



Media Release

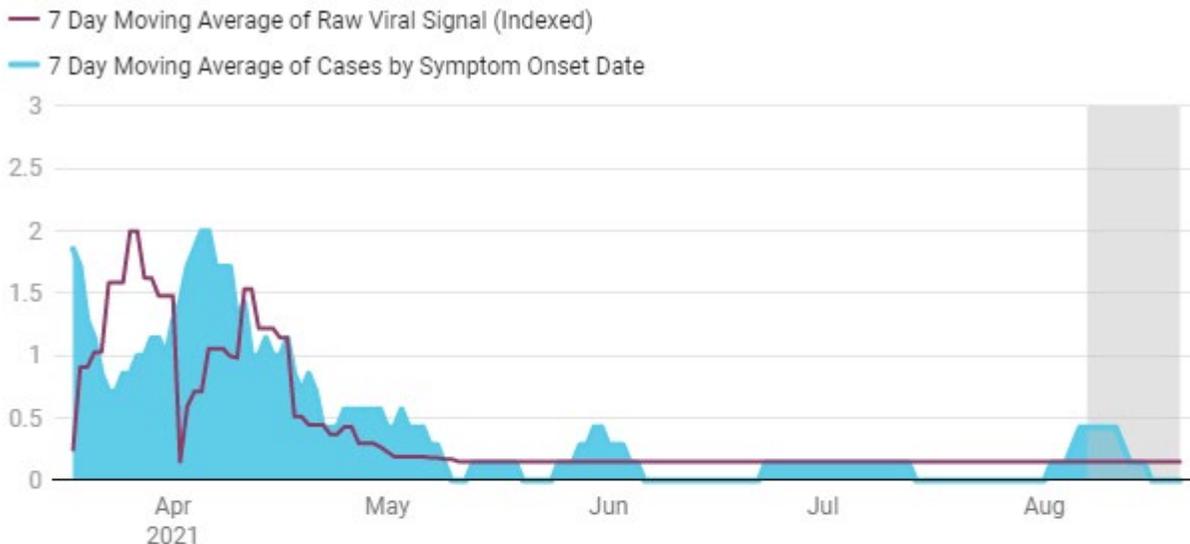
Surveillance initiative showing low levels of COVID-19 in Midland wastewater

August 31, 2021 – In February 2021, the Town of Midland was selected by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to be part of the Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative, an initiative that would track the presence of COVID-19 in wastewater throughout the province through sampling and analysis.

With studies having shown that people with active COVID-19 infections shed the virus in their stool, sometimes before symptoms even start, this data is key, since not everyone with COVID-19 develops symptoms, or goes and gets tested to confirm they have the virus.

“The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has been using the data to predict and better manage the pandemic in the County. André Pepin, Manager, Water and Wastewater indicated. “We are proud to be part of this research and look forward to continue to supply samples as part of this surveillance initiative.”

Town of Midland: Wastewater viral signal and reported COVID-19 cases data – SMDHU



y-axis represents the 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases

Chart: SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA signal is normalized copy/copy with PPMoV. Both normalized and raw viral data are indexed to be on scale with case data, because of this numbers reported here do not represent actual values of normalized or raw SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA measured in wastewater. Cases represent cases in this community reported to the health unit among people residing in this community at the time of illness. Where cases are reported by symptom onset date, date of lab testing or reported date may be used when date of symptom onset is unknown. Illnesses that began during the last 14 days (as shown in grey) should be interpreted with caution due to delays in reporting. • Source: [Ontario Tech University and Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative viral SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection, Town of Midland. Case data from Public Health Case and Contact Management \(CCM\) Solution. Extracted by SMDHU on: 2021-08-25 • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper](#)

For more details on the data, visit the [SMDHU's COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance web page](#).



Since joining the Ontario Water Surveillance Initiative, the Town has been providing weekly samples to the Ontario Technology University in Durham Region. Samples are then tested, and the results are made available to municipalities, health units and the provincial and federal governments for response planning.

Midland has been on the forefront of wastewater surveillance since May 2020, when the Town began collecting samples as part of the COVID-19 Wastewater Consortium of Ontario (CWCO), an initiative through McMaster University designed to assess current situations, build capacity, and identify cost-effective, science-based solutions for municipal infrastructure.

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on our website at Midland.ca/COVID-19, and we encourage residents to follow our social media channels for updates as well, [@MidlandON](https://twitter.com/MidlandON) on Twitter, and [@townofmidland](https://facebook.com/townofmidland) on Facebook.

For more information on the state of COVID-19 in our area, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit their website at simcoemuskokahealth.org.



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