

health with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, is urging residents to stay the course, and help stop the increased spread of COVID-19 in the area.

“During the past seven days, staff from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit have conducted investigations on more than 94 new confirmed COVID cases,” said officials. “The bulk of these new cases are in Northumberland County, but additional cases have been confirmed in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.”

While into March case counts were lowering in comparison to earlier reports in 2021, more recently cases appear to be on the rise again. Northumberland saw a large spike with 41 new cases reported Tuesday.

The latest public health data – like the HKPR snapshots of cases measured in 14-day periods – have more than doubled in the latest tracking period (from in the 50s to 120-plus.)

And variants of concern (VOCs) also continue to trickle in, causing worry. Within HKPR, a total of 109 cases to date had screened positive for the mutation found in variants, according to the latest public health data Wednesday, April 7.

“As we have been hearing, these variants spread more quickly and easily than the original COVID virus and we are seeing that happen as well,” said Bocking.

The bulk of the VOCs to date – 70 total – have been in Northumberland (up 17 from Tuesday, April 6); meanwhile, 38 have been reported in Kawartha, and one case in Haliburton. Variants started trickling in HKPR starting in mid-February, with numbers rising into March.

With older adults in long-term care and retirement homes now vaccinated, many of the latest cases tend to be those younger in age, said public health officials.

“Of the 94 new cases seen in the past seven days, more than 26 per cent of the new cases were among youth aged 14 to 18 years of age,” said the health unit.