

For Immediate Release  
January 28, 2021

### **Haliburton County Community COVID-19 Assessment Centre Positivity Rate Report**

Over the past several weeks, our community has seen a significant rise in confirmed COVID-19 cases locally, as well as increased numbers of high-risk contacts. Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge Public Health Unit (HKPR PHU) is currently reporting a total of 47 confirmed COVID-19 cases for Haliburton County since the outset of the pandemic; the HKPR PHU, like all other public health units, is mandated to report based on the geographical boundaries within which it provides service, which means the cases reported for the Haliburton region only include those among persons residing within the boundaries of Haliburton County, regardless of where the testing takes place. Our Assessment Centre, however, provides testing to our broader community, including persons who reside outside of the Haliburton County border but who are still a part of our community. In order to complement the HKPR PHU reports, and provide a sense of the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community that is not restricted by geographical boundaries, our Assessment Centre has begun reporting its 'positivity rate'. The positivity rate represents the percentage of persons tested at our Assessment Centre who test positive, over a designated two-week period.

Our most recent positivity rate is 3.5% (for the period of January 11 to January 22), with an average of 169 tests being completed each week during that time period; HKPR PHU reported a total of 3 new cases for Haliburton County within the same time period. It is important to note that the positivity rate still may not represent all positive COVID-19 cases in our community, but only those who are identified through testing at our local Assessment Centre; some persons in our community who reside outside of Haliburton County borders may be tested at other locations, and would not be included in the Assessment Centre positivity rate or the HKPR PHU total case numbers. Similarly, it is also important to note that all cases reported through HKPR PHU for Haliburton County may not be included in the Assessment Centre positivity rate, as some tests may have been completed elsewhere.

Our team strongly believes it is important for our community to be aware of the prevalence of COVID-19 locally, and encourages everyone to continue adhering to all the public health measures to help prevent further spread of the virus, in order to keep our community safe and to help protect our local healthcare system and resources.

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#### **Members of the media seeking additional information should contact:**

Kim Robinson, Executive Director, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team  
[kim.robinson@hhfht.com](mailto:kim.robinson@hhfht.com)

Tim Waite, Chief/Director, Haliburton County Paramedic Service  
[twait@county.haliburton.on.ca](mailto:twait@county.haliburton.on.ca)

Stephanie MacLaren, VP Community Programs, Haliburton Highlands Health Services  
[smaclaren@hhhs.ca](mailto:smaclaren@hhhs.ca)