

## First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly report 71

### Key messages:

- New positive results **increased again** to 40 as of August 22, 2021 (from 25 in the previous week). The number of positive results among First Nations to date is 4,968.
- **New positives in Ontario** continue to increase for the fourth week in a row. This is an important consideration when interpreting First Nations trends.
- Increases in the sub-regions remain around 1% with the highest increase of 1.6% in the Southwest.
- Test volume among First Nations **returned to usual levels** after the peak in testing last week.
- All other measures are holding steady this week: test volumes in Ontario and positivity, hospitalization and death rates in First Nations and across Ontario.

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

#### WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 (covering tests completed August 16, 2021 to August 22, 2021)

<b>N=472</b>
Number newly tested for COVID-19
<b>N=40</b>
Number newly tested positive for COVID-19

#### NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to August 22, 2021)

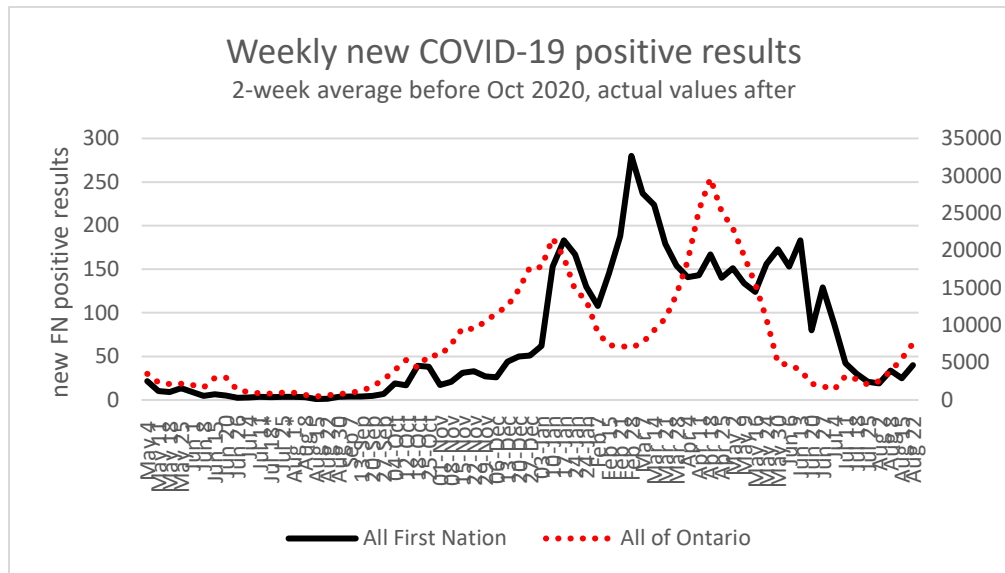
<b>N=68,975</b>
Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19
<b>N=4,968</b>
Number positive for COVID-19

Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
North West	20,690 (53.7%)	1,286 (6.2%)	38,525
North East	15,866 (45.7%)	914 (5.8%)	34,735
Southwest	16,970 (41.5%)	1,834 (10.8%)	40,930
Southeast	8,403 (38.7%)	447 (5.3%)	21,729
Central	6,914 (45.7%)	474 (6.9%)	15,130

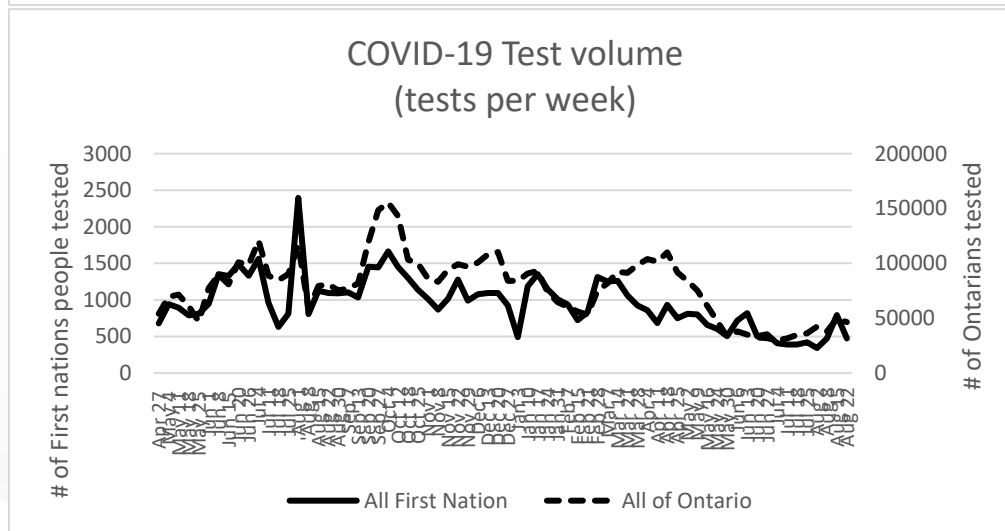
\* suppressed for privacy. \*\* 151,680 Registered First Nations people in Ontario with a health card; \*\*\* based on the residence on the Health Card files.

