

## First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly report 49

### Key messages:

- There were **179 new positive results** among First Nations people over the past week ending Mar 21, 2021, down from 224 last week. This is a 20% decrease and the third week in a row with decreasing totals. The number of positive results among First Nations to date is 2,664.
- The **Northwest** still had the highest relative increase of all areas this week. However, the extent of the increase in the Northwest was lower –10% more vs over 20% more per week in the past month.
- Testing volume varied slightly from last week for both First Nations and Ontario but could just be normal variation.
- The cumulative positivity rate among First Nations of 4.8% is only slightly higher than in previous weeks. The Ontario rate stayed relatively steady.
- Hospitalization rate for First Nations with COVID-19 has increased very slightly again for the 4th week in a row. It remains similar to Ontario rate. The First Nations death rate of FN death rate held steady this week at about half the Ontario rate. Because hospitalization and death rates are small numbers (ie 5% or less), it is too early to determine if the changes are anything more than normal variation over time.

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

#### WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (covering tests completed March 15, 2021 to March 21, 2021)

|   |
|---|
| <b>N=1,059</b><br>Number newly tested for COVID-19        |
| <b>N=179</b><br>Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 |

#### NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to March 21, 2021)

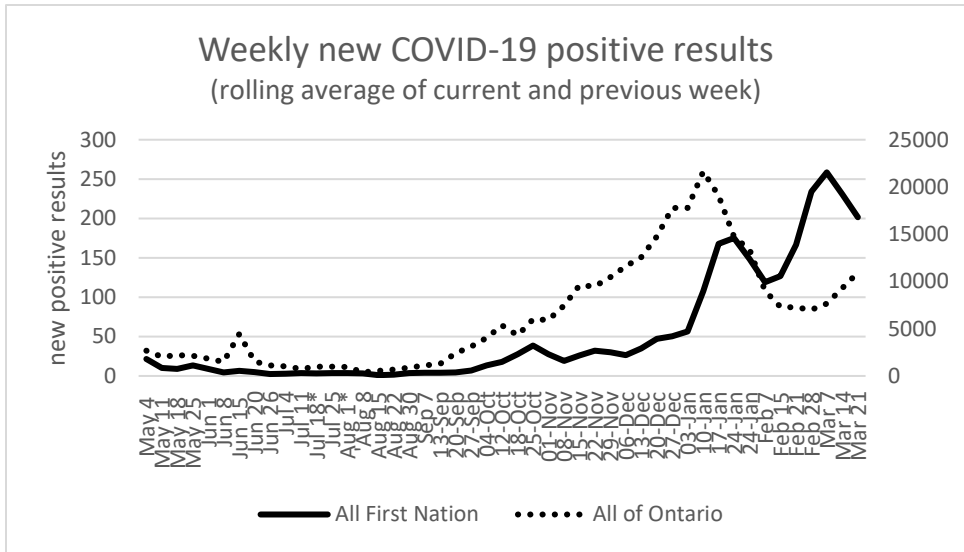
|  |
|--|
| <b>N=55,107</b><br>Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19  |
| <b>N=2,664</b><br>Number positive TO DATE for COVID-19 |

| Key geographic areas (Details in appendix) | Tested         | Positive cases | FN population |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| North West                                 | 17,272 (44.9%) | 849 (4.9%)     | 38,494        |
| North East                                 | 11,752 (33.9%) | 153 (1.3%)     | 34,686        |
| Southwest                                  | 13,337 (32.6%) | 1,104 (8.3%)   | 40,856        |
| Southeast                                  | 6,953 (32.0%)  | 288 (4.1%)     | 21,729        |
| Central                                    | 5,686 (37.5%)  | 263 (4.6%)     | 15,168        |

