

## **ICES COVID-19 Dashboard Data Notes**

### **Data sources:**

- Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS)
- Integrated Public Health Information System/Case and Contact Management Solutions (iPHIS/CCM)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan Registered Persons Database (OHIP RPDB)
- Postal Code Conversion File Plus (PCCF+) Version 7B

### **Methods:**

This analysis includes individuals with a valid Ontario Health Card (OHIP) Number and postal code who received a COVID-19 test in Ontario during the testing period.

A hierarchy was used to assign a postal code to each individual tested for COVID-19:

1. For individuals confirmed positive using an iPHIS/CCM record, we used the residential postal code recorded in the iPHIS/CCM record.
2. For individuals residing in a long-term care (LTC) facility within 90-days prior to testing date, we used the postal code associated with the LTC facility.
3. For all other individuals, we used the postal code associated with their Ontario Health Card Number closest to the testing date.

For each week, a population denominator of all individuals alive and eligible for OHIP was determined. We used the postal code associated with the Ontario Health Card Number closest to the start of the testing week to assign each person to a forward sortation area (FSA; the first 3 digits of the postal code).

### **Notes:**

The percent positivity estimates may differ from other publicly reported statistics due to several methodological differences.

1. Individuals are assigned to an FSA based upon their postal code, and the postal codes used for this assignment may differ.
2. The method used to assign postal codes to Public Health Unit (PHU) geographies may differ depending on whether the method used population weights and whether a postal code belongs multiple PHU.
3. The time period examined may differ. For example, the testing week may run from Sunday to Saturday or Monday to Sunday.
4. The numbers of tests and positive tests may rely upon different data sources. The numbers presented here use OLIS test results supplemented with positive case data from iPHIS.
5. The individuals included in the cohort may differ due to different inclusion criteria. For example, here individuals required a valid Ontario Health Card Number.
6. The unit of analysis may differ (e.g., individuals tested positive / all individuals tested OR positive testing episodes / all testing episodes).

### **Acknowledgements & Disclaimers:**

This study was supported by ICES, which is funded by an annual grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC). Parts of this report are based on data and information compiled and provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Public Health Ontario. The analyses, conclusions, opinions, and statements expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not reflect those of the funding or data sources; no endorsement is intended or should be inferred. We would like to acknowledge Public Health Ontario for access to case level data from iPHIS Plus and COVID-19 laboratory data, as well as assistance with data interpretation. We also thank the staff of Ontario's public health units who are responsible for COVID-19 case and contact management and data collection within iPHIS Plus.

These datasets were linked using unique encoded identifiers and analyzed at ICES.