

Saskatchewan Health Authority COVID-19 Stakeholder Town Hall Session



January 25, 2021

Presentation from SHA Panelists

Question and Answer segment:

1. Ask questions by raising your “hand”
2. Type questions in the Q & A section
3. Text questions to 1-306-520-2433

All lines are muted

Moderator will address questions to panelists

Truth and Reconciliation

Slide 2

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathering on Treaty 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 territories and the Homeland of the Métis. Recognizing this history is important to our future and our efforts to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. I pay my respects to the traditional caretakers of this land.

Introduction of Presenters

Presenters:

Dr. Kevin Wasko – A Call to Action

Dr. Johnmark Opondo – Surveillance and
Epidemiological Trends

Derek Miller– Vaccination Campaign

Dr. Kevin Wasko, MA, MD, CCFP (EM), CCPE Physician Executive - Integrated Rural Health

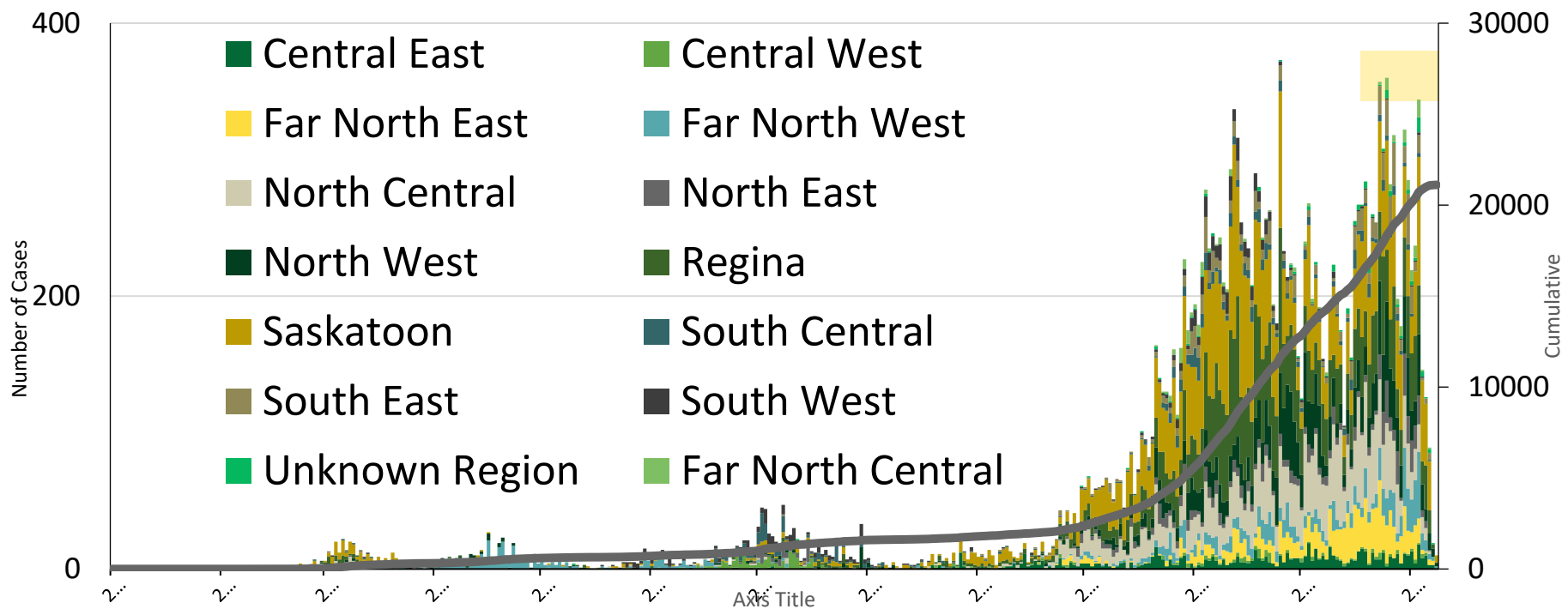
A Call to Action

Dr. Johnmark Opondo

Medical Health Officer / Medical Director
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