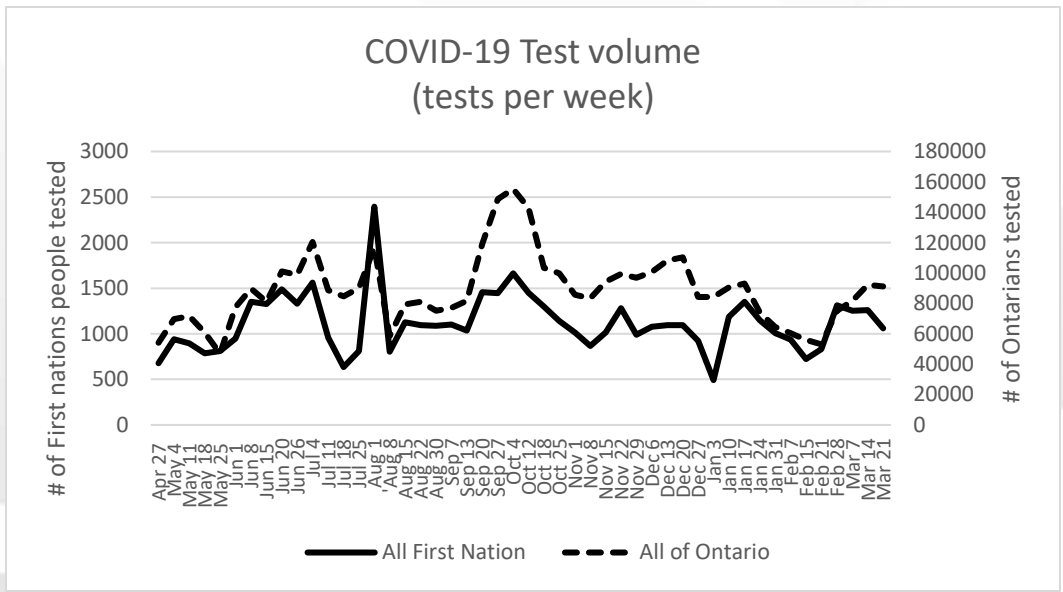
\* suppressed for privacy. \*\* 151,509 Registered First Nations people in Ontario with a health card; \*\*\* based on the residence on the Health Card files.

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.

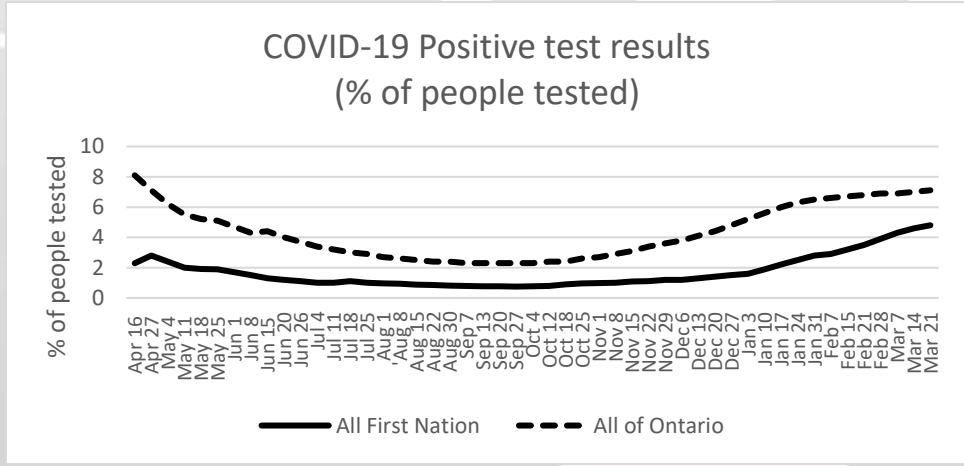
## COVID-19 Test results over time

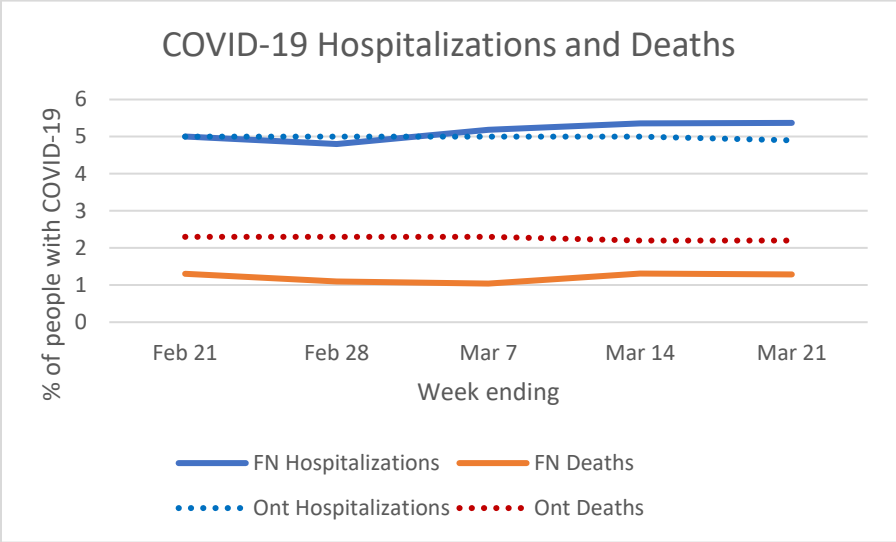


The rolling two-week average of new COVID-19 positive test results among FN **decreased for the third week in a row.** The Ontario rate increased for the second week in row. A clear difference remains in the two trends.

