



Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

## For Immediate Release

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(Pembroke, Ontario, 10:30 a.m., July 12, 2022)

### **Increase in Local COVID-19 Activity**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is monitoring signals for viral COVID-19 particles in Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater. While recent signals are relatively stable, COVID-19 particles are still being detected in local wastewater. This data complements other evidence that demonstrates COVID-19 transmission and activity is still occurring across Renfrew County and District (RCD). For more details, please review the latest [COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Initiative in Renfrew County and District \(RCD\)](#) report. Please note that wastewater sampling in RCD is currently limited to Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater treatment plants, which represents only 30% of RCDHU's total population. As such, trends in wastewater may not necessarily reflect overall COVID-19 levels and transmission for RCD.

Currently, our testing percent positivity is low (4.5% in RCD vs. 16% in the Ottawa Public Health catchment area), but it is rapidly rising. The institutional outbreak activity is higher than previous weeks, including 4 new confirmed outbreaks in the past 10 days.

Residents are encouraged to continue the use of preventative measures (e.g., masking in high-risk settings) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. While many may be looking at participating in summer get-togethers in the coming weeks, please keep COVID-19 in mind, assess your risk and add layers of protection. By following the recommendations put forth by the Champlain Region's Hospital Chiefs of Staff and Medical Officers of Health, **the best way to protect yourself, your family and your community is to:**

1. get vaccinated with all the doses you are eligible for;
2. limit your close contacts;
3. wear a mask in indoor public spaces;
4. practice frequent hand hygiene; and
5. stay home if you are sick.

**Currently, walk-in appointments are accepted at all COVID-19 vaccination clinics.** For more information on COVID-19 vaccination, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/>. If you would prefer to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>.

For more information, please visit the Renfrew County and District Health Unit website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/>.

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