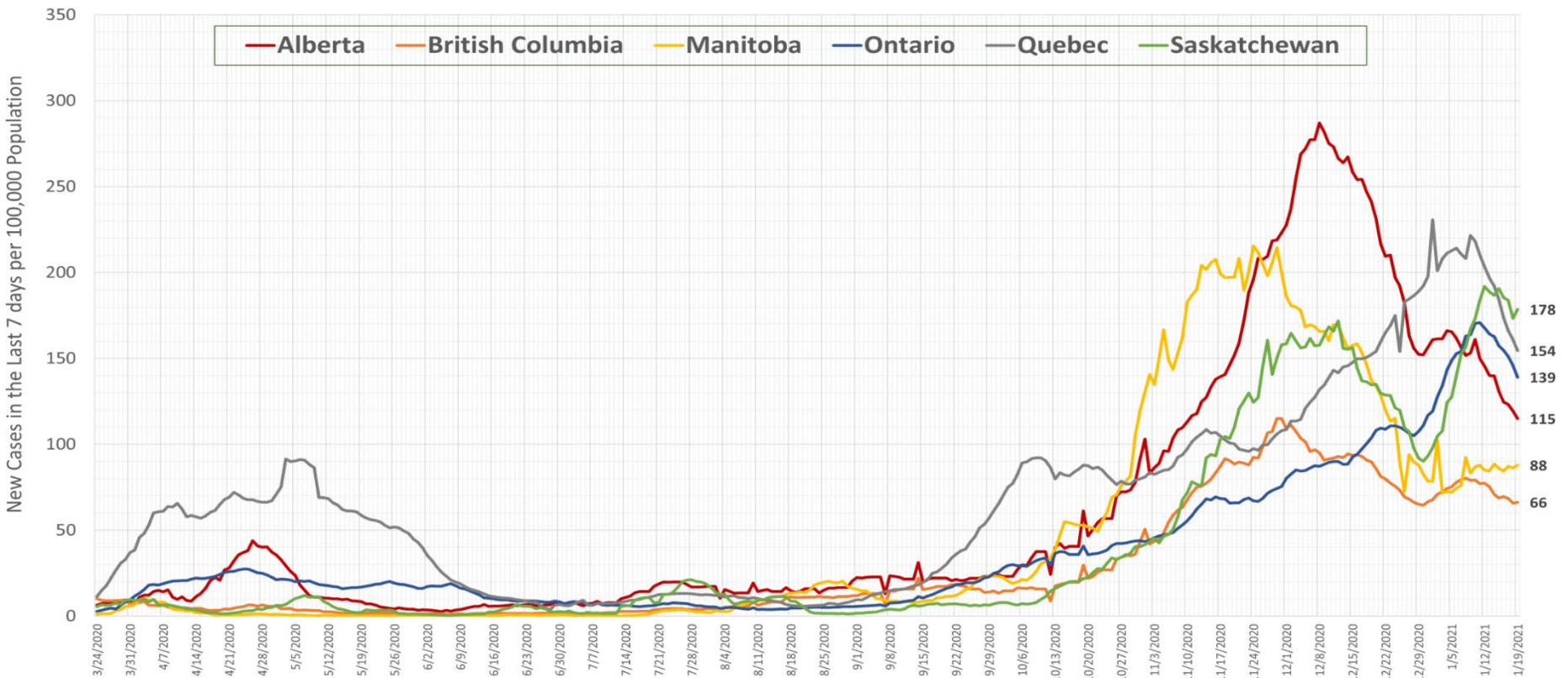
Surveillance and Epidemiological Trends

Epidemic curve, SK-COVID-19 pandemic, by zone, Feb 1, 2020 – Jan 20, 2021 (n = 21,113)



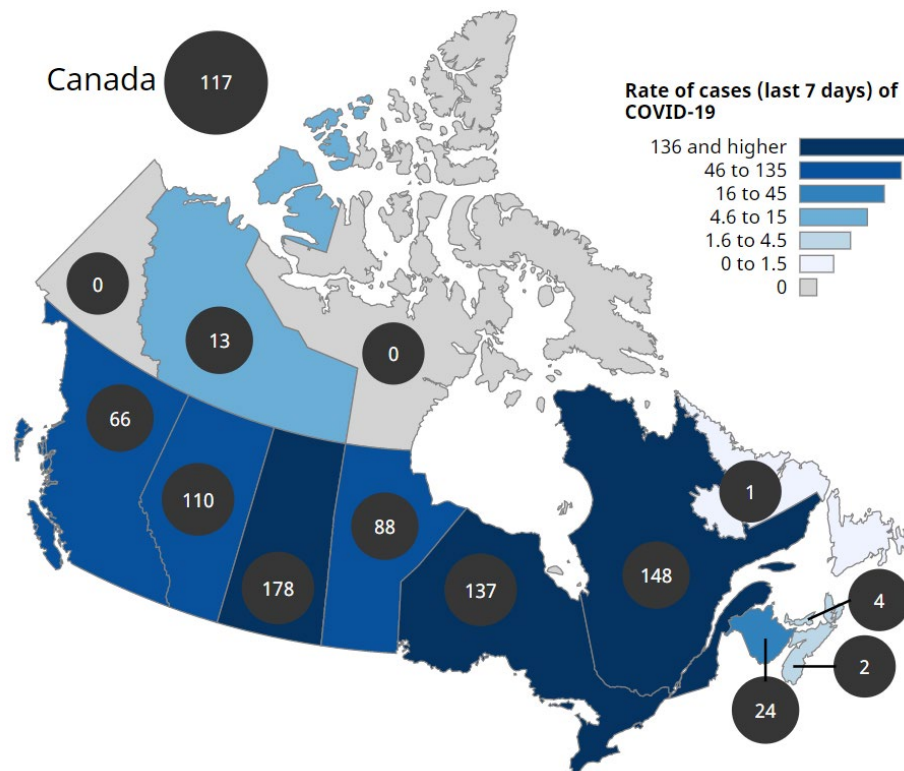
Source: Panorama, IOM

New COVID-19 cases per 100,000 (last 7-days), by province, March 2020 - Jan 20 2021



