

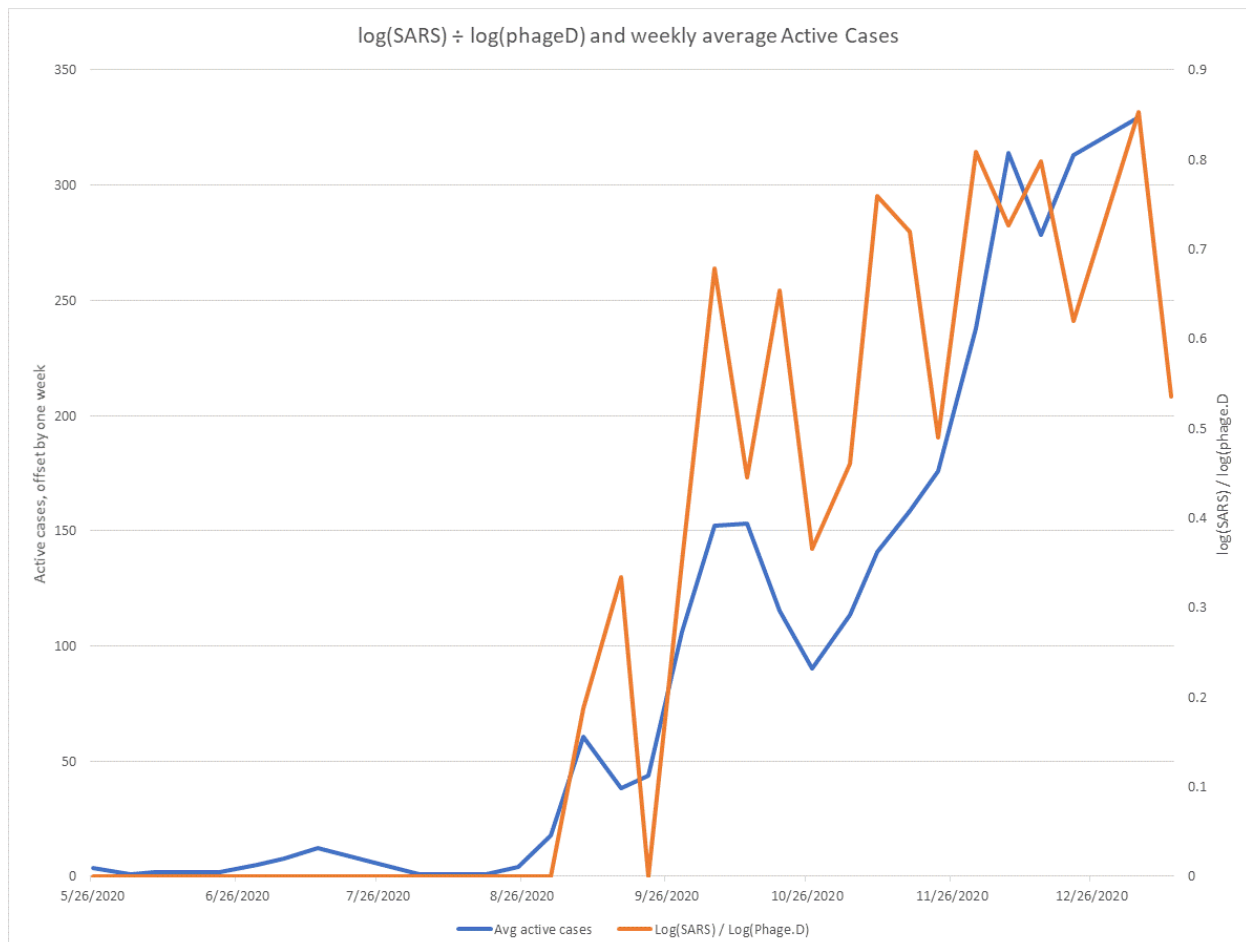
Wastewater testing for Covid-19

Results for the week of 1/10/2021

In line with the State's guidance, Group 1A and 1B residents are now eligible to be vaccinated for Covid-19. If you are in either of those groups you should plan on getting vaccinated. The Cortland County health department does not currently have any vaccine available, but is expecting more next week. Once they have it there will be a link on their Covid web page (<https://www.cortland-co.org/1009/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information>) to a form you can use to schedule a vaccination. You can also call the health department's Covid hotline any time at 607-756-3415 for information about availability and eligibility.

