

First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly report 56

Key messages:

- There were **134 new positive results** among First Nations people over the past week ending May 9, 2021. This is **a decrease** from the total of 151 last week. The number of positive results among First Nations to date is 3,691.
- There were only small increases (5% or less) in new results in all areas except Northeast which had a 16% increase in new positive results.
- Test volume held steady this week for First Nations. However, test volume **continues to decrease** in Ontario. **Decreases in positive results in Ontario should be interpreted in this light.**
- The cumulative positivity rate is increasing slowly in Ontario and in First Nations.
- The rates of hospitalizations and deaths **may have increased only very slightly** this week. This change is very possibly within normal variation.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Testing in Registered First Nations People in Ontario**

WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (covering tests completed May 3, 2021 to May 9, 2021)

N=802 Number newly tested for COVID-19
N=134 Number newly tested positive for COVID-19

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to May 9, 2021)

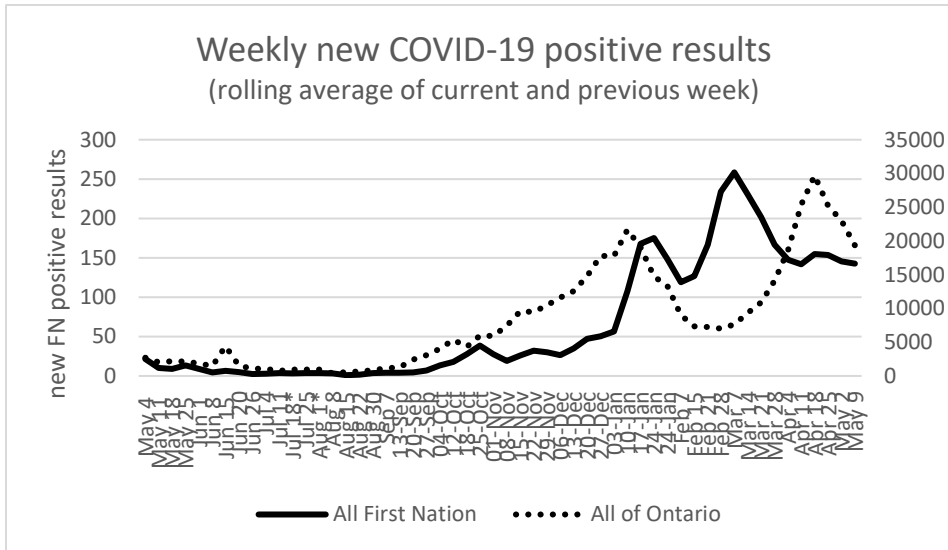
N=60,862 Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19
N=3,691 Number positive for COVID-19

Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
North West	18,793 (48.8%)	1,121 (6.0%)	38,505
North East	12,859 (37.0%)	270 (2.1%)	34,708
Southwest	15,048 (36.8%)	1,466 (9.7%)	40,893
Southeast	7,734 (35.6%)	413 (5.3%)	21,735
Central	6,313 (41.7%)	412 (6.5%)	15,136

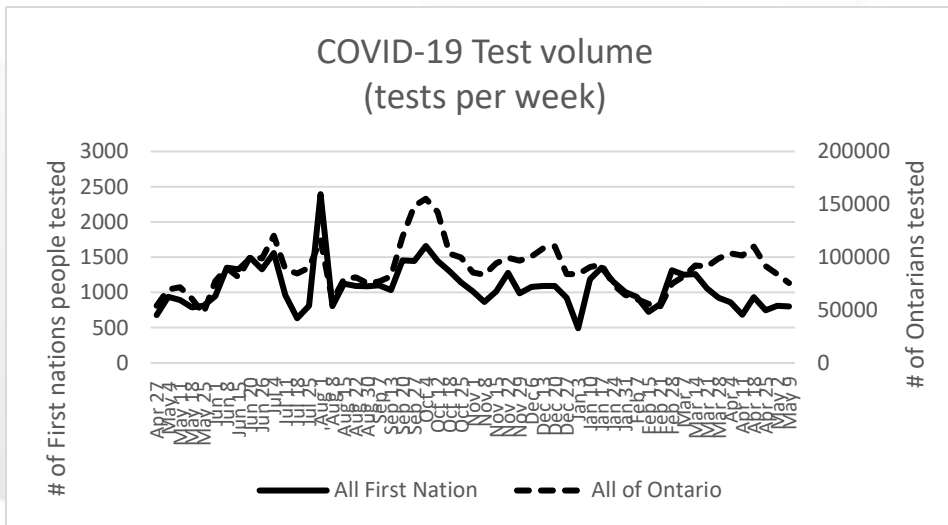
* suppressed for privacy. ** 151,575 Registered First Nations people in Ontario with a health card; *** based on the residence on the Health Card files.

