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First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly report 74

Key messages:

- *New positive results **decreased somewhat** as of Sep 12, 2021. The 7-day estimate for the period ending Sep 12, 2021 was 85, slightly less than 93 from the previous week. The number of positive results among First Nations to date is 5,183.*
- ***New positives in Ontario** continued to increase for the seventh week in a row.*
- *Increases in the sub-regions increased with the highest increase of 2.5% in the Southwest.*
- *Test volume among First Nations **remained at usual levels** after the peak in testing 3 weeks ago**.** Ontario test volume may be increasing.*
- *Sadly, there were **9 deaths** among First Nations. These may well be deaths that had occurred previously but were only reported as being associated with COVID-19 now.*
- *All other measures held steady this week.*

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

WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 (covering tests completed September 7, 2021 to September 12, 2021)

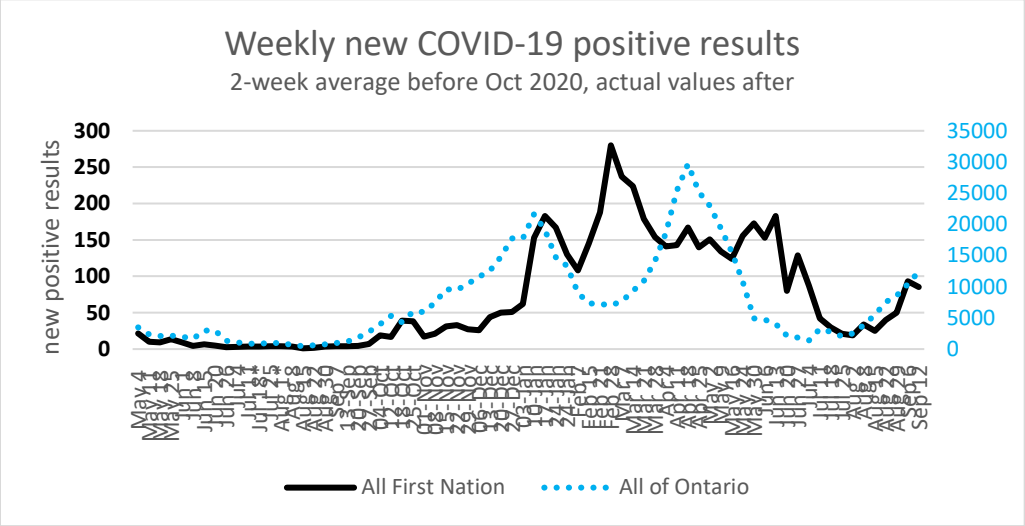
N=481 Number newly tested for COVID-19
N=73 Number newly tested positive for COVID-19

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to September 12, 2021)

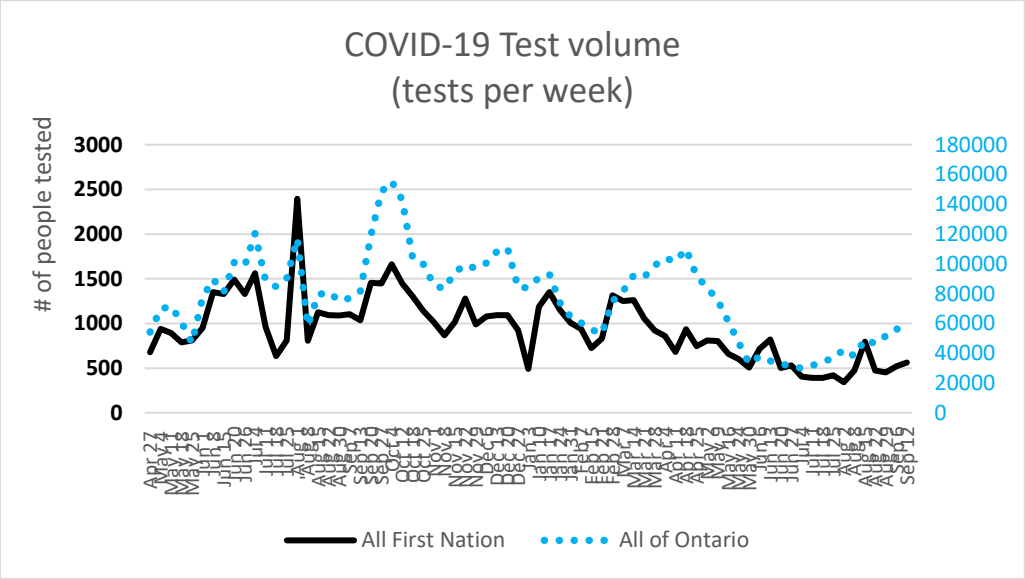
N=70,425 Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19			
N=5,183 Number positive for COVID-19			
Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)	**Tested**	**Positive cases**	**FN population**
North West	20,937 (54.3%)	1,296 (6.2%)	38,529
North East	16,186 (46.6%)	934 (5.8%)	34,746
Southwest	17,540 (42.8%)	1,971 (11.2%)	40,936
Southeast	8,570 (39.4%)	467 (5.4%)	21,741
Central	7,058 (46.7%)	501 (7.1%)	15,118
* suppressed for privacy. ** 151,708 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.

