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Gemmill also hopes this might set a standard for across Ontario. That way, with those similar processes, there won't be the kind of inconsistency that causes questions and so on, he said.

Either way, everyone should be behaving as though, when with other people, you're potentially being exposed, stressed the health unit's top official. That's another part of the argument against revealing case counts at those smaller levels, because it shouldn't change anyone's behaviour or affect risk, Gemmill said.

"We should be behaving all day, every day, as though coronavirus is around, and we should be protecting ourselves."

As for how Gemmill feels about data reporting in this instance, he said he had "no really strong feelings about this." He added that he believes in transparency, and that public health should be giving as much information as people need to understand what's happening.

But, the most important thing people should understand, he said, is that this winter's virus is on the way up in wave two and people need to be guided by that.

"The fact that somebody lives in ... like a small, lower-tier township, I think is neither here nor there, but if the guidance indicates that we should be doing it in a specific way, we will be doing that."

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