Databases reflected in this report: As of July 18, 2020, the data sources for this report have expanded beyond the original Ontario Laboratory Information System to include data from the Public Health Information System (IPHIS), Distributed Labs (DL), and Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) databases. The sources are the same for First Nations and Ontario statistics.

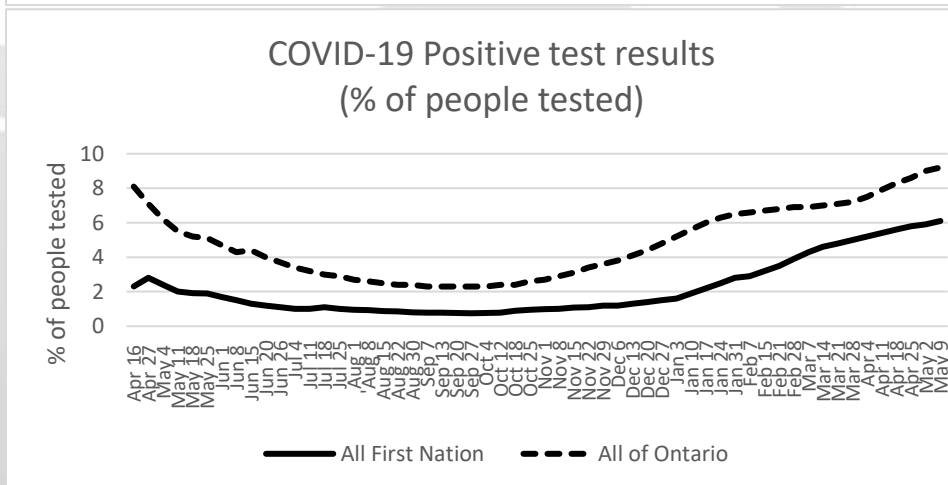
COVID-19 Test results over time



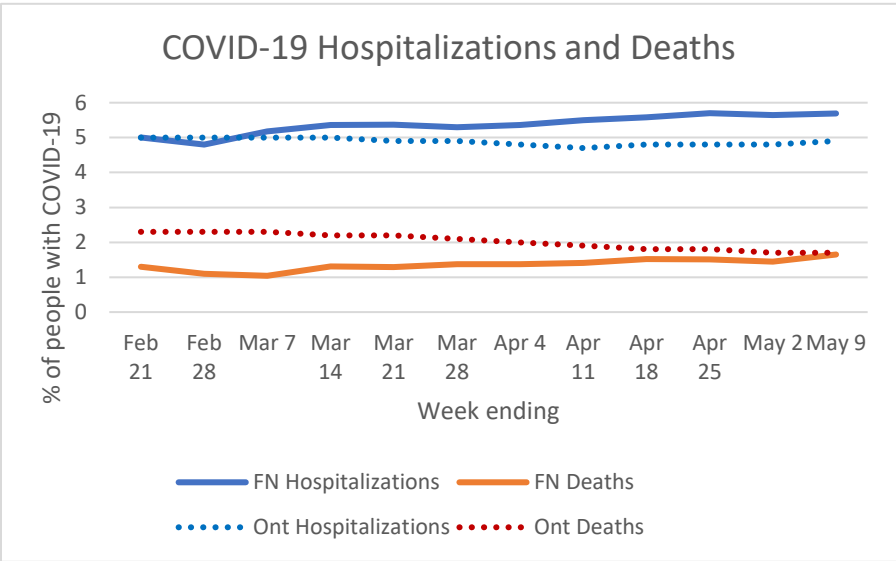
The rolling two-week average of new COVID-19 positive test results among FN **held steady**. The Ontario rate **decreased again** this week.



