

Media Release**January 4, 2021****CK Public Health reports rise in active COVID-19 cases over the holidays**

Today CK Public Health is reporting 30 new cases of COVID-19 which brings the number of active cases to 125. From Dec 27th to Jan 2nd the rate of new infections reported in CK more than doubled from the previous week (from about 50 to over 100 cases per 100,000). The majority of active cases are household or close contacts of previously reported cases, and several are outbreak-related; nevertheless there is a growing number without a known exposure (no epi-link to a case, an outbreak or travel).

The rapid rise in positive cases in Chatham-Kent over the past two weeks is concerning but is not limited to CK. Case numbers are rising across Ontario as was predicted by provincial modelling. The main source of our local cases appears to be close contact during indoor gatherings over the holidays, often with people from high prevalence jurisdictions. Thus far we are able to trace and isolate the contacts of all positive cases and we are working with the Province to get vaccine here as soon as possible. "I want to remind everyone to respect the lockdown conditions, stay home as much as possible and do not host or attend indoor gatherings." advises Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health for Chatham-Kent.

The people testing positive today were exposed up to two weeks ago. With increased contacts over the holiday period, Chatham-Kent is likely to see increased case numbers for some time. Stay home except for essential reasons and limit contact with others as much as possible.

Reporting Update: As of today, CK Public Health will change its COVID-19 status update on the website from 2:30pm to 10:30am, Monday – Friday. Status updates will now include only confirmed cases and outbreaks compiled by CK Public Health up to the end of the previous day. This change aims to improve consistency of daily case counts and reporting practices between CK Public Health and the Province of Ontario.

To stay current on the COVID-19 status for Chatham-Kent, please visit us online at <https://ckphu.com/current-situation-in-chatham-kent/>.

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