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

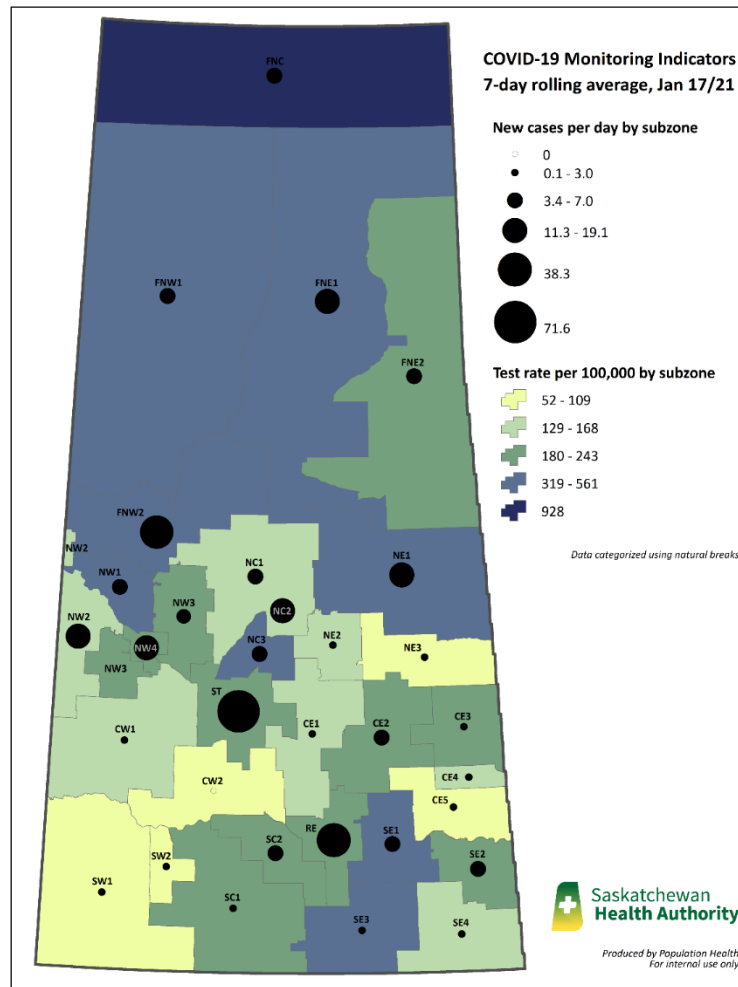
COVID-19 cases, rate per 100,000 (last 7-days), by province/territory, Jan 20 2021



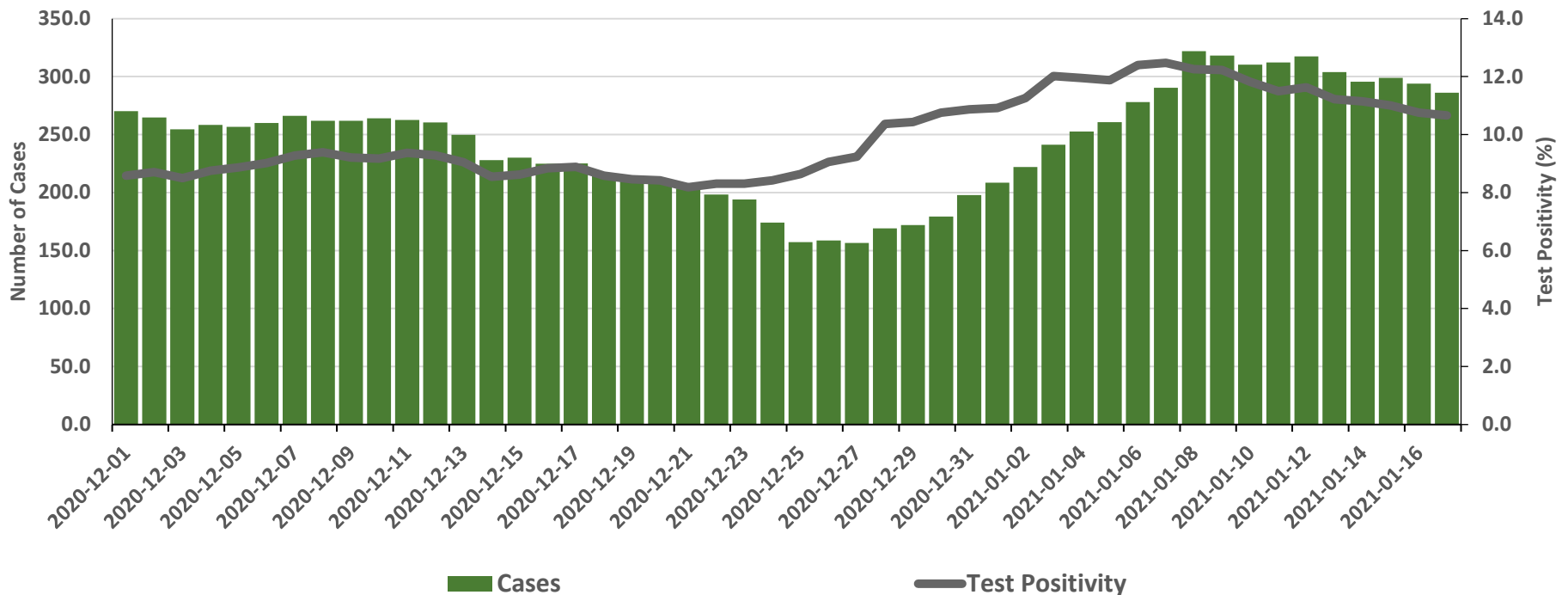
SK now has the **highest case rate** in Canada

