

Technical Notes for Halton COVID-19 Snapshot Indicators

Last Updated: July 27, 2023

Preamble

This document provides an overview of the indicators presented on the “Snapshot” tab of the Halton COVID-19 dashboard. The indicators are intended to provide an overall snapshot of current local data on the COVID-19 pandemic, to keep the community informed and assist with local decision-making.

The data shown may differ from data seen in other sources, due to differences in extraction times and methods. The data are subject to change and are refreshed for each indicator once a week (Thursday) unless otherwise specified, to reflect the latest information available. Data definitions and thresholds are subject to change as COVID-19 evolves. This document provides an explanation of each indicator, as well as the target goal for each indicator, and the thresholds used to assign a green, orange, or red colour.

Indicator Overview

Indicator	Description	Data Source	Refresh Cycle
New COVID-19 cases, 7-day moving average	<p>The average number of confirmed Halton resident COVID-19 cases reported per day over the past seven days. Reported date is the date the case was reported to public health. This does not represent the day the case first experienced symptoms or was diagnosed, and there may be delays between when the case is reported to public health and when it appears in the dashboard (e.g., due to time required to receive confirmatory lab results, or receive a case referral from another health unit). Only cases who receive lab testing are included in this indicator; it does not capture cases who test positive on a rapid test or have COVID-19 but have not been tested.</p>	CCM ¹	Thursday (rolling week)
Number of active institutional outbreaks	<p>The number of ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks in Halton institutions (long-term care homes, hospitals, and retirement homes). Outbreaks are considered active on all days between and including the date the outbreak was declared and the date the outbreak was declared over.</p>	CCM ¹	Thursday
Percent positivity	<p>The percentage of tests for COVID-19 among Halton residents that had a positive result, for the most recent 7 days of complete data (based on test date). Percent positivity is only a valid indicator if lab testing volume is maintained at a high level within the population, defined by the WHO as 1 per 1,000 population per week – equivalent to 611 people tested per week in Halton. Percent positivity can be impacted by changes in testing practices, including increasing when it is restricted to only select populations at greater risk of testing positive.</p>	MOH SAS Visual Analytics tool ²	Thursday (rolling week)
Number of Halton treatment plants with increasing trend greater than 10% in wastewater signal	<p>The number of wastewater treatment plants in Halton for which the concentration (signal) of COVID-19 in the wastewater is currently increasing based on the most recent trend analysis conducted by the MECP. Two wastewater treatment plants are sampled in Halton as of April 2023, meaning this value can range from 0 to 2. Please note that the concentration of COVID-19 in the wastewater may still be relatively high, but may not necessarily be increasing. An increasing signal is defined as +10% change in the 7-day moving average that is significant at the 90% significance level.</p>	MECP ³	Weekly

Indicator	Description	Data Source	Refresh Cycle
Number of patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19	Hospitalizations for COVID-19 include confirmed cases of COVID-19 who are admitted to the hospital and are actively being treated for their COVID-19 infection and its symptoms or have had their hospitalization prolonged due to their COVID-19 diagnosis. This indicator reflects recent data submitted to the MOH SAS Visual Analytics Tool by the hospitals about both Halton residents and non-Halton residents with COVID-19 in their care, and does not depend on hospitalization data for Halton resident cases being provided to Public Health.	MOH SAS Visual Analytics tool ⁴	Thursday
Number of patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19	Hospitalizations with COVID-19 include confirmed cases of COVID-19 who are admitted to the hospital for reasons other than COVID-19, but test positive upon admission or during their hospital stay. This indicator reflects recent data submitted to the MOH SAS Visual Analytics Tool by the hospitals about both Halton residents and non-Halton residents with COVID-19 in their care, and does not depend on hospitalization data for Halton resident cases being provided to Public Health.	MOH SAS Visual Analytics tool ⁴	Thursday

¹ Public Health Case and Contact Management (CCM) Solution, extracted Thursdays to reflect cases reported by end of the previous day.

² Ministry of Health, SAS Visual Analytics Tool, COVID-19 Testing report, extracted Thursdays.

³ Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario's Wastewater Surveillance Data and Visualization Hub, extracted Wednesdays.

⁴ Ministry of Health, SAS Visual Analytics Tool, COVID Regional Hospital and Hospital Utilization reports, extracted Thursdays.

Thresholds for Indicators

Indicator	Goal Description	Red	Orange	Green
New COVID-19 cases, 7-day moving average	A 14-day decline or a stable trend with less than a seven-day moving average of 30 new COVID-19 cases per day.	Increasing trend in the number of new COVID-19 cases per day AND ≥ 30 new COVID-19 cases per day OR ≥ 35 new COVID-19 cases per day	Stable/decreasing trend with 30+ new COVID-19 cases per day OR Increasing trend with <30 new COVID-19 cases per day	Stable trend AND < 30 new COVID-19 cases per day
Number of active institutional outbreaks	A 14-day decline or a stable trend AND fewer than three active institutional outbreaks (based on 5% of healthcare institutions in Halton, which is estimated to be three facilities).	Increasing trend in the number of active institutional outbreaks AND ≥ 3 outbreaks OR ≥ 6 active institutional outbreaks	Stable/decreasing trend with 3+ outbreaks OR Increasing trend with <3 outbreaks	14 day decrease in the number of active institutional outbreaks OR Stable trend AND <3 active outbreaks
Percent positivity	<2.5%	$\geq 5\%$ of people tested have positive results	2.5-4.9% of people tested have positive results	<2.5% of people tested have positive results
Number of Halton treatment plants with increasing trend greater than 10% in wastewater signal	No wastewater treatment plants with an increasing trend in the COVID-19 concentration (signal) greater than 10% per day.	≥ 2 plants with increasing trend	1 plant with an increasing trend	0 plants with an increasing trend
Number of patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19	Less than 10 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19.	Increasing trend in the number of patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19 AND ≥ 10 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19 OR ≥ 15 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19	Stable/decreasing trend with 10+ patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19 OR Increasing trend with <10 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19	Stable trend AND <10 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19

Indicator	Goal Description	Red	Orange	Green
Number of patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19	Less than 20 patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19.	Increasing trend in the number of patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19 AND ≥ 20 patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19 OR ≥ 25 patients in Halton hospitals for COVID-19	Stable/decreasing trend with 20+ patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19 OR Increasing trend with <20 patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19	Stable trend AND < 20 patients in Halton hospitals with COVID-19