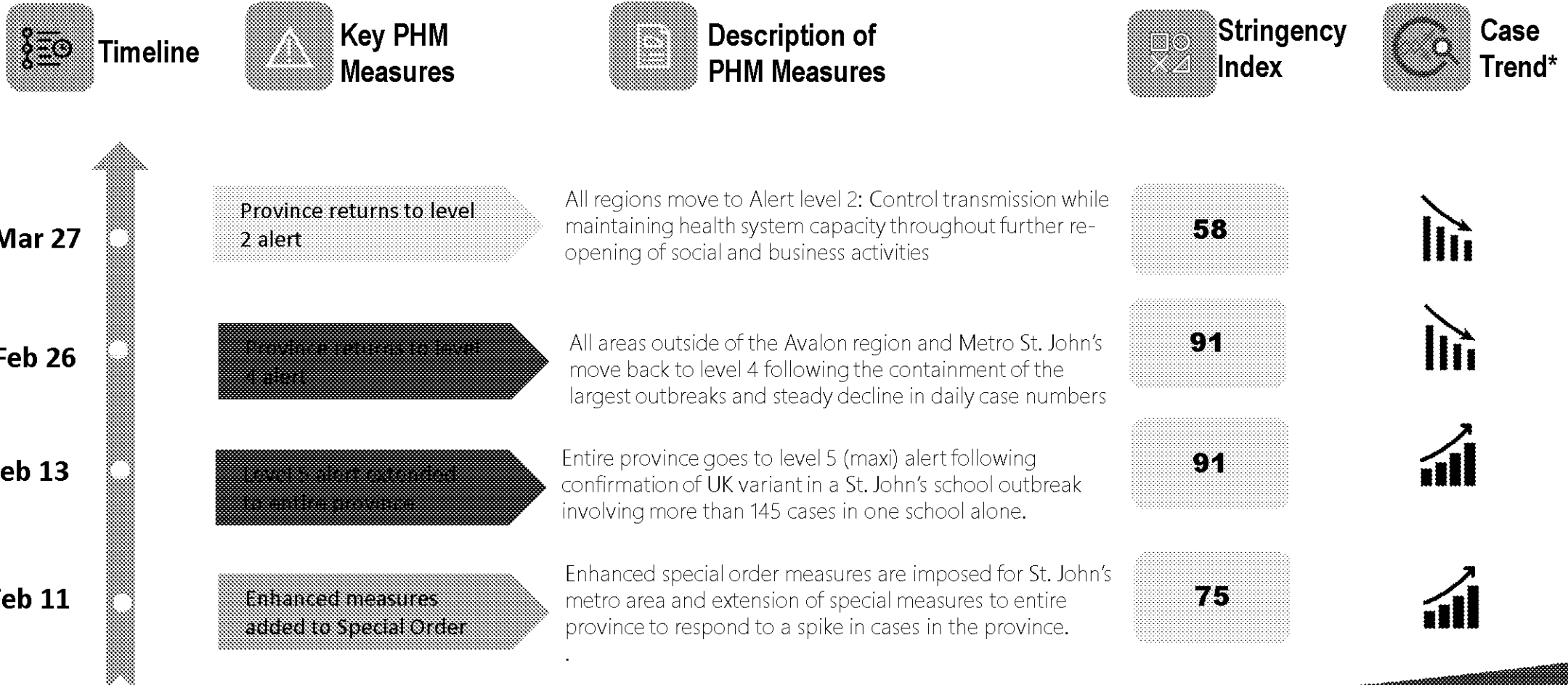
 **Business and Retail**
 - Open at reduced capacity to allow physical distance