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

New cases and
test rates, 7-
day rolling
average, per
100,000, by
subzone, Jan
17, 2021

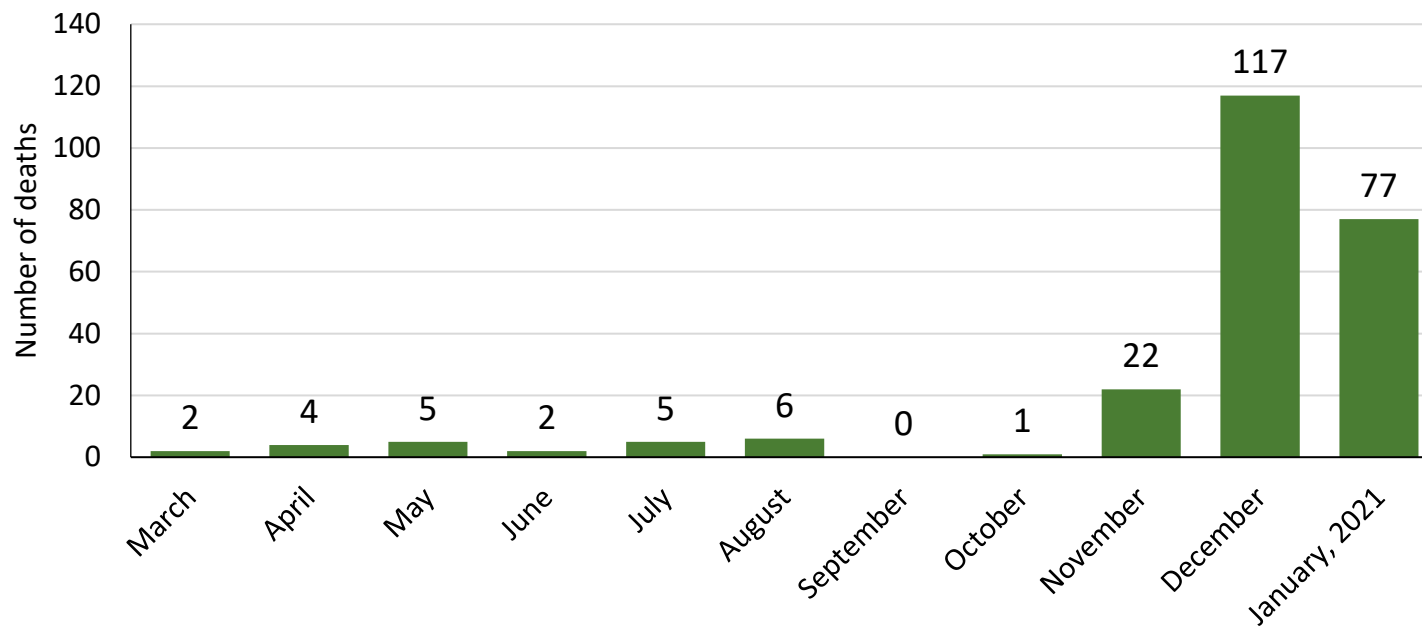


COVID-19 cases and test positivity, 7-day rolling average, Dec 1, 2020 - Jan 17, 2021



Source: Interactive epi file

COVID-19 deaths, SK-COVID-19 pandemic, Mar 31, 2020 – Jan 20, 2021 (N = 241)