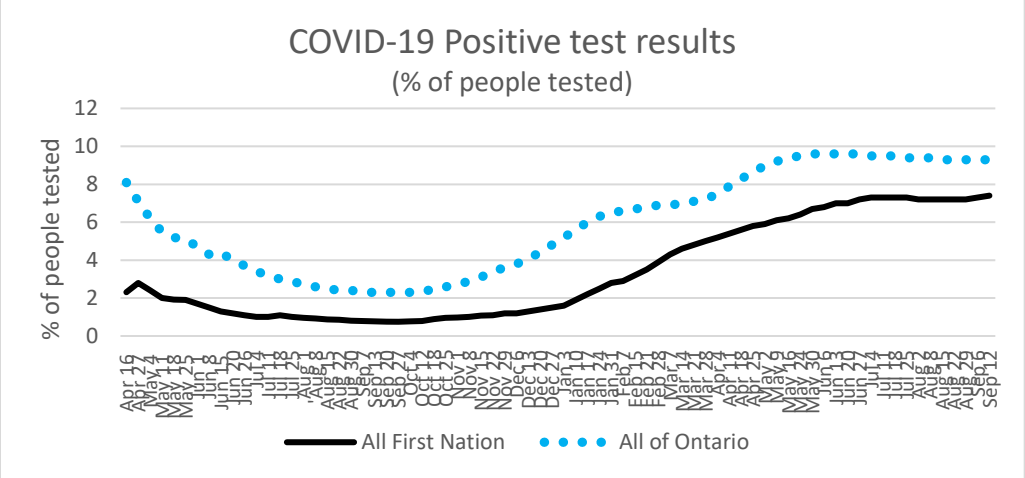
COVID-19 Test results over time



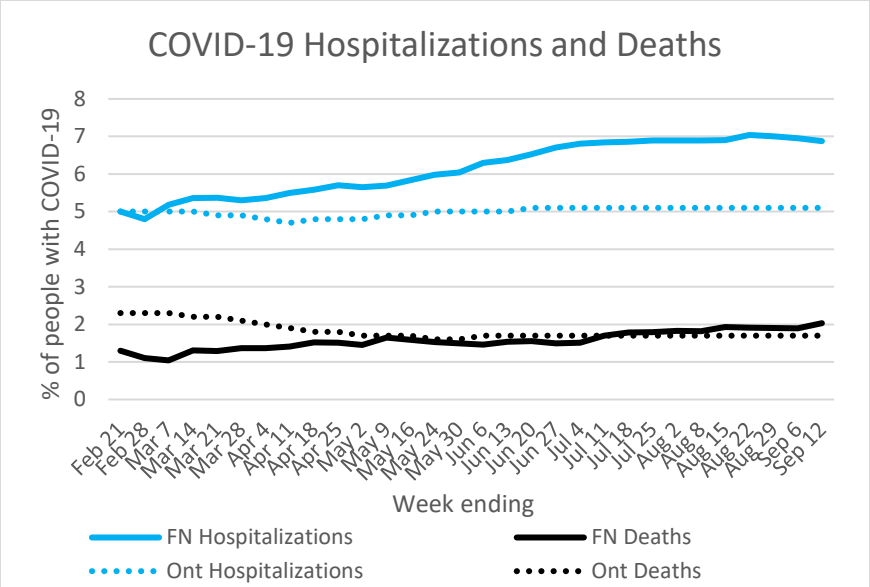
New COVID-19 positive test results ***decreased somewhat*** this week among First Nations. Ontario numbers increased for 7th week in a row.



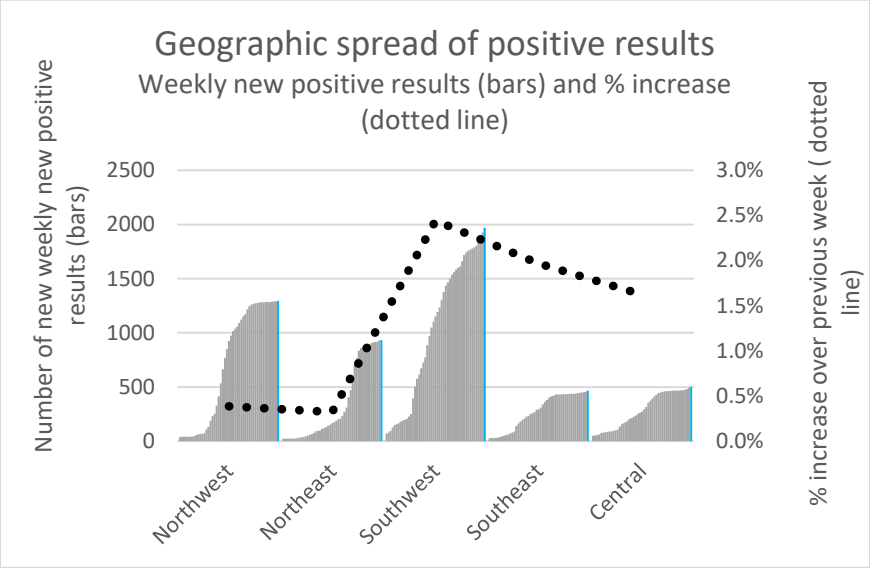
Test volumes held steady among First Nations and continued to increase across Ontario.



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).



While the impact on the overall death rate was small, there were, sadly, 9 deaths among First Nations reported in the 6 day period ending Sep 12, 2021. This total certainly includes previous deaths that are only being reported as associated with COVID-19 now. The rate of hospitalizations among First Nations remained steady as did Ontario rates of both hospitalization and deaths.



Percentage increases in new positive results at the sub-regional level were about the same as last week, with the high of 2.5% 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, Aug 8 and Sep 12, 2021 are for 8, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6, 8, 6, 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, September 14, 2021 (covering tests completed September 7, 2021 to September 12, 2021)

N=481 Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
189 (39.29%) in a First Nations community***	292 (60.71%) outside of a First Nations community
N=73 Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive	
34 (0.14%) in a First Nations community***	39 (0.09%) outside of a First Nations community

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to September 12, 2021)

N=70,425 Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
25,033 (51.5%) in a First Nations community***	45,392 (44.0%) outside of a First Nations community
N=5,183 Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive	
1,787 (7.1%) in a First Nations community***	3,396 (7.5%) outside of a First Nations community

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