

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Information for Indigenous communities:
Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – September 2, 2021

With the days getting shorter and fall right around the corner, a new season provides an opportunity for new beginnings. Children and teens are heading back to school to start a new academic year and signs of normal life continue to emerge.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 cases are rising across the province. The Delta variant is now the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario. It spreads much more easily and quickly than other variants of the virus. However, there is good news: recent reports indicate that less than 1% of fully vaccinated individuals become sick from COVID-19.

Many First Nations have excellent vaccination rates, but we cannot be complacent. Vaccine hesitancy and low uptake among 12- to 17-year-olds are serious issues that we must work together to address. There are still many people who cannot be vaccinated and have no protection against the Delta variant, including children under 12. As school starts and many students attend in person, we must do everything we can to protect our most vulnerable populations. This means continuing to encourage your communities to get fully vaccinated and continuing to follow public health guidelines. We remain fully committed to supporting you in this, and as communities continue to battle outbreaks along the way.

Vaccines give us all hope for a future filled with hugs, family reunions, and community celebrations. The power to keep our loved ones safe rests squarely in our hands, and is well within reach.

Garry Best, Regional Executive and Anne Scotton, Regional Director General

Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada - August 27, 2021

Since the start of the pandemic, a total of 1,482,668 reported cases of COVID-19 and 26,864 deaths have been reported in Canada. Getting vaccinated and following public safety measures are the most effective ways to reduce the spread of the virus. As of August 26, over 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to people aged 12 years and older.

This is a crucial time for increasing vaccine coverage. During this fourth wave, the Delta Variant of Concern accounts for the majority of reported cases and severe outcomes. Most of these cases are occurring in unvaccinated individuals. Read more [here](#).

Expanded vaccine eligibility: third doses and youth turning 12

On August 17, Ontario announced it will begin offering third doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to select vulnerable populations. The Province also announced that as of August 18, all youth who are turning 12 in 2021 can receive the Pfizer vaccine; previously, children had to already be 12 years old. Click [here](#) for more information.

Protect unvaccinated children

Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized for use on children under 12 years old. However, clinical trials are underway to determine the safety and efficacy of the vaccines on infants and children under 12 years.

It is important to protect unvaccinated children under 12. When socializing with others outside of one's immediate household, assess everyone's risk and comfort level. Determine if extra preventive practices are needed, such as practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, and gathering outdoors instead of indoors.

Children can still get infected with COVID-19, become ill, and pass the virus on to others. This is why it's important that every eligible person around them gets fully vaccinated. More information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **20,792,657** Total doses administered
- **83%** of eligible population (12+) have one dose; **76%** have both doses

* All data reflects total from 6 p.m. the previous day

Participation in “My Why” social campaign

To help increase vaccine confidence, the Government of Canada is inviting Canadians to share their reason for getting vaccinated. Interested individuals can post their “why” anytime by text or video on their favourite social media platform.

Individuals can also [show their support](#) by using a profile frame on Facebook, use GIFs or stickers on social media sites, share their resources, use the hashtag #MyWhy in their COVID-19 vaccination posts and post a selfie.

New COVID-19 Communications Resources

The [OneHealth Portal](#) is routinely updated with new resources. A recent update includes the following:

- New youth resources created by ISC. These resources are unbranded to allow for the addition of your organization or community’s logo.
 - [Talking about COVID-19 and vaccines](#): a guide for parents/guardians and teachers on how to answer common questions from youth.
 - [Conversation starters infographic](#): this can be used by parents/guardians and teachers to encourage an open dialogue with youth about COVID-19, public health measures, mental health, misinformation, and vaccines.
 - [Detecting misinformation infographic](#): in an effort to combat misinformation about vaccines, this document can be used by parents/guardians and teachers to help youth detect misinformation online. Teachers can use this as part of a lesson plan or as a handout.
- The latest version of the [ISC Vaccines Toolkit \(Update 7\)](#), which includes:
 - Three new radio scripts on COVID-19 vaccine myths for youth.
 - The resources “Make sure you have the facts about COVID-19 vaccination” and “COVID-19 vaccines: get the facts” translated into five Indigenous languages.
 - Partnership with the Assembly of Seven Generations.
 - Pre-recorded radio PSAs on mental health to promote the Hope for Wellness Help Line by James Jones (Notorious Cree) and rapper Samian.
 - New social media posts and creatives for Indigenous youth.
- A new [Mental Health Support Toolkit](#) created by Health Canada. It outlines available resources and supports for mental health and substance use disorders, as well as guidance on messaging and social media content.

Proof of vaccination for international travel

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories to develop a standard, secure proof of vaccination credential for international travel. The credential will help facilitate travel outside of Canada while reducing the risk of spread of COVID-19.

The proof of vaccination will be an easily recognized and trusted credential and will provide border officials with an individual’s factual vaccine history.

The Government of Canada is working with Indigenous partners across the country to ensure that a proof of vaccination credential responds to the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Moderna vaccine: youth approval and vaccine supply beyond 2021

On August 27, Health Canada announced that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in youth aged 12-17. The vaccine was found to be 100% effective in trial participants two weeks after their second dose. For more information, please click [here](#).

Additionally, the Government of Canada has entered into an agreement with Moderna for additional supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine for 2022 and 2023 with an option to extend to 2024. The agreement guarantees access to 40 million doses and up to 65 million doses if needed.

The agreement will also give the Canadian government access to new COVID-19 vaccine adaptations based on the epidemiological evolution of the virus. Canada will continue to follow scientific and expert advice on all vaccine procurements. Click [here](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Cases

*As of September 1, 2021, @ 12:00 p.m.

- **2,631** confirmed in-community
- **24** active cases on reserve
- **30** deaths
- **2,571** resolved (98%)



Please feel free to contact the FNIHB Ontario COVID-19 generic inbox: sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca if you or your community members have any information needs.