 **Public places/venues**
 - 50 is the max. number of people allowed at formal gatherings

 **Social gatherings**
 - Gatherings of more than 20 people suspended

 **Schools**
 - In-person classes

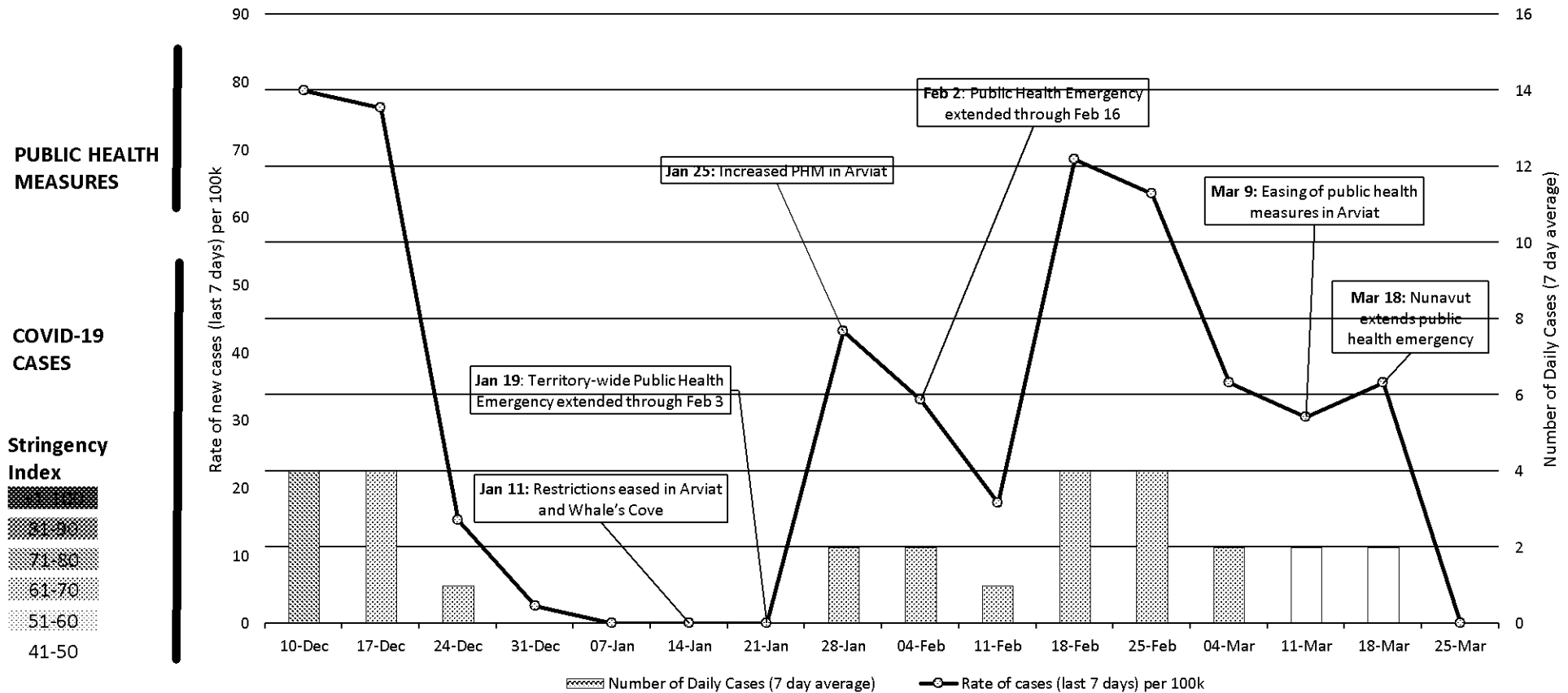
Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



*Case Trend icons are based on the general observed trend in Slide 1 in the 2-4 weeks after measures are implemented. In cases where there are less than 2-4 weeks between measures the Case Trend icons refer to the period between the two measures.



A - Nunavut - Weekly Trends in Cases



Key Observations

- Cases have continued to decline in Nunavut following the easing of public health measures in Arviat and as of March 26 there are no active cases in Nunavut. Furthermore, Nunavut has currently received enough vaccine to vaccinate 75% of the population and vaccinations under way for those 18 and over.
- The rate of new cases increased dramatically in Nov (not shown) and territory-wide restrictions were put in place. Lockdown was lifted in all regions except Arviat on Dec 2 as daily new cases declined. Cases began to rise again the week ending Jan 28 and increased public health measures were put in place in Arviat. Additionally the local Arviat government implemented a curfew Feb 24 (in effect until March 8). Easing of territorial restrictions began Mar 9 in Arviat and the local curfew was lifted Mar 8 and rates continued to decline.

B - Nunavut - Timeline and Public Health Measures

Jan 25

Increased public health measures in Arviat


Dec 2

Lockdown lifted for all regions but Arviat

Mar 9

Easing of restrictions in Arviat

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Strongly recommended

 **Restaurants and bars**
 - Open at 50% capacity, no more than 6 people/table in Kivalliq, Baffin and Kitikmeot regions


 **Places of worship**
 - Open to 50% capacity


 **Organized sport and recreation**
 - Open in Kivalliq, Baffin and Kitikmeot regions at 50% capacity or 50 people


 **Gyms and fitness centres**
 - Open to solo workouts only


 **Business and retail**
 - All personal service providers except hairdressers and barbers open in Whale Cove and Ranklin Inlet; all open in Kivalliq, Baffin and Kitikmeot regions


 **Public places/venues**
 - Libraries, galleries open but no tours/group gatherings more than 10 people


 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gatherings restricted to 50 people
 - Indoor gatherings restricted to household plus 10 people (Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet regions)
 - Indoor gatherings restricted to 50 or 50% capacity (Kivalliq, Baffin and Kitikmeot regions)


