

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – May 6, 2021

While spring blooms around us, the month of May provides us many opportunities to pause, reflect and show gratitude.

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Mental Health Week, which is observed until May 9. CMHA's objective this year is to help us understand our emotions. We can promote and protect good mental health by recognizing and accepting our feelings—even when they're uncomfortable. This is especially important while we all manage unprecedented levels of stress, anxiety and fatigue. The CMHA provides a number of helpful [articles](#) and [toolkits](#).

May 5 marked the national day of awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We recognize that there is much more work to be done to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and we remain committed to working together to bring an end to this tragedy.

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

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for youth

Health Canada has authorized the use of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine for children between the ages of 12 and 15 on May 5, 2021. This vaccine was previously approved for those over the age of 16 on Dec. 9, 2020.

The decision is based on data from phase three clinical trials on children in that age group that demonstrated its safety and effectiveness for this expanded age group. It marks a milestone in Canada's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Canada has published [multiple documents](#) related to this decision, including a high-level summary of the evidence it reviewed.

More information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the Health Canada website [here](#).

Updated Recommendations on COVID-19 vaccines

In the interest of informing immunization programs and other interested parties across Canada, National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) [Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines \(PDF\)](#) and [Summary of the updated vaccine statement](#) are now available online. The latest updates include information on the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine and advice on vaccination during pregnancy.

COVID-19 vaccination is essential to ending the pandemic. NACI encourages all Canadians to get vaccinated with a complete series of COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from illness, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **132,603** Daily doses administered
- **5,599,723** Total doses administered
- **381,123** People fully vaccinated
- * All data reflects total from 6 p.m. the previous day

The national toll-free Hope for Wellness Help Line provides telephone crisis intervention counselling support for First Nations and Inuit, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as well as further assistance. Telephone counselling is available in English and French and, upon request, in Ojibway, Cree, and Inuktitut by dialing 1-855-242-3310. This is an invaluable resource for help managing stress, anxiety and fatigue.

New resources available on the OneHealth Portal

New information and resources are made available each week on the [OneHealth Portal](#). A few updates to highlight:

- [Flowchart: How COVID-19 vaccines are distributed in Canada: Who Does What](#) – available in [English](#) / [French](#)
- [Poster: Together, let's stop COVID-19 one arm at a time](#) – now available in seven Indigenous languages - [English](#) / [Eastern Ojibway](#) / [Inuktitut](#) / [Michif](#) / [Mohawk](#) / [Ojicree](#) / [Swampy Cree](#) / [Western Ojibway](#)
- [Poster: Going out safely during COVID-19](#) – available in [English](#) / [French](#) / [Cree](#) / [Dene](#) / [Innu-Aimun](#) / [Inuinnaqtun](#) / [Inuktitut](#) / [Michif](#) / [Mi'kmaq](#) / [Eastern Ojibwe](#) / [Western Ojibwe](#) / [Oji-Cree](#)
- [Poster: The facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#) – available in [English](#) / [French](#) / [Eastern Ojibwe](#) / [Inuktitut](#)
- [Factsheet: What to expect when you get vaccinated](#) – available in [English](#) / [French](#)
- [Factsheet: COVID-19 Vaccines – Get the Facts](#)
- [Regional COVID-19 Communications Resource List](#)
* Updated as of April 30, 2021

Information unrelated to COVID-19

National Nursing Week 2021

[National Nursing Week](#) runs from May 10-16, 2021. Please take the time to recognize and show gratitude for their courage and commitment, especially in light of this challenging year. Their contributions are invaluable, and we appreciate them all.

The theme this year is #WeAnswerTheCall, which was developed by Canadian Nurses Association to showcase the many roles that nurses play in a patient's health-care journey. The pandemic brought to light the courage and commitment that nurses work under every day and showed the important role that nurses play in the community. More information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 resources for parents and children

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on everyone in different ways, and has presented unique challenges to families as they continually adapt to changing public health measures. Guidance for parents and caregivers highlighting ways to adjust can be found [here](#). It includes activities for children; ways to help them cope with stress while helping them feel safe; self-care for parents and caregivers; and additional resources.

Following public health measures after vaccination

It remains absolutely critical to continue following public health measures after vaccination. While many community members are now fully vaccinated, not everyone has received their second dose. The COVID-19 vaccines are an added layer of protection against severe illness and death, but they are not a replacement for public health measures that are already in place.

The First Nations Health Authority [outlines four key reasons why we need to continue following measures](#) including avoiding crowds, minimizing in-person contact with people outside of your immediate household, wearing [properly-fitting masks](#), practicing frequent handwashing, and staying home while sick (even if symptoms are mild). Scientists and medical professionals are still learning how effective the vaccines are at preventing the spread of the virus in light of new variants, so we cannot let our guards down yet.

COVID-19 Cases

*As of May 5, 2021, @ 4:30 p.m.

- **1,637** confirmed in-community
- **108** active cases on reserve
- **23** deaths
- **1506** resolved (92%)



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.