

MEMORANDUM

TO: First Nation Chiefs, Leadership Council

FROM: Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald

DATE: September 29, 2020

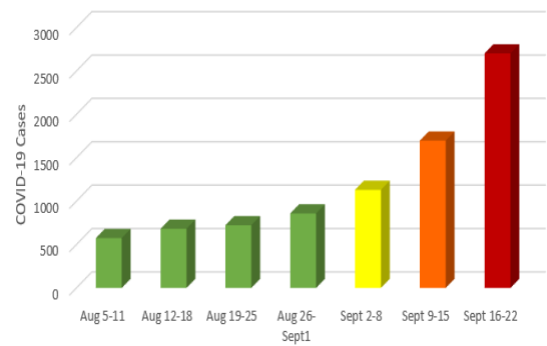
RE: **Second Wave of COVID-19**

Ontario: New daily cases of COVID-19

The blue line is the five-day rolling average of new cases per day, which smooths daily spikes.



Ontario Total Cases Per Week



The initiatives team is tracking numbers daily and is producing weekly charts. As you can see from the above bar graph on the right, there has been a rapid increase in new cases since the beginning of September and it is becoming increasingly clear that the second wave has started. The bar graph shows overall cases have risen by 400% between August 5 and September 22, 2020, with the majority of cases in Peel, Ottawa and Toronto.



Public Health officials originally anticipated that the second wave of COVID-19 would start later in the fall, coinciding with the flu season. What is still unclear is the size and duration of the second wave. There are currently three possible scenarios: a big peak during the fall season, with more cases than the spring; peaks and valleys; and the last scenario is the slow burn. Given the rapid number of cases recently, this last scenario seems unlikely, as numbers are already climbing to levels not witnessed since early

May. This week had a daily spike of 478 cases and the highest number of cases in April was 634, a difference of only 156 cases.

I want to take the time to acknowledge the hard work of First Nations Leadership and Chiefs. It was through your quick action and vigilance which kept the numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 low in communities. As a result, we were able to achieve our goal of zero new and zero active cases in early September, even for a short time. Our goal at the Chiefs of Ontario, is to provide you with data and information that can assist you and your communities with keeping the numbers low and to ideally reach our goal again as quickly as possible.

Staying one step ahead of the first wave had a big impact on keeping our communities safe earlier this year. We have learned a great deal since the beginning of the pandemic, particularly that some public health unit areas are lower risk than others. Some of you may have read my social media post last week and since that time, I have consulted more thoroughly with the COVID-19 initiatives team. It is with this in mind, that I suggest a regional based approach to responding to the second wave. Therefore, your community needs to begin your ramp-up measures based upon cases as reported by your local public health unit. It is unlikely that there will be a blanket approach for First Nations across Ontario.

Aug 5 – Aug 11, 2020 – WEEKLY SUMMARY OF NEW & ACTIVE CASES ACROSS ONTARIO BY PHU

Public Health Unit (PHU)	New cases Aug 5-Aug 11	Active cases as of Aug 11	Resolved cases as of Aug 11
Algoma	0	0	
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark	0	0	
Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington	0	0	
North Bay Parry Sound	0	0	
Timiskaming	0	0	
Northwestern	0	0	
Hastings and Prince Edward	0	0	
Renfrew	-2	0	
Thunder Bay District	2	0	2
Porcupine	1	1	
Peterborough	0	2	
Eastern	-1	3	
Grey Bruce	3	3	
Haliburton-Kawartha, Pine Ridge	3	5	
Haldimand-Norfolk	3	6	
Brant County	4	6	
Sudbury & District	3	8	
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	6	8	
Lambton	7	9	
Simcoe Muskoka	8	9	
Huron Perth	10	9	1
Middlesex-London	7	14	
Region of Waterloo	14	15	
Halton Region	17	15	2
Durham	15	25	
Hamilton	20	25	
Niagara Region	31	29	2
Southwestern	37	64	
York	31	66	
Chatham-Kent	43	74	
Windsor-Essex County	46	120	
Peel	94	126	
Ottawa	93	140	
Toronto	80	167	

