

First Nations COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Weekly Report 33

Key messages:

- The total of **27 new positive results** among First Nations people this week is a **small decrease** from the previous week. **The vast majority (22) were among people living OUTSIDE communities.**
- The Northern regions had the largest percentage increases this week but the increases were smaller (about 10% vs 20% previously).
- Testing volume among First Nations has been varying slightly from week to week in what appears to be normal variation rather than true changes in testing rates.
- Cumulative testing rate in First Nations remains higher than it has been across Ontario.
- The rate of positive results in First Nations remained steady among people living within and outside communities.

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

WEEKLY UPDATE

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 (covering tests completed November 23, 2020 to November 29, 2020)

N=990	
Number newly tested for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested	
389 (0.74%)	601 (0.61%)
in a First Nations community***	outside of a First Nations community
N=27	
Number newly tested positive for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were positive	
5 (0.03%)	22 (0.09%)
in a First Nations community***	outside of a First Nations community

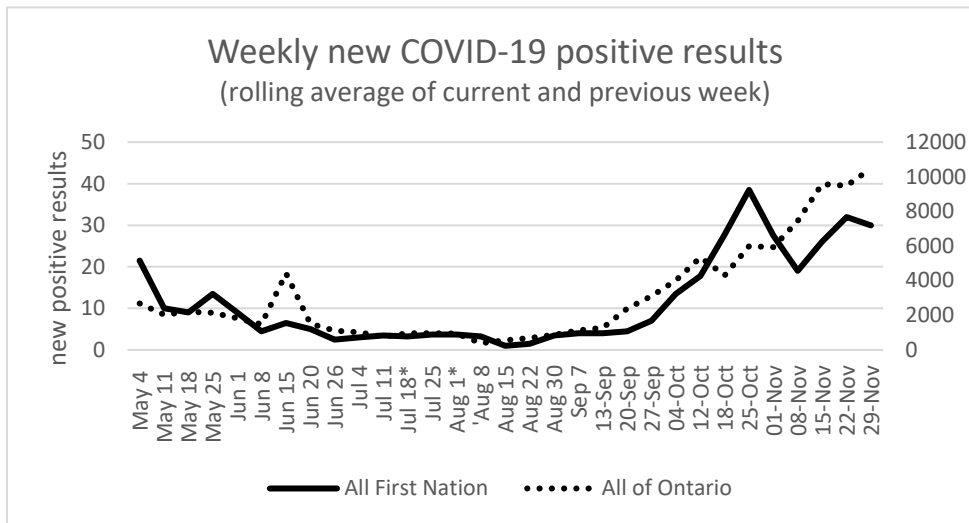
NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to November 29, 2020)

NUMBERS TO DATE (covering tests completed January 15, 2020 to November 25, 2020)			
N=38,253			
Number tested TO DATE for COVID-19 and % of people in the group who were tested			
14,590 (27.6%)		23,663 (24.0%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
N=449			
Number positive for COVID-19 and % of people tested in the group who were positive			
176 (1.2%)		273 (1.2%)	
in a First Nations community***		outside of a First Nations community	
Key geographic areas	Tested	Positive cases	FN population
North West	12,438 (32.3%)	62 (0.5%)	38,464
North East	8,134 (23.5%)	35 (0.4%)	34,645
Southwest	8,272 (20.3%)	196 (2.4%)	40,823
Southeast	5,140 (23.7%)	63 (1.2%)	21,704
Central	4,196 (27.6%)	*88-92 (S)	15,189

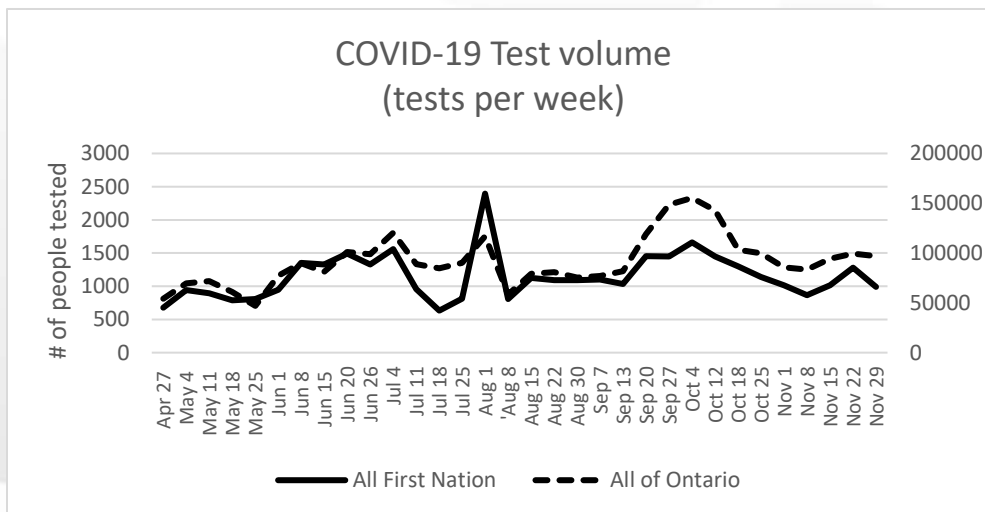
* suppressed for privacy. ** 151,340 Registered First Nations people in Ontario with a health card; *** based on the residence on the Health Card files.

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.

