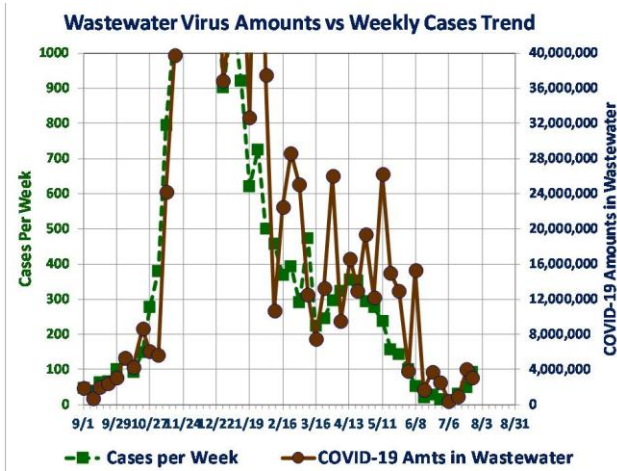




Analysis of COVID-19 in Wastewater

Updated: Aug. 2, 2021



In this report, predicted cases are based on the amount of virus in wastewater connected to the number of cases of COVID-19 diagnosed by testing in our community. These studies are done by Biobot, the company that performs our wastewater testing.

When the number of identified cases are lower than the prediction from wastewater levels, it means that not enough testing is being done and more cases are being missed.

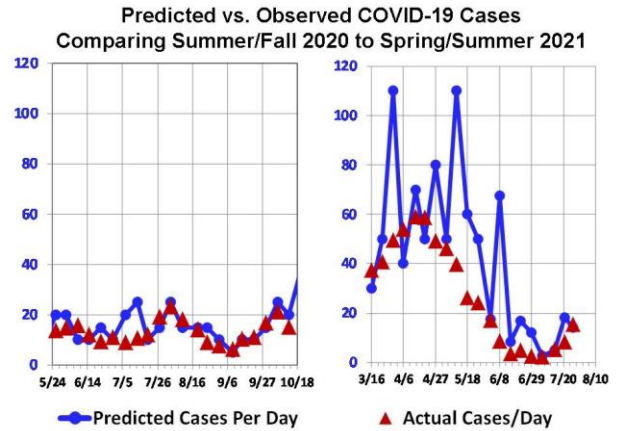
Why this is important

This is a concern because **infected people** who are undiagnosed are the main way that COVID-19 continues to spread in Erie County.

Wastewater COVID-19 virus levels have risen over the past 2 weeks, consistent with increasing numbers of clinical cases.

In the past several weeks, the number of diagnosed cases has been rapidly declining to levels similar to last summer. However, the amount of virus in

wastewater remains steadily about twice as high as the levels last summer.



This indicates that there are likely many more people with infection in Erie County who are not being tested, and therefore more likely to keep the virus spreading.

Remember

Unvaccinated people risk contracting COVID-19 and infecting their loved ones. If you are positive, even if you do not have symptoms or only have mild symptoms, you can pass on the coronavirus to loved ones who are less healthy and they could get sick with COVID-19.

The vaccines work and are safe. The vaccines have been so effective that nearly all COVID-19 cases are currently occurring in unvaccinated persons.

It is normal to get side effects from vaccinations. Vaccines allow you to be protected from this highly infectious disease and allows you to go without masks indoors and outdoors.