

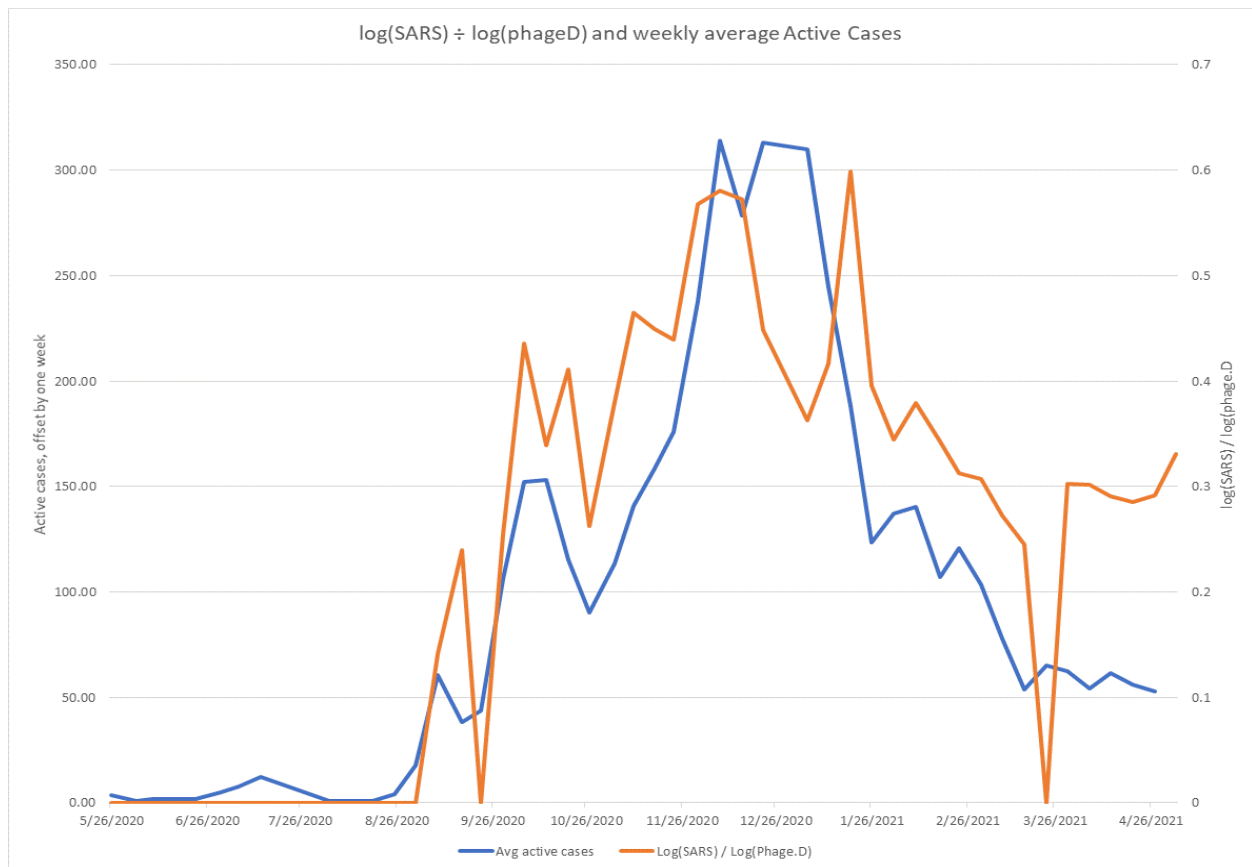
# Wastewater testing for Covid-19

## Results for the week of 5/2/2021

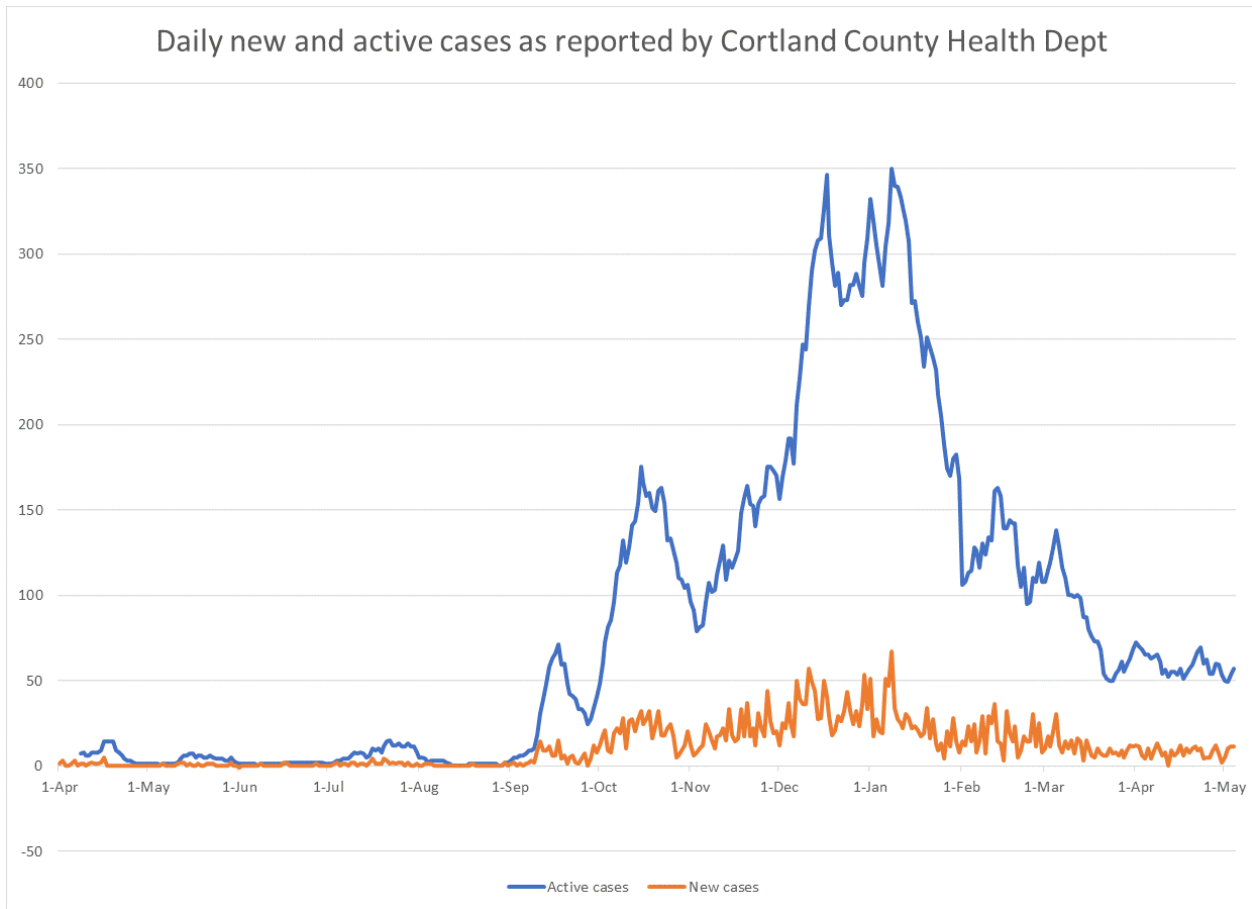
Results from wastewater testing for the Covid-19 virus show a moderate uptick this week. This may be a sign of a modest surge on the way or it may be sampling variability. The next few days' case rates will tell the tale. But this serves as a reminder that the reductions we've can be lost if we're not careful. Maintain 6 feet distance from anyone not living in your home with you. Wear a mask when in public. Wash your hands frequently. If you haven't yet been vaccinated, talk to your doctor about getting the vaccine.

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. The J&J vaccine has been made available once again, and the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are still available. 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 in the wastewater, is showing a bit of a jump over the last couple of weeks. 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 4/27/2021, along with weekly average active Covid-19 cases in the county through the week of 4/25/21 to 5/1/21 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 seem to be mostly stable over the last month with some minor variability. Take pride in how well Cortland has managed the epidemic this Spring, but keep in mind we're not in the clear yet. As of this writing, Cortland County is at 41% for residents who've had at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine. We need to get that number much higher! And until we get there, we still need to observe the CDC recommendations on Covid-safe behavior to protect those in our community who are at real risk of serious outcomes if infected.

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!***