The majority of deaths (n = 194; 80%) have occurred in the last 6 weeks

Source: RRPL-IOM Data Extract

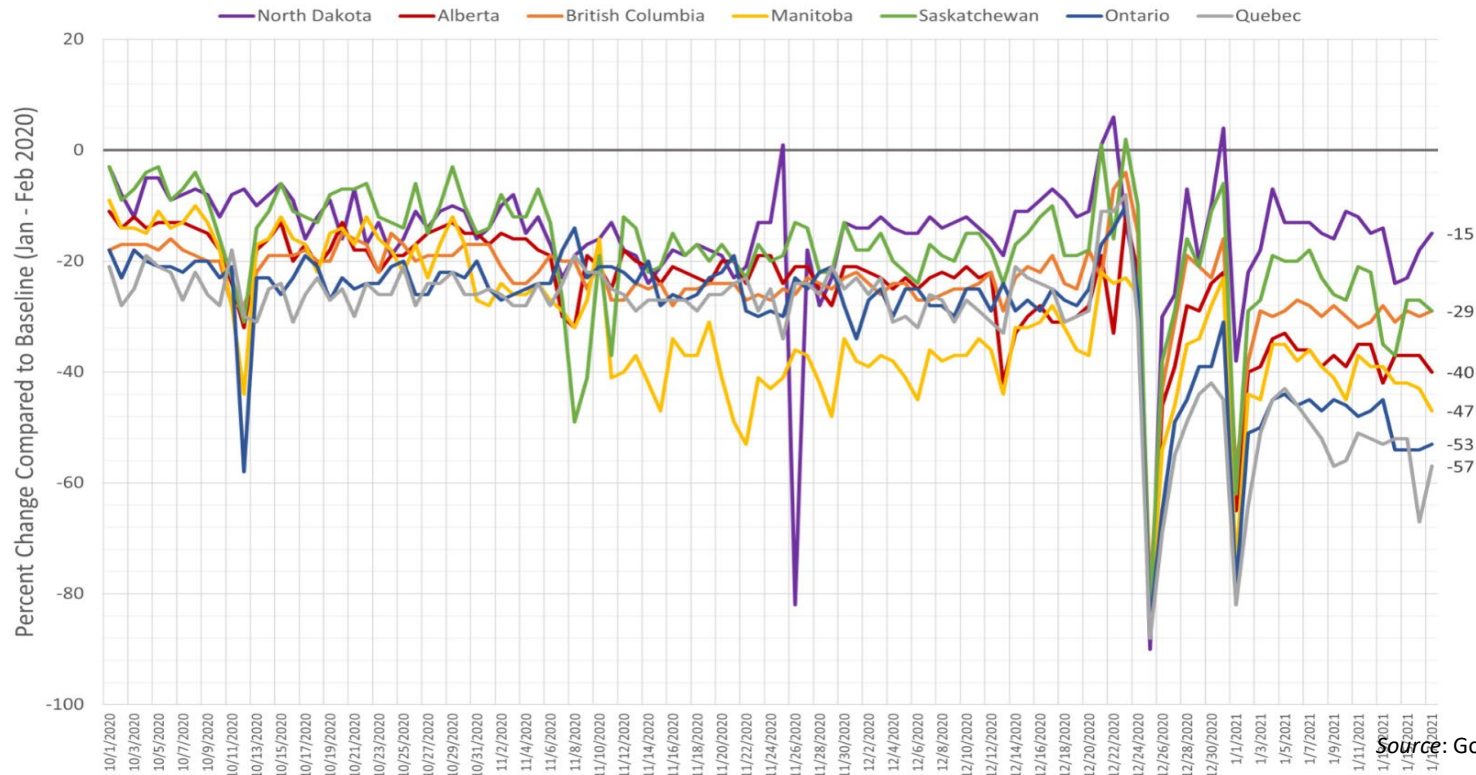
Monitoring Indicator summary, Jan 4 to Jan 17, 2021

Indicator	Jan 4 – 17, 2021 compared to previous	Dec 28, 2020 – Jan 10, 2021 compared to previous	Dec 21, 2020 – Jan 3, 2021 compared to previous	Dec 7 – Dec 20 compared to previous	
Rate of new cases	↑	↑	↑	↓	Epidemic DT and R(t) hold steady
Number of active cases	↑	↑	↓	↓	
Laboratory tests per 100,000	↑	↑	↓	↓	
% test positivity	↓	↑	↑	↓	Testing rate increasing and test positivity decreasing
Effective reproductive rate	→	↑	↑	↓	
Epidemic doubling time	→	↑	↑	↑	
COVID deaths*†	↓	↑	↑	↑	New hospital admissions decreasing
Hospitalization*†	↓	↓	N/A	↑	
Total cases unknown/pending exposure*	↑	↑	↑	↑	
Total active contacts	↑	↑	↓	↑	
Number active cases in schools*	↑	↑	↓	↓	
Number of active outbreaks*	↑	↑	↑	↑	
COVID-like illness** in EDs*	N/A†	N/A†	N/A	→	

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Weekly Integrated Epi Report

