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Stay Safe and Healthy



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The Forum

QUAD TOWN
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Around North America in 1,095 days, or maybe more



Above: Arie Hoogerbrugge prepares to depart Emerald Park for Regina after stopping for a late lunch Sunday afternoon. He arrived in Saskatchewan from Manitoba on Thursday evening, en route to the Pacific coast. Forum photo by Brad Brown

Arie Hoogerbrugge of Grimsby, Ont. is pictured above, Sunday afternoon on Highway 48 east of White City. Hoogerbrugge was nine months at over 8,750 kilometres into his journey, which he intends to eventually take him to Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina. For more on Hoogerbrugge's story, see next week's paper. Forum photo by Brad Brown

Latest COVID numbers a mixed bag for Sask.

Monday marked the Regina region's third straight day without reporting a new case of COVID-19, while the rest of the province combined to report 145 new cases over the nine days dating back to July 12.

Province-wide, those numbers included 42 new cases July 15, the highest single-day increase in cases since the virus was first confirmed in Saskatchewan in March.

Factoring in recoveries during that time, the total active number of COVID cases in Saskatchewan increased from 40 on July 11 to 145 as of Monday afternoon.

The provincial government resumed daily COVID updates July 12 following a call to do so from the provincial NDP. The government had temporarily stopped providing updates on weekends and holidays.

Even with last week's outbreaks however, the province continues to average fewer new cases (7.26) of COVID-19 per day since June 8 — when bars, restaurants, daycares, gyms, churches, parks and playgrounds were all permitted to reopen — than it did in the previous 88 days (7.38 cases per day) dating back to Saskatchewan's first reported case.

The government noted Monday that the recent increase in cases continues to be found largely in the southwest and west-central areas of the province, "both on colonies and in the broader community."

As of July 15, the Saskatchewan Health Authority noted there continued to be an elevated risk of COVID transmission in Swift Current, as well as within the rural municipalities of Maple Creek, Auvergne, Biggar, Eagle Creek,

Grandview, Harris, Kellross, Lac Pelletier, Newcombe, Perdue, Pleasant Valley, Prairiedale and Tramping Lake.

Testing meanwhile continues to lag well behind the national average, though the government said that the 2,634 tests performed Saturday and Sunday represented the province's highest two-day total of the pandemic. As of Monday, the government reported 82,943 COVID-19 tests had been performed in Saskatchewan, for a per-capita rate of 60,463 per million people. Nationally, the average was 93,658 people tested per million population.

COVID-19 testing continues to be available to anyone who requests it, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. A referral for testing can be received by phoning HealthLine at 811.

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