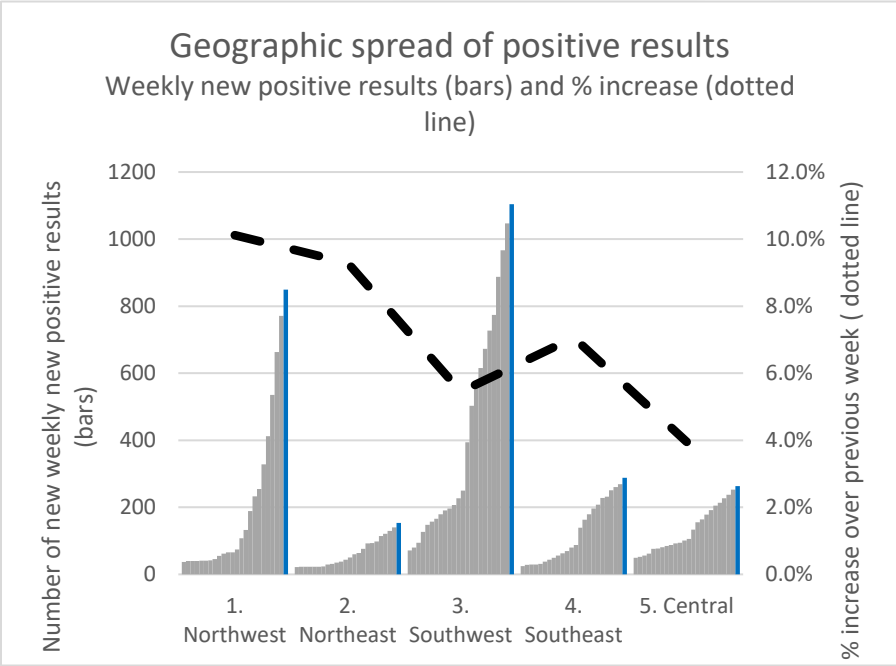


Test volume varied from last week for First Nations and Ontario but the changes could be normal variation.





The cumulative percent of First Nations people with COVID-19 who were hospitalized increased slightly over the past 4 weeks but remains at about 5%, similar to Ontario. First Nations death rate this week was 1.3%, still about half of the Ontario rate. It is too early to know if changes in these rates are more than normal variation over time.



The highest increase was again in the Northwest. However, the relative increase was lower than in previous weeks -- 10% vs over 20% in previous weeks (dotted line). 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.

| <b>Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Testing in Registered First Nations People in Ontario**</b>  |                |                                      |                      |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>WEEKLY UPDATE</b>   |                |                                      |                      |
| Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (covering tests completed March 15, 2021 to March 21, 2021)  |                |                                      |                      |
| <b>N=1,059</b>   |                |                                      |                      |
| Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested  |                |                                      |                      |
| 369 (0.76%)  |                | 690 (0.67%)                          |                      |
| in a First Nations community***  |                | outside of a First Nations community |                      |
| <b>N=179</b>   |                |                                      |                      |
| Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive   |                |                                      |                      |
| 49 (0.25%)   |                | 130 (0.36%)                          |                      |
| in a First Nations community***  |                | outside of a First Nations community |                      |
| <b>NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to March 21, 2021)</b>   |                |                                      |                      |
| <b>N=55,107</b>  |                |                                      |                      |
| Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested  |                |                                      |                      |
| 19,448 (40.1%)   |                | 35,659 (34.6%)                       |                      |
| in a First Nations community***  |                | outside of a First Nations community |                      |
| <b>N=2,664</b>   |                |                                      |                      |
| Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive   |                |                                      |                      |
| 890 (4.6%)   |                | 1,774 (5.0%)                         |                      |
| in a First Nations community***  |                | outside of a First Nations community |                      |
| <b>Key geographic areas (Details in appendix)</b>  | <b>Tested</b>  | <b>Positive cases</b>                | <b>FN population</b> |
| North West   | 17,272 (44.9%) | 849 (4.9%)                           | 38,494               |
| North East   | 11,752 (33.9%) | 153 (1.3%)                           | 34,686               |
| Southwest  | 13,337 (32.6%) | 1,104 (8.3%)                         | 40,856               |
| Southeast  | 6,953 (32.0%)  | 288 (4.1%)                           | 21,729               |
| Central  | 5,686 (37.5%)  | 263 (4.6%)                           | 15,168               |
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