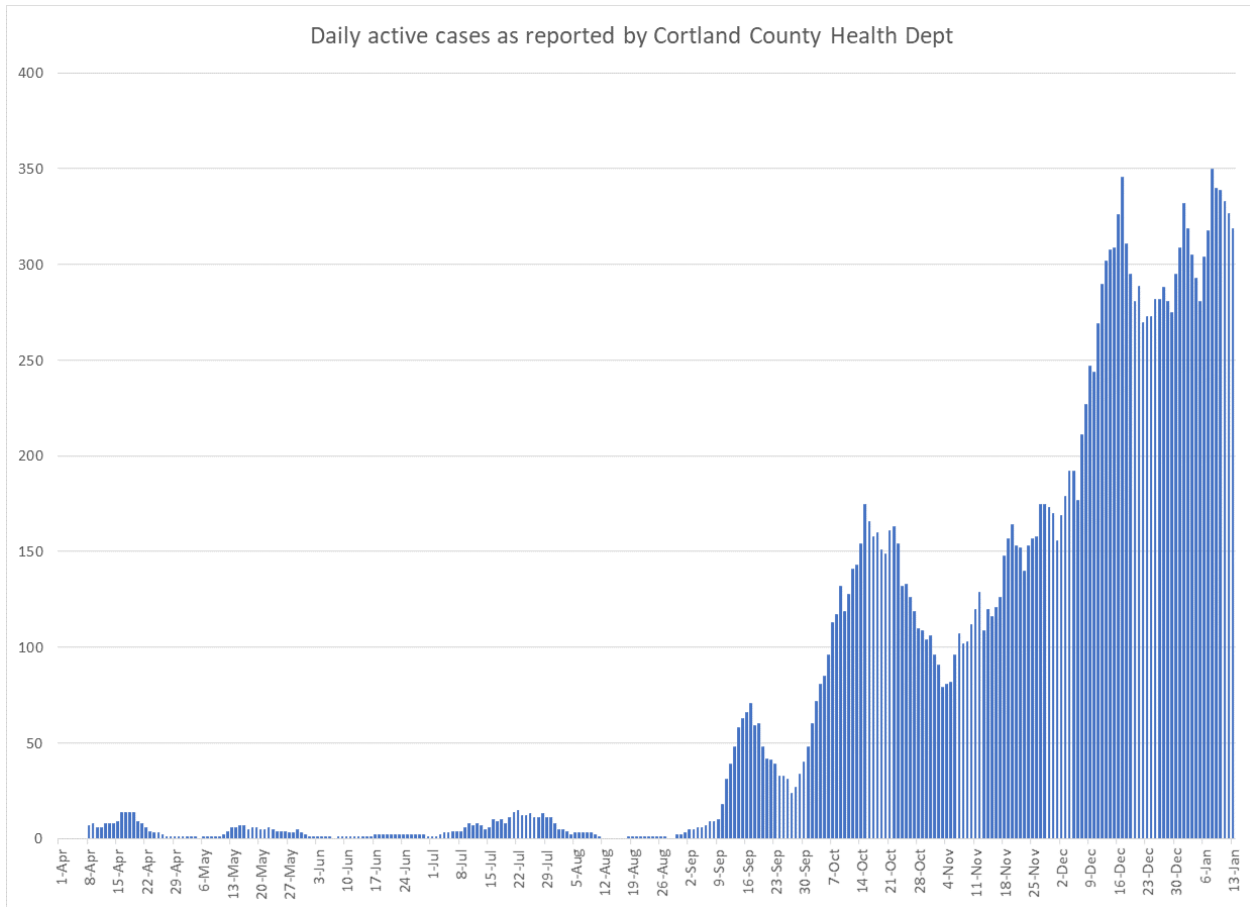
In the meantime, we all need to keep practicing good pandemic behaviors. Stay at home as much as possible. Wear a mask when you're out and keep 6 feet away from people not in your household. Wash your hands frequently and sanitize often-touched surfaces. These simple steps will help to keep our friends and loved ones safe while we wait for "herd immunity".

Since late May of 2020, the City of Cortland has been testing wastewater samples for the presence of the virus that causes Covid-19. The Cortland wastewater plant serves 2/3 to 3/4 of the county population, so it can potentially be a good measure of general infection rate even for cases that aren't found through medical tests.



The graph above shows the trend for wastewater Covid detection alongside the reported active cases as reported by the county. Because the wastewater test catches infections of people who do not yet have symptoms or may not even get symptoms, it tends to be predictive of what the medical testing will show in the following 7 to 10 days. For that reason, the trend in this chart for county-reported active cases is shifted back one week. The graph shows the latest wastewater test which was sampled on 1/12/2021, along with weekly average active Covid-19 cases in the county through the week of 1/10/21 to 1/16/21 as reported by the Health Department.

Though the graph shows a decline in inferred infection rate this week, we believe this is a case of “sample noise” caused by a random dip in the factor used to normalize for population. While it is our hope we’ll see a reduction next week in line with the prediction, we are not expecting it.



As shown in the graph above, reported active cases within the county remain high. This underscores the need to keep doing the little things that are so important in stopping the spread. Protecting one another is the neighborly thing to do.

For additional information about the Coronavirus in Cortland County, see the Health Department’s web page at <http://www.cortland-co.org/432/Health-Department>.

Let’s pull together, Cortland!