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 (IPHS), Distributed Labs (DL), and Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) databases. The sources are the same for First Nations and Ontario statistics.

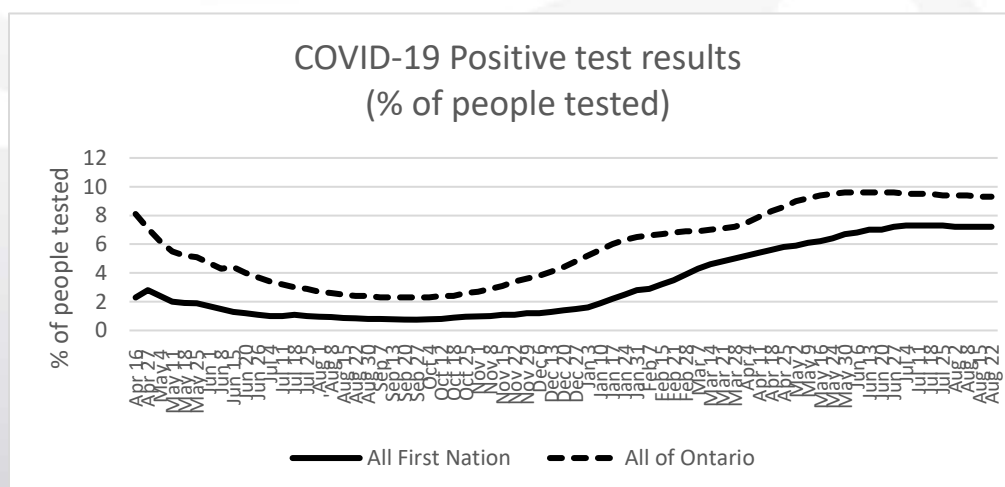
## COVID-19 Test results over time



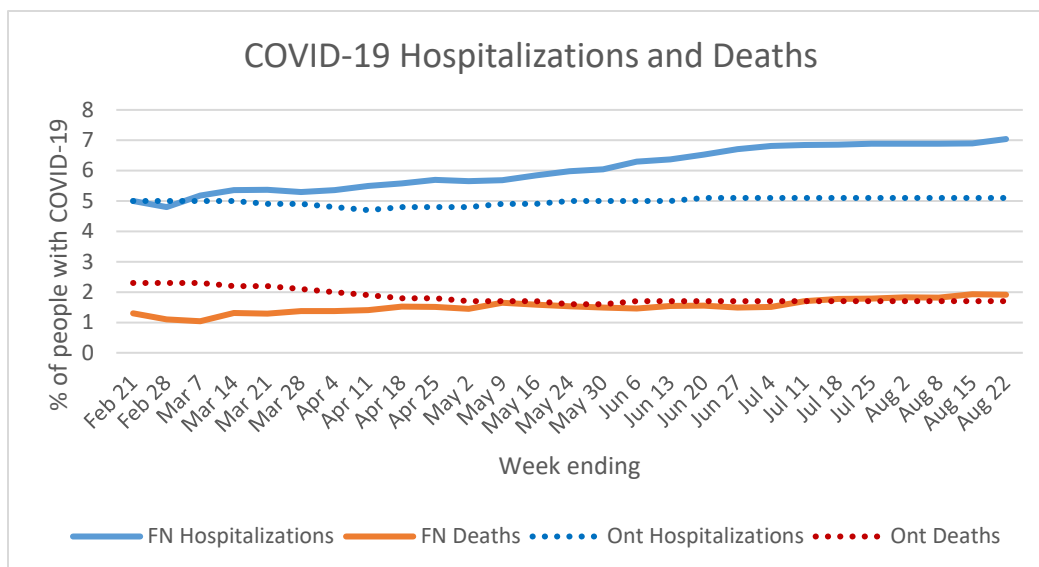
New COVID-19 positive test results **increased** this week among First Nations. Ontario numbers increased for 4th week in a row. This is an important consideration when interpreting First Nations trends.



