

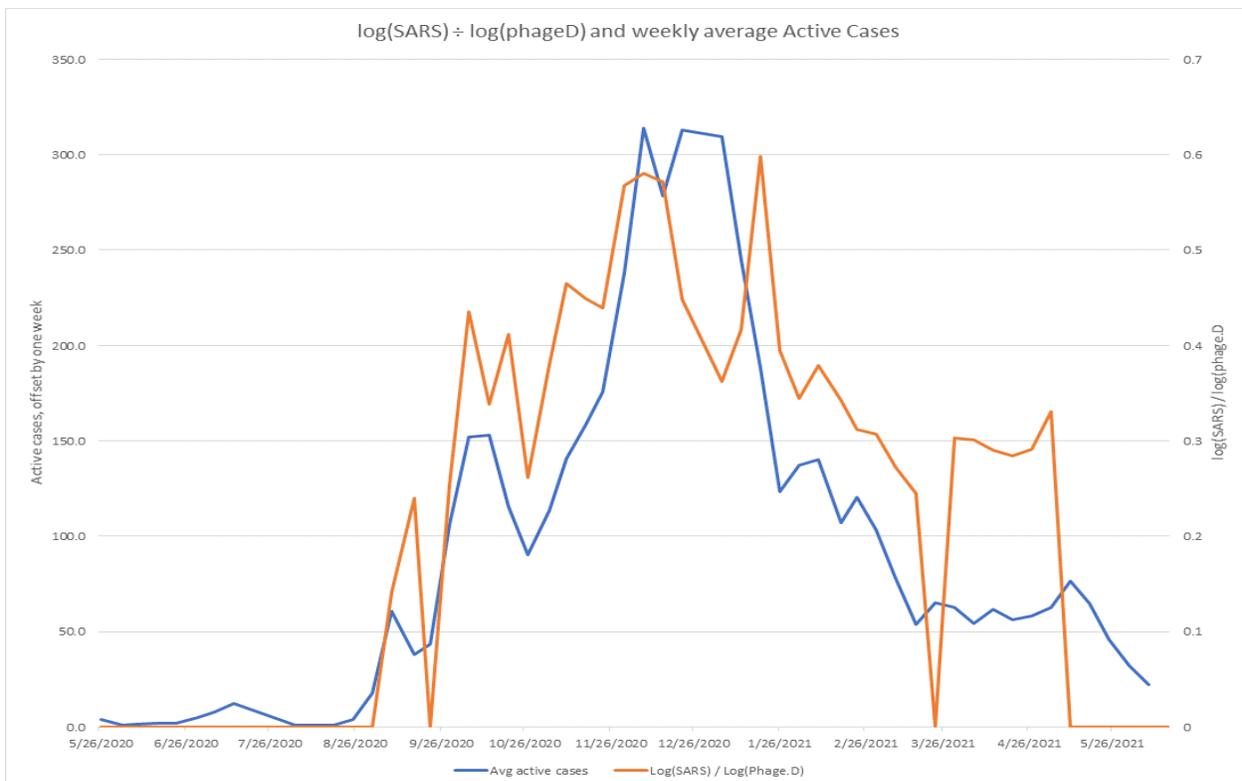
Wastewater testing for Covid-19

Results for the week of 6/13/2021

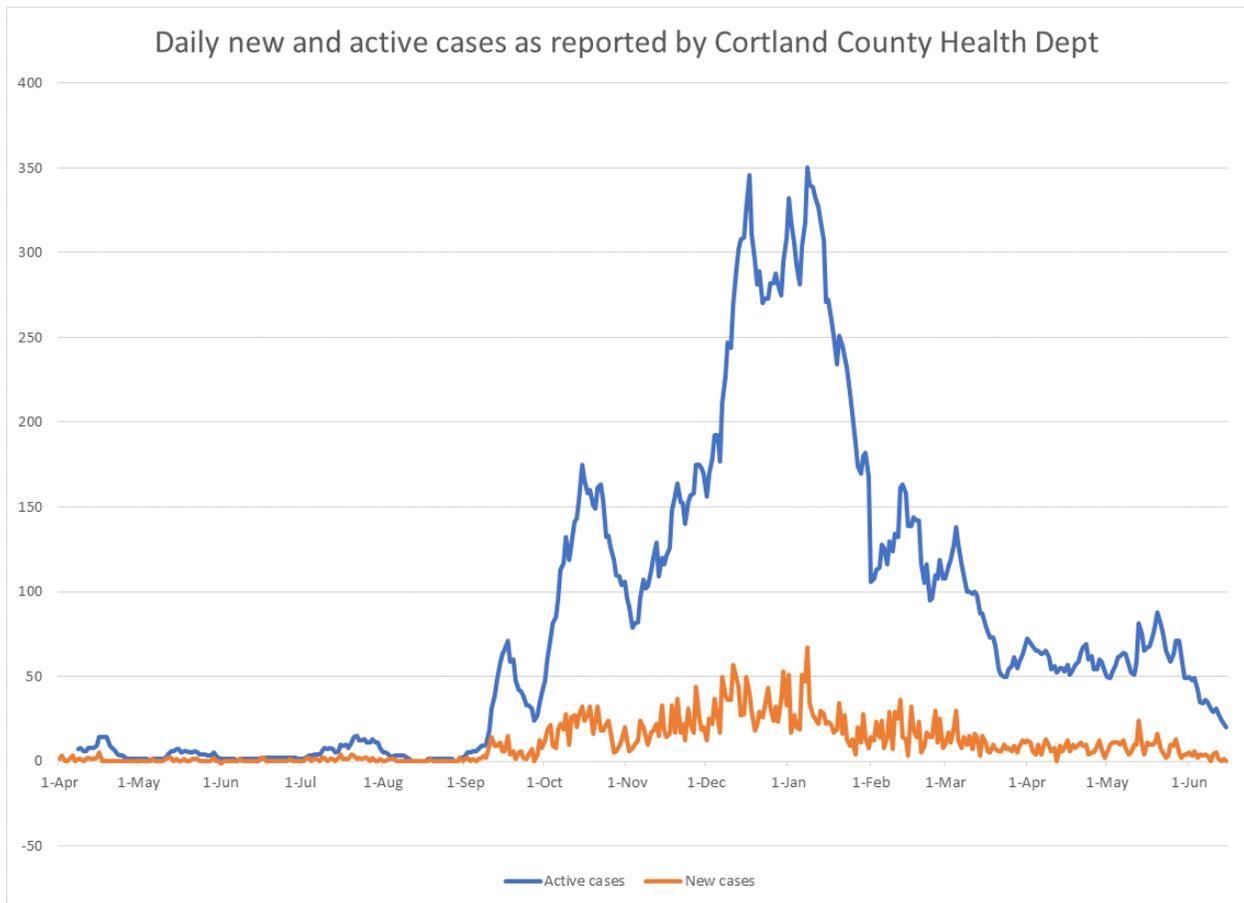
We have now had six consecutive weeks in which the results of testing for the Covid-19 virus in wastewater has been too low to quantify. We can thank a combination of community vaccinations and Covid-safe behaviors for this success. Don't forget that Covid-19 is still out there. The spread is way down, but it's not gone entirely. It still poses a real danger for the elderly and the immune-compromised. Even among the young and healthy, a certain percentage who get the disease suffer lingering effects. Check out <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-long-haulers-long-term-effects-of-covid19> for information about "Long-haul" complications that many are suffering.

Getting vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus is the best way to keep yourself and those you love safe from the pandemic. If you are anxious about the vaccine, talk to your doctor. See <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid19-vaccine-hesitancy-12-things-you-need-to-know> for more information. The County has been holding numerous vaccine clinics. Go to <https://www.cortland-co.org/1009/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information> to sign up for an upcoming clinic. You can also call the County's Covid-19 hotline at 607-756-3415 for more information or to be put on a standby list to be called if there are open spots. New York State's Covid-19 information can be found at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

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. The orange trend, which shows the level of Covid virus detected in the wastewater, is shown as zero for the most recent six samples only because the results are too low to confidently figure a number as described above. 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 6/15/2021, along with weekly average active Covid-19 cases in the county through the week of 6/13/21 to 6/19/21 as reported by the Health Department.



This chart shows both active and new Covid-19 cases within the county as reported by the County Health Department. In the last week and a half we've averaged only 2.5 new cases a day. That's compared against 40 and higher during the worst of it. Getting down to zero will need better vaccination rates. As of this writing, Cortland County is at 56.4% of adult residents who've had at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine. The state-wide number is 67.6% We're making real progress but we need to do more! If you haven't yet, make a plan to get vaccinated.

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!