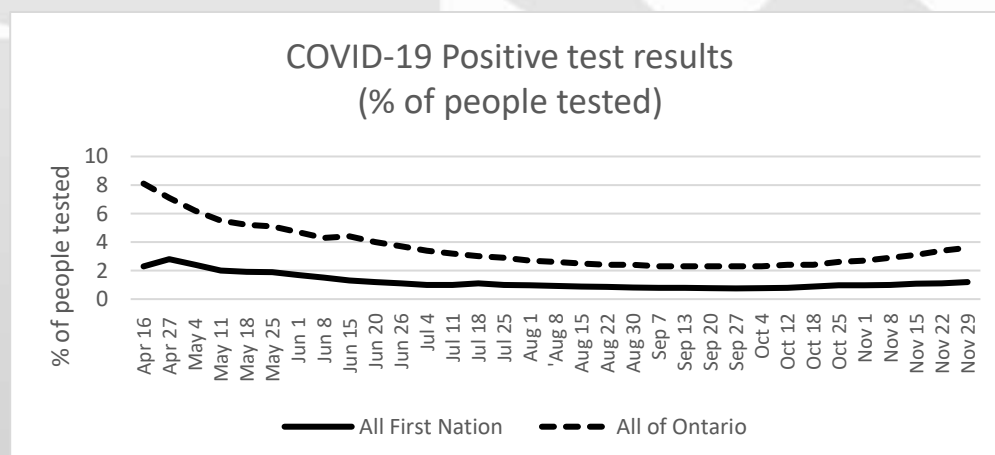
COVID-19 Test results over time



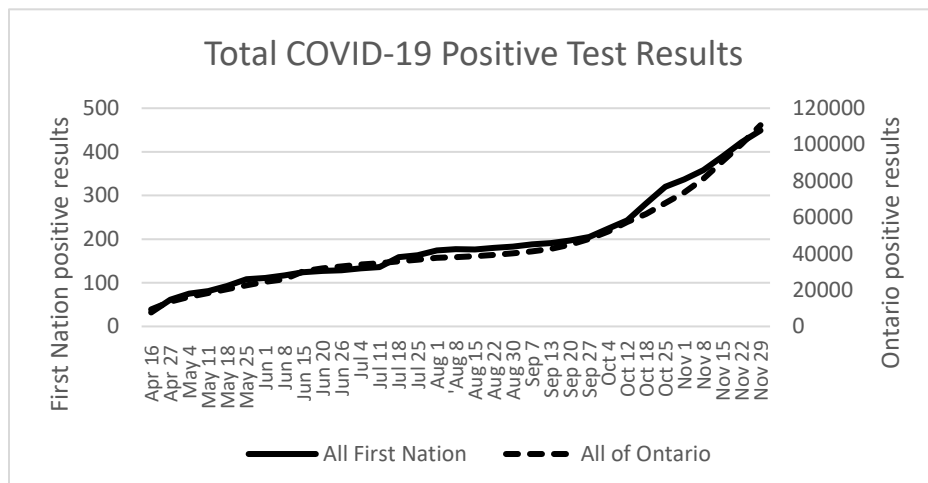
The rolling two-week average of new COVID-19 positive test results among FN **held relatively steady** this week.



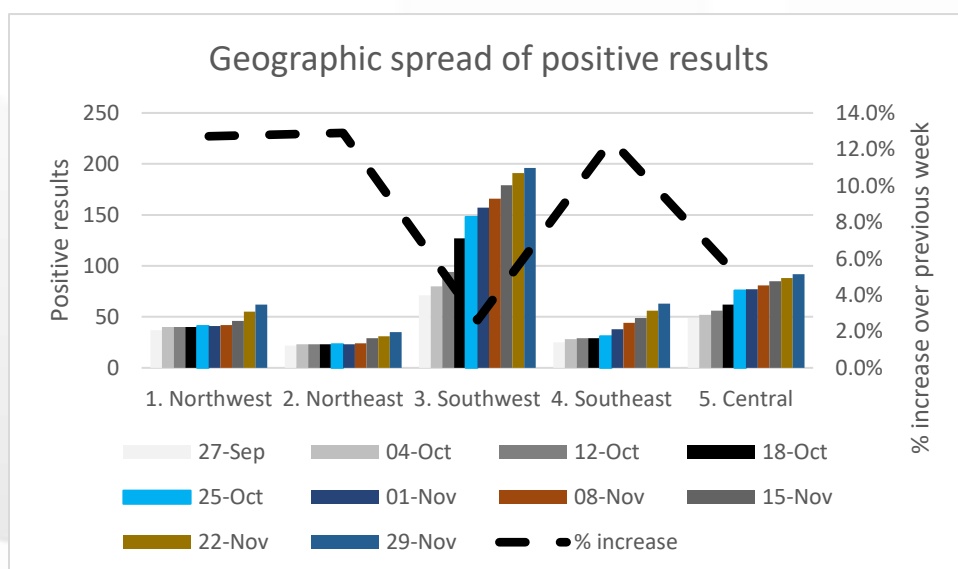
Test volume in the week ending Nov 29, 2020 has decreased slightly among First Nations. Changes in recent weeks seem to be normal variation rather than a true change in testing rates.



As of Nov 29, 2020, the positive test results *rate* of First Nations people is holding steady at around 1%.



There were 449 COVID-19 positive test results among First Nations as of Nov 29, 2020. This marks a continuing increase since the end of August.



This week, the Northern regions had the largest relative increase in positive results but the increases were smaller than previously (+/- 10% vs about 20% previously).

Technical notes:

Data source: Characteristics of COVID-19 diagnostic test recipients among the Ontario First Nations population, ICES

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 and Oct 18 are for 8, 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.