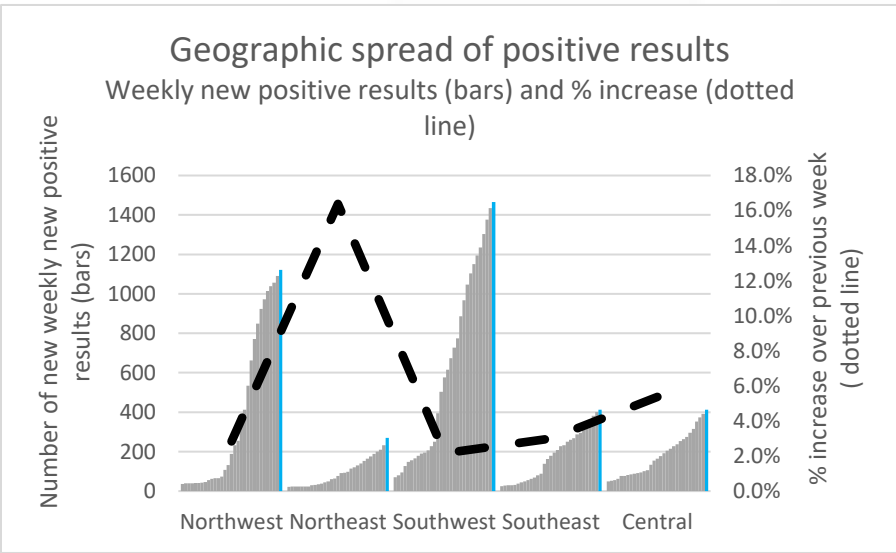
Test volume among First Nations continues to vary week to week within the bounds of normal variation. Ontario test volumes continue to decrease. **The decreasing number of positive results in Ontario should be considered in this light.**



The cumulative rate of positive test results is increasing slowly among First Nations and in Ontario.



The rate of hospitalizations and deaths among First Nations (centering around 5.5% and 1.5% respectively) and in Ontario increased very very slightly (very possibly due to normal variation).



Small increases were seen this week in all areas except Northeast which had 16% increase in new positive results this week. Blue bars show numbers of new cases in most recent period, with previous weeks' totals in grey. The areas are based on boundaries of Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). See appendix for details.

Appendix:

Data source: Characteristics of COVID-19 diagnostic test recipients among the Ontario First Nations population, ICES. Ontario hospitalization and death rates accessed from the [Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool](#).

Intervals in the reported data: Data are as of the week ending on the date shown with the exception of June 20, Jun 26 and Jul 4 for which data for First Nations are for the previous 5, 6 and 8 days, respectively, due to changes in reporting period. Data for Ontario and First Nations for week ending Aug 30, Sep 7, Sep 13, Oct 12, Oct 18, Feb 15 and Feb 21, 2021 are for 8, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8 and 6 days respectively (with weekly test volume prorated to 7-day rate).

Rolling average of new positive results: Data for each week is the average of the current and previous week. The rolling average ensures compliance with data suppression rules that preclude release of values less than 5. Data for Jul 18 and Aug 1 are based on averages of the previous and following weeks of both dates, to correct for known data quality issues.

Boundaries of “areas”: Test results of individuals are reported for the LHIN associated with the postal code on the individual’s Ontario health card. LHINs included in each “area” for this report are: Northwest: LHIN 14; Northeast: LHIN 13; Southwest: LHINs 1-4; Southeast: LHINs 9-11; Central: LHINs 5-8, 12. Follow this [link](#) to view maps showing LHIN boundaries.

Suppressed data: Data suppression is done at ICES. When data for one category in a series are suppressed, at least one of the results based on these categories must also be suppressed. Hence totals greater than 5 may be suppressed for one or more areas when at least one of the LHINs included in the calculation of area totals has less than 5 cases.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Testing in Registered First Nations People in Ontario**			
WEEKLY UPDATE			
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (covering tests completed May 3, 2021 to May 9, 2021)			
N=802			
Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested			
296 (0.61%)		506 (0.49%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
N=134			
Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive			
47 (0.22%)		87 (0.22%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to May 9, 2021)			
N=60,862			
Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested			
21,211 (43.7%)		39,651 (38.5%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
N=3,691			
Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive			
1,184 (5.6%)		2,507 (6.3%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
North West	18,793 (48.8%)	1,121 (6.0%)	38,505
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