Mobility patterns, by geography, percent change from pre-COVID, Oct-Jan 17 2021

Retail & Recreation Mobility Patterns Oct 1, 2020 - Jan 17, 2021



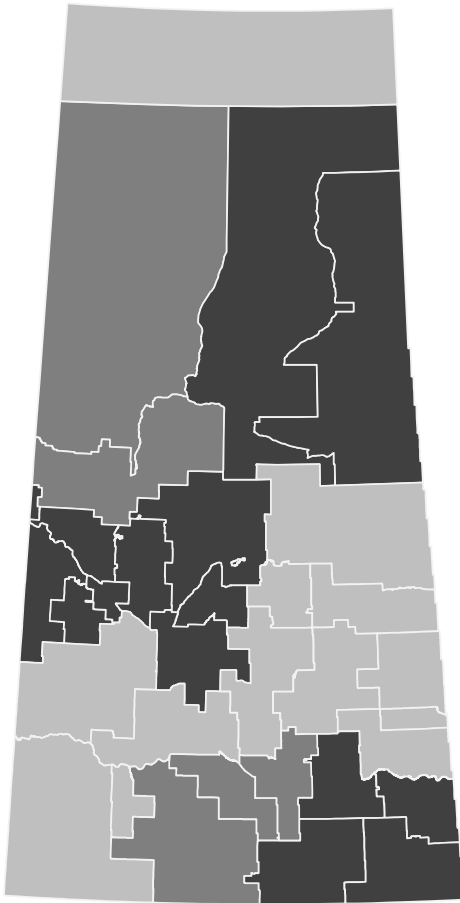
Source: Google mobility trends

Assessed Risk of Epidemic Transmission, by Zone, Jan 6 – 19, 2021

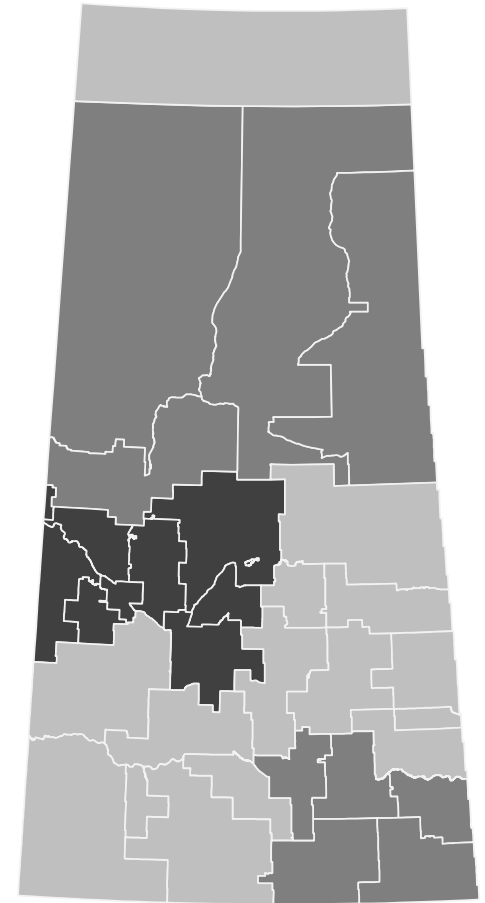
← Previous week

Current week →

Colour *	Threshold level for Epidemic Spread
	"The New Normal"
	COVID transmission is controlled, but there is a risk of community transmission.
	High risk that COVID transmission is not controlled.
	High likelihood that COVID transmission is not controlled.



Week Jan 6 – 12, 2021



Week Jan 13 – 19, 2021

What can help?

Interrupt community transmission with interventions that target risk:

- Congregate living (LTC/PCH, corrections, shelters, group homes)
 - Reduce residential density (people per room) and mixing
 - Prioritize and expand access to **testing, immunization and PPE**
- Prevent household transmission
 - Supports for **self-isolation and quarantine**
- Worker protections
 - Occupational health and safety (legislative, environmental, administrative)
 - **Enforcement** of current Public Health Orders (ticketing, closures)
 - Income and job security (self-isolation, quarantine, sector closures)
- **Culturally safe approach**

Public Health risk communication

- **Simple measures work** to reduce the risk of infection:
 - Wash/sanitize your hands often
 - Wear a mask – properly!
 - Stay home if sick
 - If possible, work from home
 - Limit close contacts
 - Avoid non-essential travel – within and outside SK
 - Opt for pick up/take out/delivery
 - Socializing outdoors is better than indoors – but is not risk-free
 - Physically distancing is better than standing close together
 - Hugging/kissing/handshaking/sharing foods spread germs



COVID-19

Immunization Campaign Update: January 25

Derek Miller

SHA Emergency Operations Centre - Commander



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

1. Goals of the Immunization Campaign
2. Phase One Populations
3. Faster, Smarter, Safe
 - Includes impact of Pfizer slow down
4. Key challenges, key next steps and key messages

Speed matters. Every day counts to save lives and reduce the overall impact of COVID-19.

FASTER.
SMARTER.
SAFE.

