

COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Initiative in Renfrew County and District (RCD)

Last updated: December 08, 2022

Overall interpretation

RCDHU is monitoring signals for viral COVID-19 particles in Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater. While average signals from both Pembroke and Petawawa sampling sites were **lower** in month of November compared to October, COVID-19 particles are still being detected in local wastewater. This data compliments other evidence (such as new outbreaks in high-risk settings being declared on a weekly basis) that demonstrate COVID-19 is still circulating in RCD.

Other respiratory diseases such as **influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** are also circulating, presenting a “triple threat” to our communities as we enter the holiday season.

Staying up to date on vaccinations, masking in indoor public settings, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home if you are ill, remain the top precautions for personal protection.

Please note that wastewater sampling in RCD is currently limited to Pembroke and Petawawa wastewater treatment plants, which service 30% of RCDHU's total population. As such, trends in wastewater may not necessarily reflect COVID-19 levels in RCD overall.

Use of [Provincial and regional wastewater data trends](#) is therefore recommended to supplement this data.

For example, current signals in Ontario overall show that wastewater detection levels are moderate and slightly increasing, while Eastern region public health units show moderate and stable levels after a period of decrease in recent weeks (as of Dec 8, 2022).

Please refer to [RCDHU's Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page for more information.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

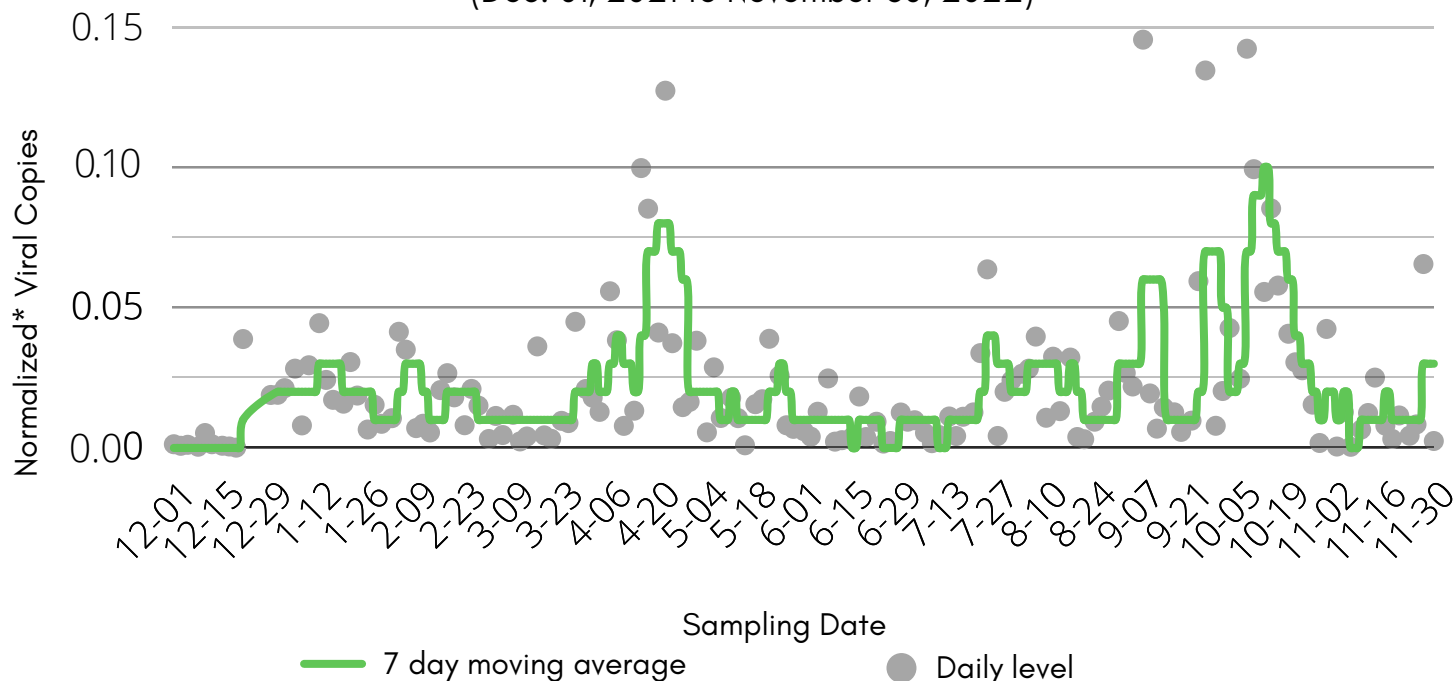
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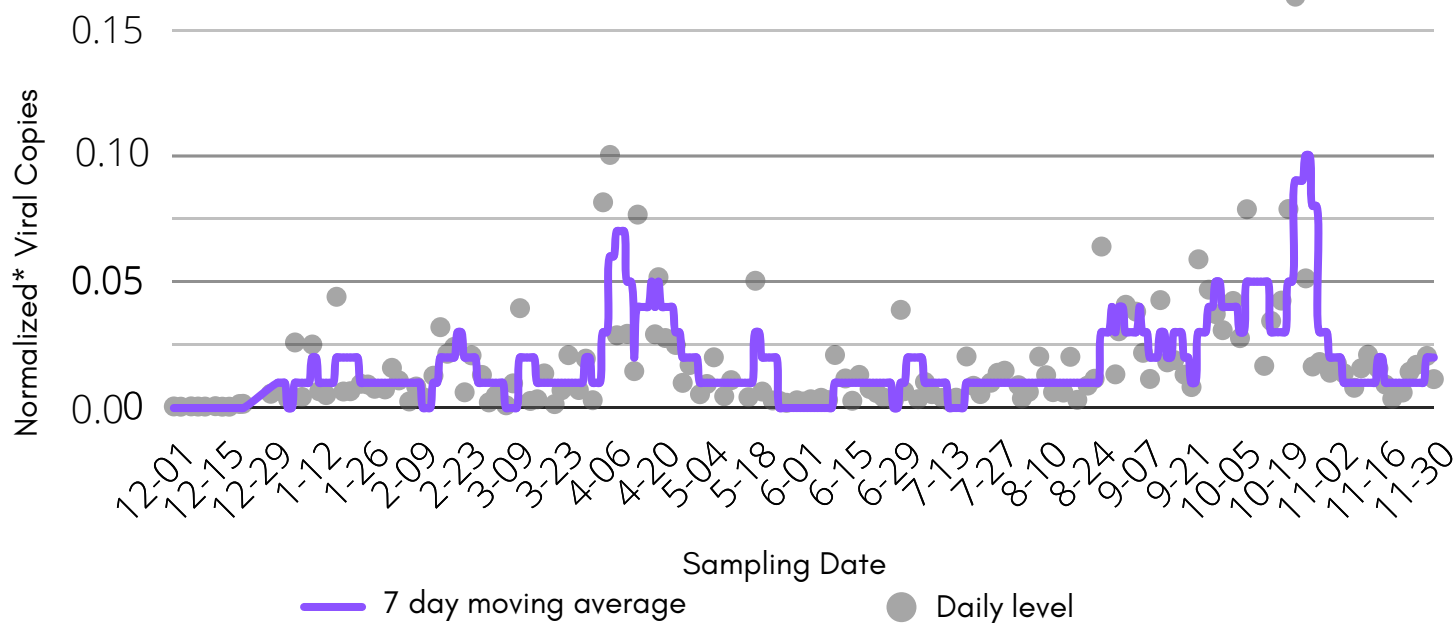
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Pembroke Pollution Control Plant
(Dec. 01, 2021 to November 30, 2022)



Petawawa Wastewater Treatment Facility
(Dec. 01, 2021 to November 30, 2022)



***SARS-CoV-2 viral copies are normalized using a fecal biomarker that is seasonally stable. For more information, please visit RCDHU's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page.**



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