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First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly report 54

Key messages:

- *There were **140 new positive results** among First Nations people over the past week ending Apr 25, 2021. This is **a decrease** from the total of 167 last week. The number of positive results among First Nations to date is 3,407.*
- *There were only small increases (5% or less) in new results in all areas (compared to increases of over 20% earlier in the year)*
- *Test volume continues to vary week to week.*
- *The cumulative positivity rate continues to increase at low rates in First Nations and across Ontario.*
- *The increasing trend in hospitalizations and deaths among First Nations continues, in contrast to steady and declining rates across Ontario for hospitalizations and deaths respectively.*

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

WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 (covering tests completed April 19, 2021 to April 25, 2021)

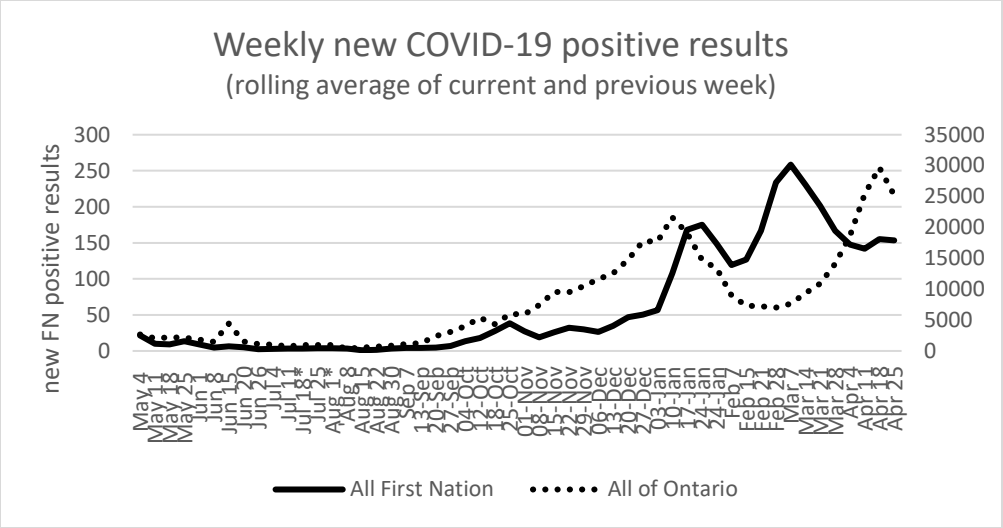
N=747 Number newly tested for COVID-19
N=140 Number newly tested positive for COVID-19

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to April 25, 2021)

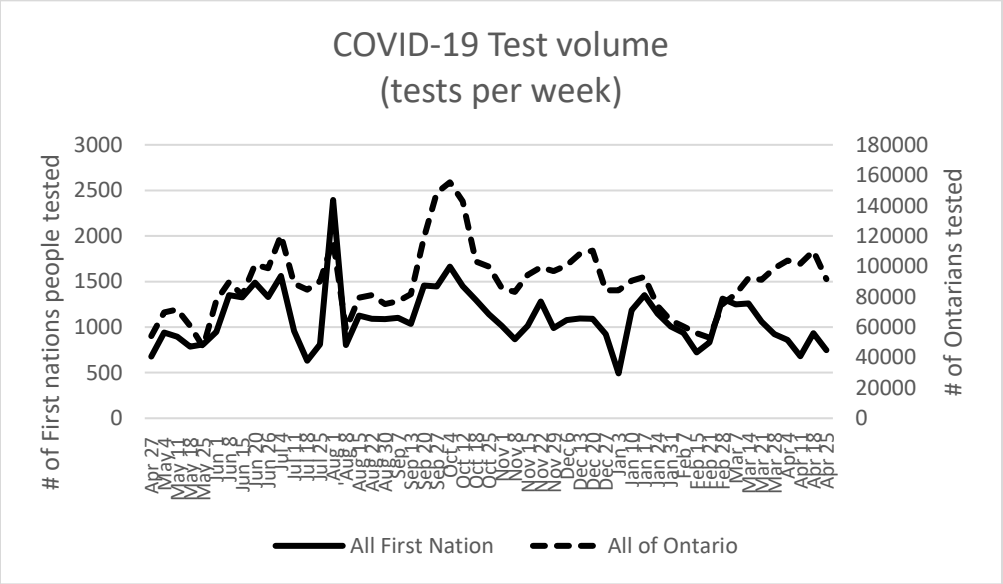
N=59,252 Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19			
N=3,407 Number positive for COVID-19			
Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	**Tested**	**Positive cases**	**FN population**
North West	18,362 (47.7%)	1,057 (5.8%)	38,511
North East	12,490 (36.0%)	210 (1.7%)	34,697
Southwest	14,610 (35.7%)	1,376 (9.4%)	40,878
Southeast	7,537 (34.7%)	382 (5.1%)	21,739
Central	6,141 (40.6%)	373 (6.1%)	15,141
* supressed for privacy. ** 151,547 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.