COVID-19
VACCINATION



Immunization Campaign Goals

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- Minimize serious illness & death
- Protect those most vulnerable
- Protect health care capacity
- Minimize spread
- Protect critical infrastructure



Phase One Priority Populations

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Category

Long term care/personal care home residents and staff

Select health care workers

Ages 80+ years

Ages 70-79

Remote/North vulnerable populations

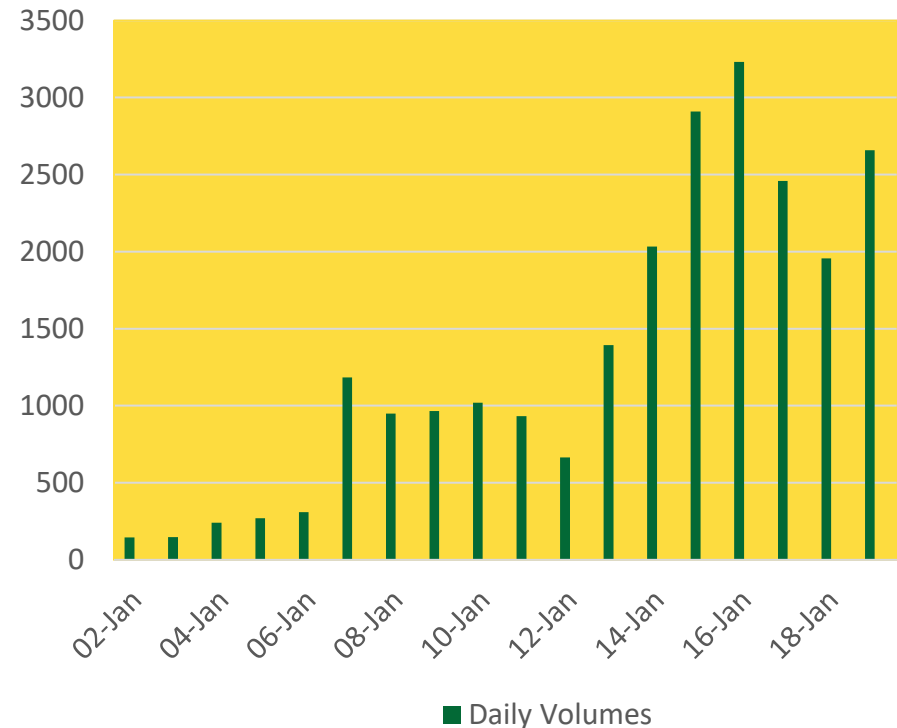
****General Population will receive vaccination beginning Spring 2021****

- Rollout is determined through a combination of local attack rates & risk criteria for priority populations, logistical factors and availability of supply.
- Currently planned Federal allocations for Phase One leave us **approximately 50% short** of fully immunizing the high priority populations approved by the COVID-19 Immunization Oversight Committee and as recommended by clinical and ethical experts

Faster – *Speed Matters!*

- 7 day average of **2,377+ delivered/day** (Jan 14-21)
 - Up from approx. 1,000/day last week
- An **‘all-hands-on-deck’** approach is driving our success.
 - 1st dose complete for long term care homes in 40+ communities
- **Virtually all of our vaccine supplies have now been administered**
 - Over 100% of what has been received has been administered due to getting extra doses out of vials (as of Jan 24)
- Pause on Pfizer allocations means **daily volumes will slow** and we will likely **run out of vaccine** in the week ahead

Daily Volumes



Key Barrier to being faster!