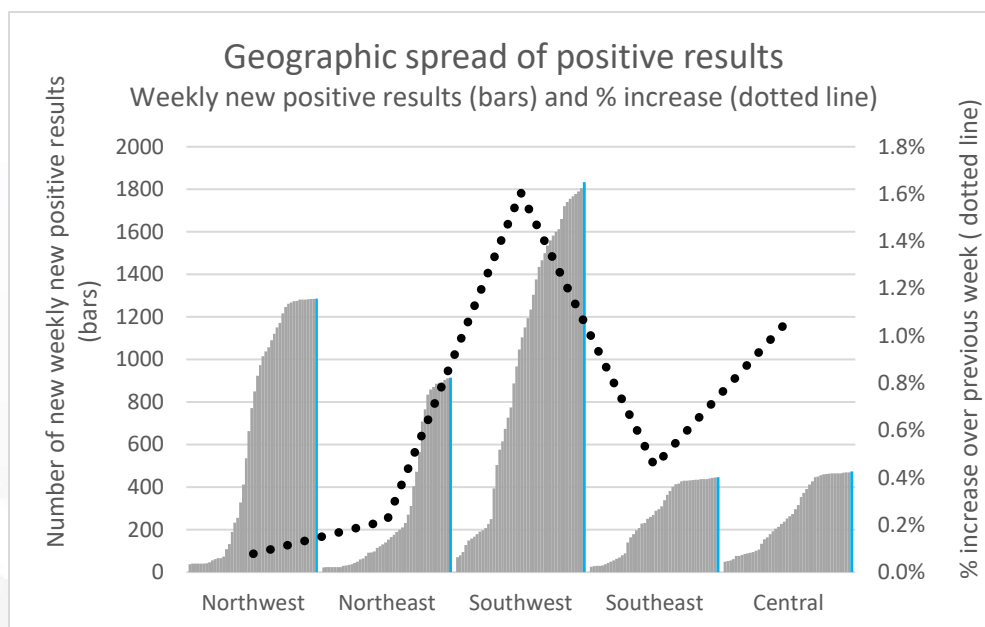
Test volumes among First Nations returned to usual levels after the increase last week which appeared to be due to young people in Northern communities. Ontario testing volume held steady this week.



The cumulative positivity rate is holding steady across Ontario and in First Nations. The last increases were mid May and early July (Ontario and First Nations respectively).



The rate of hospitalizations and deaths among First Nations and across Ontario remain steady. Historically, trends in these outcomes have lagged changes in new positives by several weeks.



Percentage increases in new positive results at the sub-regional level remain around 1%, with the high of 1.6% in the Southwest. Blue bars show numbers of new cases in most recent period, with previous weeks 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, Feb 21, May 24, May 30 and Aug 8, 2021 are for 8, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6 and 6 days respectively (with weekly test volume prorated to 7-day rate).

**Weekly new positive results:** Prior to Oct 2020, each week's total is the average of the current and previous week to mask values of less than 5, in compliance with data suppression rules. After that, actual numbers were used because the volume of new results per week was consistently (and unfortunately) more 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, August 24, 2021 (covering tests completed August 16, 2021 to August 22, 2021)

N=472	
Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
160 (0.33%) in a First Nations community***	312 (0.30%) outside of a First Nations community
N=40	
Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive	
12 (0.05%) in a First Nations community***	28 (0.06%) outside of a First Nations community

##### NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to August 22, 2021)

N=68,975	
Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
24,502 (50.4%) in a First Nations community***	44,473 (43.1%) outside of a First Nations community
N=4,968	
Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive	
1,703 (7.0%) in a First Nations community***	3,265 (7.3%) outside of a First Nations community

Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
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