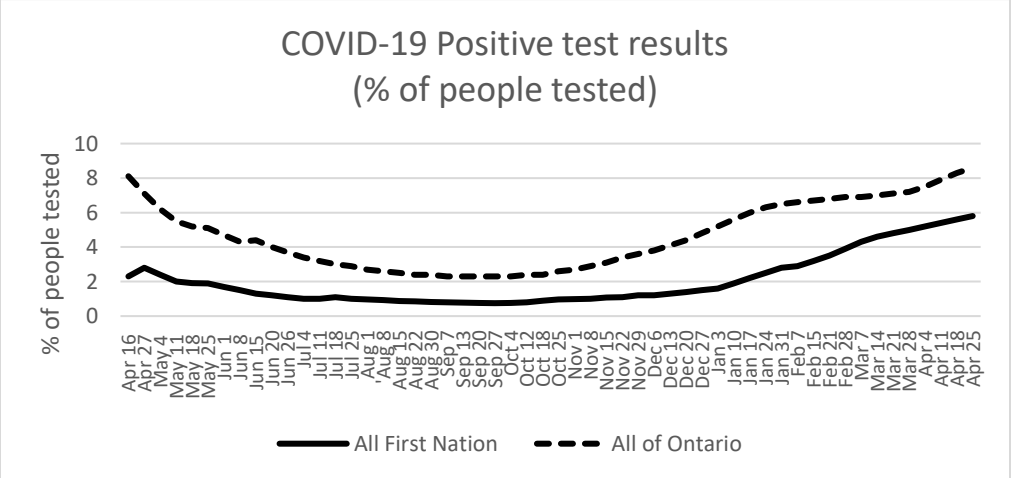
COVID-19 Test results over time



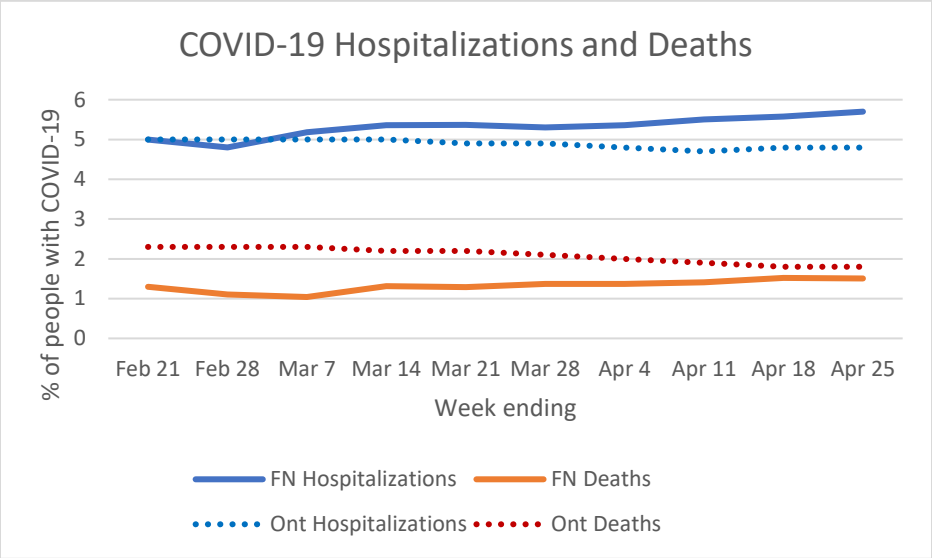
The rolling two-week average of new COVID-19 positive test results among FN ***held steady.*** The Ontario rate ***decreased for the 1st time in 2 months.***



