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Halton health officials say lower COVID-19 case counts contributed to the decision to stop weekend number updates.

## REGION NO LONGER UPDATING COVID-19 NUMBERS ON WEEKENDS

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Halton Public Health has decided to stop providing public updates on Saturdays and Sundays when it comes to coronavirus case counts and recoveries.

While the local health authority has been delivering daily updates on its website with Halton-specific numbers since shortly after the pandemic started, going forward, health officials say this will only be done from Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.

"These changes were

prompted by a review of recent COVID-19 case counts — for example, lower (positive) counts and smaller fluctuations between reports — reviewing practices of other public health units, and by monitoring-halton.ca website traffic to the COVID-19 case tables," said a statement from Halton Public Health to Metroland Media.

"Please note that as the cases are not updated on weekends, the 'change from last update' can be expected to be higher on Mondays and Tuesdays, as new cases reported on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are captured."

Hamilton Public Health also recently made the decision to stop updating its COVID-19 numbers over the weekend.

The way local coronavirus data is provided to the public by health units has evolved throughout the pandemic.

For example, in the early days when there were only a few cases, Halton health officials would detail the age group, gender, municipality and COVID-19 exposure source for every individual.

As the case numbers grew, the daily data shifted to aggregate numbers broken down by age group and municipality — Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington and Oakville.

Further details about exposure sources by municipality can be found in Halton's weekly surveillance reports.

For more visit halton.ca/covid19.

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