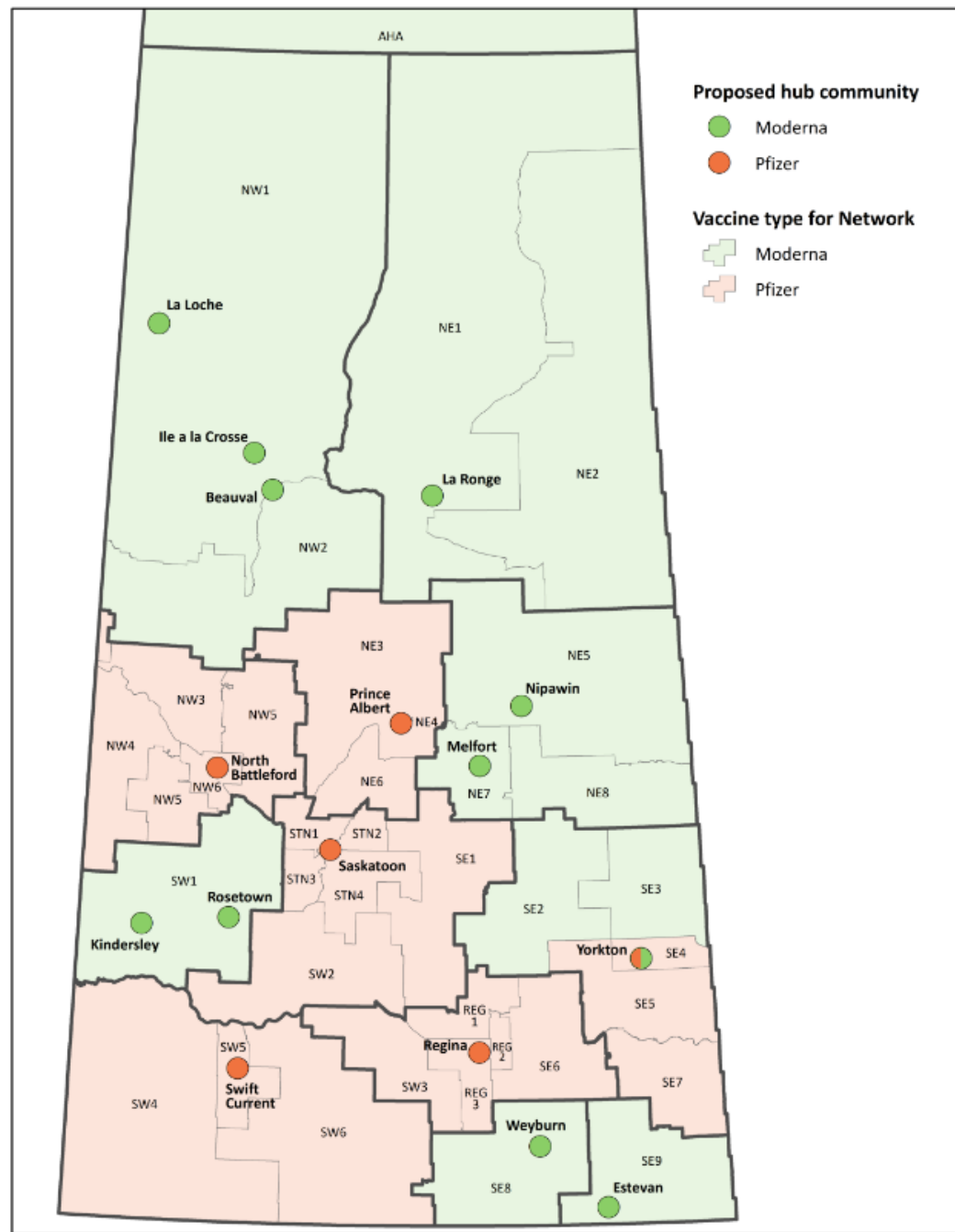
Pfizer Slow Down

- In Saskatchewan, vaccines will continue to be administered as received according to priority sequence; however we are faced with an overall reduction in our Pfizer vaccine shipments over the next four weeks:
 - Jan 18 shipment – from 7 trays (6,825 doses) down to 3 trays (2,925 doses);
 - Jan 25 shipment – from 7 trays (6,825 doses) down to 0 trays;
- Allocations for Feb 1 shipment and beyond are not yet confirmed; however planning figures indicate these doses will be made up in later shipments.
- Due to this reduction in allocation from Pfizer, the SHA has had to make difficult decisions about how to distribute our allocations across the province to address this supply challenge.
- We continue to sequence allocations based on identified priority populations for phase one as well as areas of the province at greatest risk

Smarter

Learning matters!

- ✓ Hub model enabling us to plan ahead and deliver faster
- ✓ Allocation plan out to end of March completed, but now being adjusted due to Pfizer pause
- ✓ Plans must remain flexible and adaptable to unpredictable allocations, new learnings, etc.
- ✓ Teams across the province currently developing plans for delivery of vaccine in phase two
- ✓ Key aim to strengthen stakeholder engagement and communications



Safety matters: High uptake requires strong communications to ensure the public knows the vaccine is safe



The COVID-19 Vaccine is:

- Safe – Health Canada approved
- Effective – 90%+ reduction in infection
- Simple – like getting a flu shot

The World Health Organization:

- Estimates that vaccines save 2-3 million lives in a normal year
- Lists vaccine hesitancy as one of the top 10 global health risks

NACI Recommendations on 2nd Dose:

- The National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI) now recommends an extended interval between first and second doses up to 42 days where operationally necessary. This is supported by the World Health Organization and Canada's Chief Medical Officers of Health.
- Previously, second doses were to occur between 21 and 28 days, depending on the vaccine brand.
- Saskatchewan will be implementing these recommendations in order to deliver more first doses to eligible people.

Key Challenges & Key Next Steps

Key Challenges

- Complex transportation/logistics
- resource challenges given high COVID case rates
- Limited, variable and unpredictable allocations

Key Next Steps

- Finish administering available doses
- Given unpredictability of allocations, ensure constant readiness for rapid distribution/administration of vaccines
- Continue to work with provincial/federal governments on need for stable, predictable, large allocations to support rapid vaccine administration
- Preparation of Phase Two plans

Celebrating Good News

Since the campaign began, nearly 30,000 doses of vaccine have been administered in Saskatchewan; this effort is literally saving lives.



Key Messages – Faster. Smarter. Safe.

Key Messages:

- Safety of our patients, residents and health care workers is our #1 priority
- Speed matters. That is why we need to continually get faster and smarter.
- The recent changes to Pfizer allocations will impact Saskatchewan; we will continue to prioritize those most vulnerable populations to receive the supplies we have.
- Immunization is a ***good news story***. Numerous stories of success, co-operation and support across the province.



QUESTIONS

1. Ask questions by raising your “hand”
2. Type questions in the Q & A
3. Text questions to 1-306-520-2433

Direct follow up questions to: anne.lindemann@saskhealthauthority.ca

SHA Liaison Contact Information

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Survey

<https://redcap.rqhealth.ca/apps/surveys/?s=TJ3FA4FF99>



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