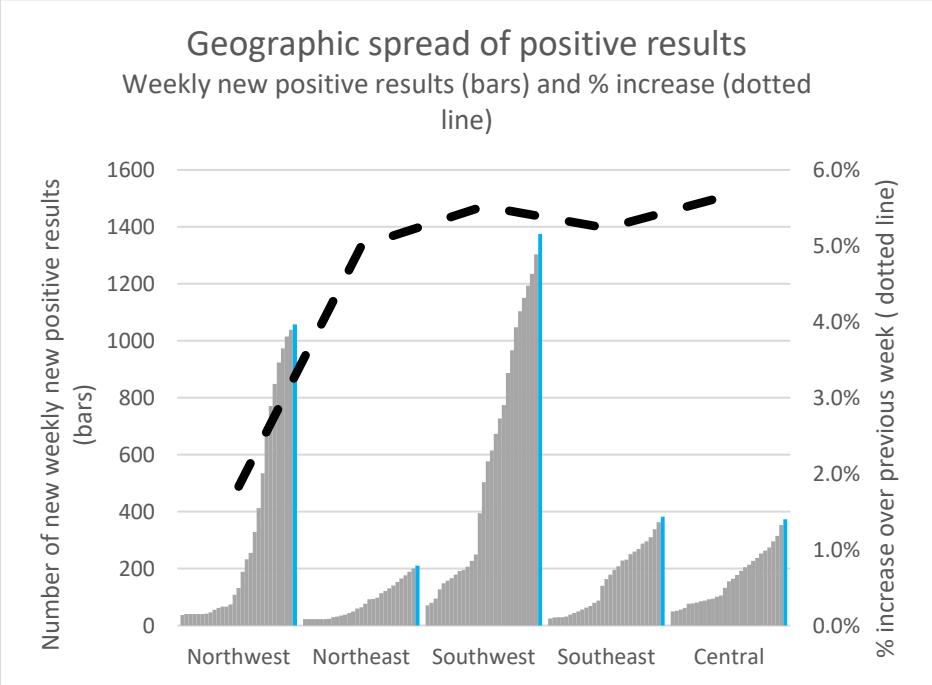
Test volume among both First Nations and across Ontario continues to vary week to week, mostly within the bounds of normal variation.



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



The ***slight*** increasing trend in hospitalizations and deaths among First Nations (centering around 5.5% and 1.5% respectively) continues. In contrast, Ontario rate is holding steady for hospitailzations and decreasing slightly for deaths. Trends in these outcomes tend to lag changes in case volume by several weeks.



Only small increases were seen this week in all areas (about 5% or less, compared to 20% increases earlier in the year). 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, April 27, 2021 (covering tests completed April 19, 2021 to April 25, 2021)

N=747 Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
215 (0.44%) in a First Nations community***	532 (0.52%) outside of a First Nations community
N=140 Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive	
33 (0.16%) in a First Nations community***	107 (0.28%) outside of a First Nations community

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to April 25, 2021)

N=59,252 Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
20,656 (42.5%) in a First Nations community***	38,596 (37.5%) outside of a First Nations community
N=3,407 Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive	
1,080 (5.2%) in a First Nations community***	2,327 (6.0%) outside of a First Nations community

Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
North West	18,362 (47.7%)	1,057 (5.8%)	38,511
North East	12,490 (36.0%)	210 (1.7%)	34,697
Southwest	14,610 (35.7%)	1,376 (9.4%)	40,878
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