 **Social gatherings**
 - No outdoor or indoor public gatherings in Arviat; visitors to homes restricted to 5 people plus occupants for emergencies


 **Inter-jurisdictional travel**
 - Air and land travel to/from Arviat is restricted

 **Schools**
 - Closed in Arviat

 **Non-medical mask use**
 - Mandatory for everyone when outside of their home

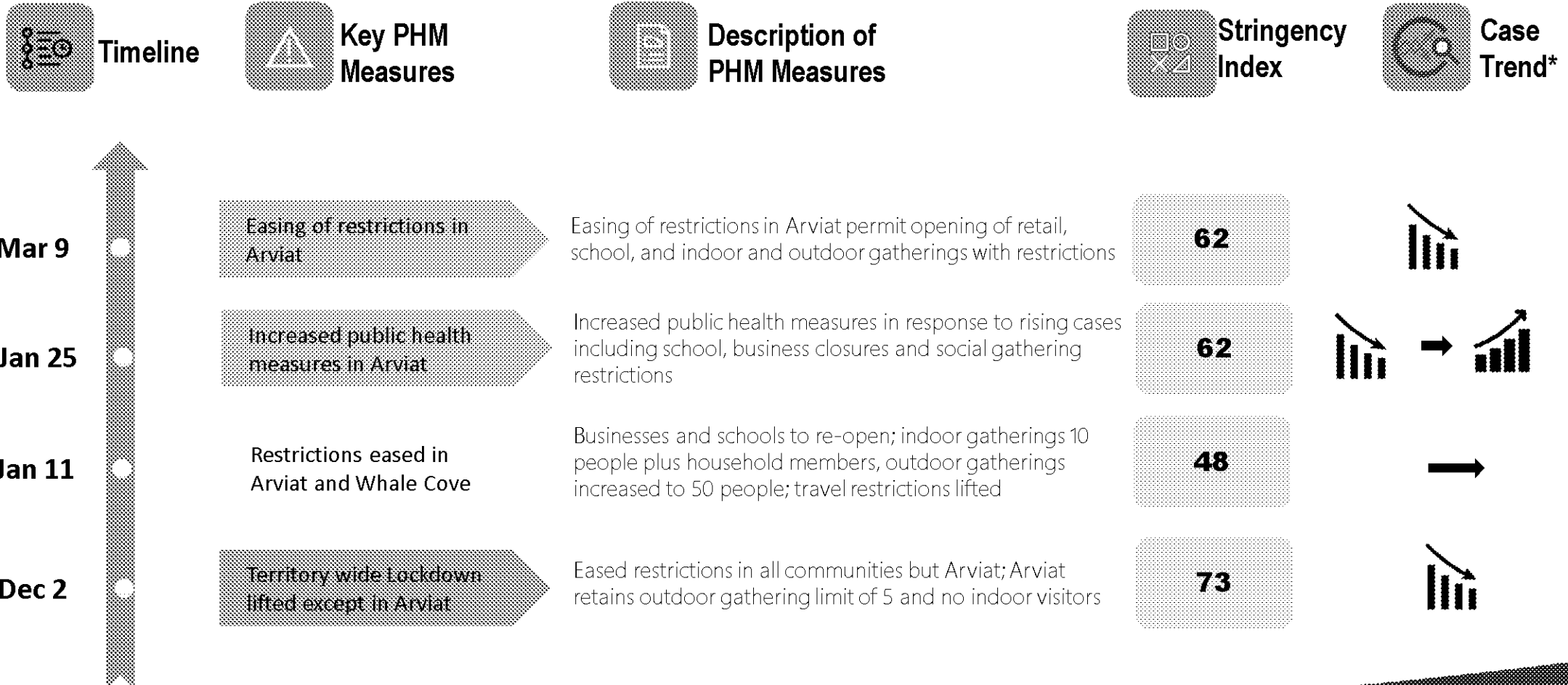
 **Business and retail**
 - Permitted to open

 **Social gatherings**
 - Outdoor gatherings allowed up to 25 people
 - Indoor gatherings restricted to five people, plus those residing in the home

 **Schools**
 - Open at stage 3 of Opening Plan for Nunavut schools



Assessing the impacts of PHM on Covid-19 Cases



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Sources and Notes

- Epidemiological Data
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/epidemiological-economic-research-data.html>
 - Data downloaded Fridays
- Oxford Stringency Index
 - <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/coronavirus-government-response-tracker>,
 - In some cases the Stringency Index for more recent dates is not available, in those situations the most recent value is used as an estimate
 - Methodology: <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md>
- Provincial and Territorial Restrictions
 - Various sources including PT websites