

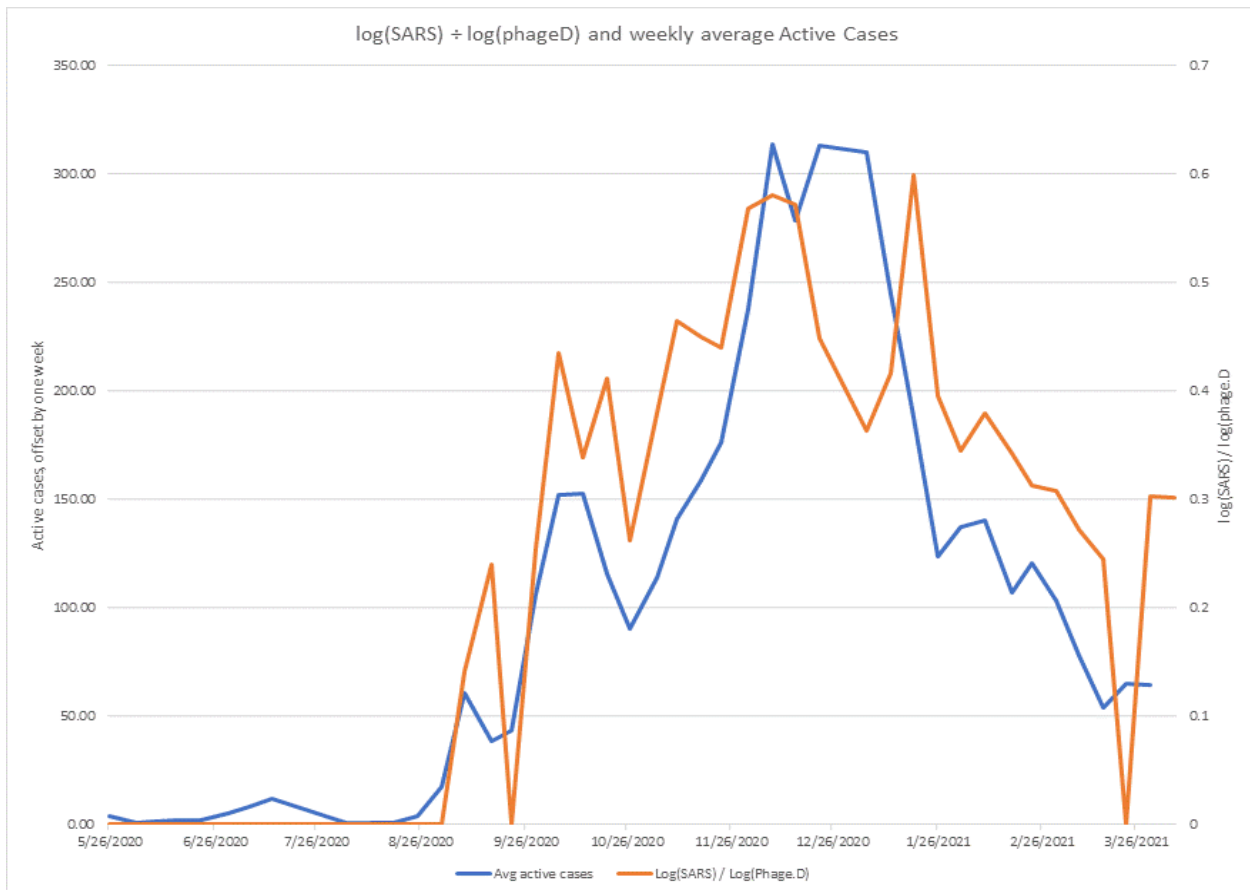
Wastewater testing for Covid-19

Results for the week of 4/4/2021

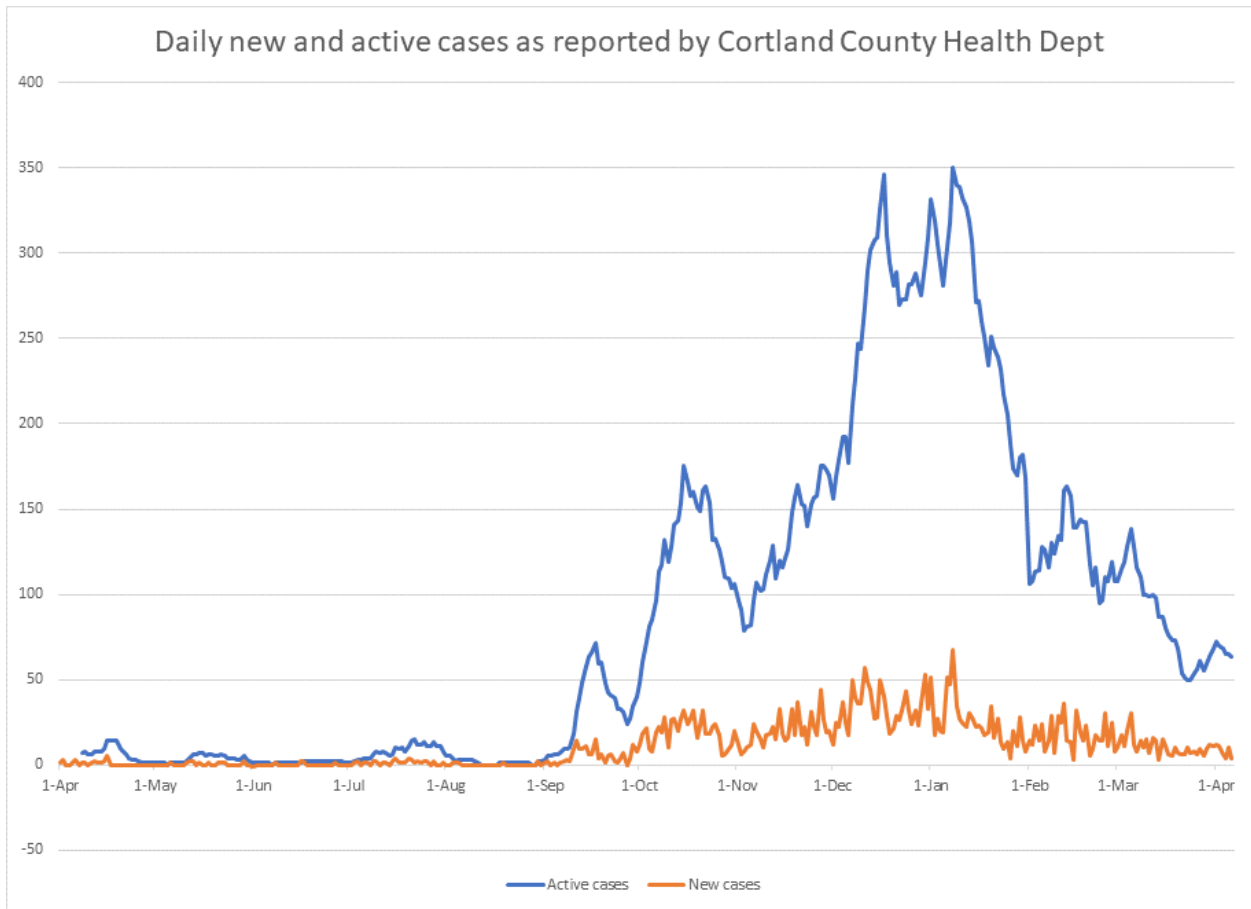
This week the wastewater result for Covid-19 is in line with the previous week. This suggests the infection rate isn't getting worse, but it's also not getting much better. The ways the virus can be transmitted are now familiar to all of us, and we're also well aware of the measures we can take to prevent it. Wearing a mask when out in public, gathering only with people in your immediate household, frequent handwashing, and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces are all important ways to protect our neighbors and extended family.

Anyone in New York State 16 years of age and up is now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. If you have not yet been vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus, now is the time. Ask your doctor about the best way for you to get the vaccine. You can also go through the Cortland County Health Department. 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, is running pretty much where we've been seeing it for the last couple of months. The apparent zero in the trendline from two weeks ago is misleading as the result was not zero but since the result was too low to calculate it is shown as zero. 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 4/5/2021, along with weekly average active Covid-19 cases in the county through the week of 4/4/21 to 4/10/21 as reported by the Health Department.



The chart above shows the daily active cases and new cases within Cortland County, as reported by the County Health Department. Case rates appear to have stabilized. This may sound like good news, and it's better than an increase, but we want the case rates to go down. Covid-19 is still a danger to the elderly, the immune-compromised and those with a number of complicating factors. Keep them safe by following all CDC recommendations all the time.

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!