Sept 16 – 22, 2020 - WEEKLY SUMMARY OF NEW & ACTIVE CASES ACROSS ONTARIO BY PHU

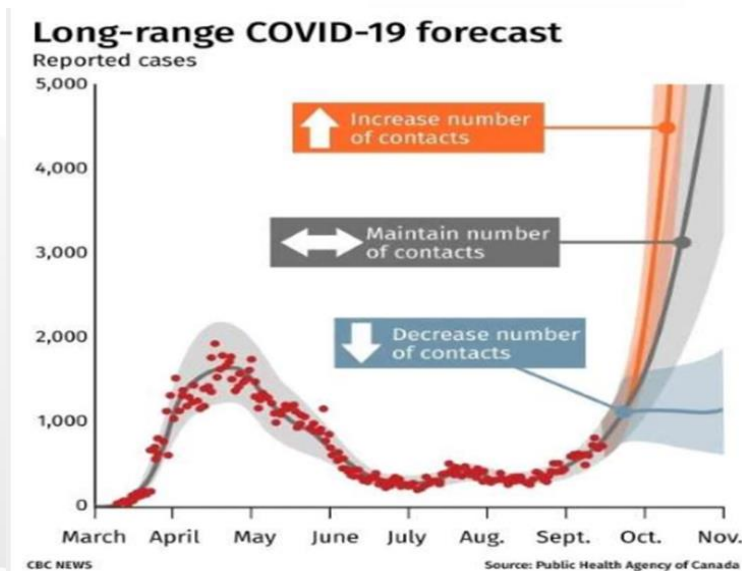
#	Public Health Unit (PHU)	New cases Sept 16-22	Active cases as of Sept 22	Resolved cases as of Sept 22
1	Timiskaming	0	0	
2	Hastings and Prince Edward	0	0	
3	Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington	3	0	3
4	Chatham-Kent	0	1	
5	Huron Perth	0	1	
6	Lambton	1	1	
7	North Bay Parry Sound	1	1	
8	Thunder Bay District	2	1	1
9	Algoma	2	2	
10	Northwestern	3	3	
11	Sudbury & District	3	3	
12	Grey Bruce	3	4	
13	Haldimand-Norfolk	4	4	
14	Haliburton-Kawartha, Pine Ridge	2	5	
15	Porcupine	4	5	
16	Peterborough	2	6	
17	Southwestern	1	7	
18	Renfrew	6	7	
19	Brant County	8	8	
20	Leeds, Grenville and Lanark	8	9	
21	Eastern	22	30	
22	Niagara Region	31	37	
23	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	37	46	
24	Windsor-Essex County	29	61	
25	Middlesex-London	50	67	
26	Hamilton	54	68	
27	Simcoe Muskoka	59	71	
28	Durham	59	88	
29	Halton Region	112	122	
30	Region of Waterloo	102	129	
31	York	220	308	
32	Ottawa	384	594	
33	Peel	605	779	
34	Toronto	887	1178	

As you can see from the above chart on the right, we only have 3 Public Health Units with no cases and many other Public Health Units have at least one case, if not many more.

To support communities in their preparation for the second wave, below we have highlighted some potential measures to consider:

- If your community has levels/phases of re-opening, it might be a good idea to roll back at least one phase/level, or more depending on if there are any cases in your community or in nearby areas.
- stop/slow the movement of people in/out of the community so they are not bringing the virus home.
- Consider making formal requests for increased testing capabilities which the Chiefs of Ontario office can support you with. If possible, communities can also build networks with neighbouring First Nations that have established testing capacity during the first wave.
- Implement in a calm and measured manner any new or newly reinforced security measures.
- Remind community members to get the flu shot, which could help keep our communities healthy, avoid spreading more sickness to community members,

and also help health clinics and hospitals from being overwhelmed.



The Premier has started to roll back some of the reopening measures and social gatherings have been lowered to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Ontario has also released the COVID-19 forecast. The model is predicting 1000 new cases by the middle of October unless more strict public health measures are put into place to slow the spread.

We also have done extensive research on the second wave and the *Discussion Paper: Research on the Second Wave* is attached for your information. I'm looking forward to our call on October 8 where we can discuss a cohesive approach to the second wave for First Nations in Ontario.

Ninanaskamon!

Wishing you peace beyond all understanding,

Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald