

# COVID-19 Update

For more information:  
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



## INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – November 18, 2021

There are plenty of new faces arriving in Ottawa next week as a new Parliamentary session begins on Monday, following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announcing changes to cabinet on October 26, 2021. Indigenous Services Canada is pleased to welcome the Honourable Patty Hajdu as the new Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. She is also the Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario. Minister Marc Miller has moved to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and the previous Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Carolyn Bennett, has become the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Associate Minister of Health.

As the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North since 2015, Minister Hajdu has a deep understanding of the issues affecting First Nations in Ontario, particularly in the north. Prior to taking on the ISC portfolio, Minister Hajdu served as the Minister of Health; the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour; and the Minister of Status of Women. Minister Hajdu believes that a more inclusive country benefits everyone, a view that will surely shape her work to serve all Indigenous Peoples living in Ontario and across Canada. We know that she looks forward to engaging meaningfully with you and continuing to advance the work that we are doing together. You can learn more about Minister Hajdu [here](#).

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

### Launch of Operation Remote Immunity 3.0

Under a shared decision-making model, ISC and the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) have initiated Operation Remote Immunity (ORI) 3.0 to administer approximately 5,005 booster doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in remote and isolated First Nations over five weeks. On November 15, 2021, SLFNHA and local Tribal Councils began holding vaccine clinics in four communities – Muskrat Dam First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, and Webequie First Nation. On November 22, 2021, ISC will begin its operation with three teams for the remaining remote Nishnawbe Aski Nation First Nations. The Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) begins its ORI 3.0 vaccine clinics on Nov. 22, starting with Kashechewan, Ft. Albany and Peawanuck First Nations. ISC will go into these areas the week of Nov. 29 to provide additional clinic support.

Pfizer vaccines and seasonal influenza vaccines will also be available for those who are interested. Where requested, the Government of Canada is deploying Canadian Armed Forces Rangers for logistical, coordination, and administrative support from Nov. 15, 2021, until March 31, 2022.

Throughout the pandemic, SLFNHA and WAHA have continued to evolve and to advocate for a health system that better meets the needs of their communities. They continue to advocate for First Nations jurisdiction over public health; to recognize and respect the laws, protocols and decisions that community leadership make to keep their communities safe.

### Reminder: Get Your Flu Shot

The flu can spread easily and quickly to anyone, even before you know you are sick. Indigenous people with chronic health conditions or living in overcrowded homes are at a higher risk of hospitalization and serious health complications from the flu. Getting the flu shot can help keep you and your community healthy. Learn more [here](#) about how the flu shot works and who should get it. Flu shots will continue to be available, based on supply, in the coming months. For more information, contact your local public health unit or community health care facility.

There are also three posters available in English to help you promote the flu shot in your community:

- [The Flu Shot: Protect yourself, protect your community](#)
- [Share traditions, not the flu](#) version 1
- [Share traditions, not the flu](#) version 2

### COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

\*All data reflects totals from 8 p.m. the previous day

- **15,040** Daily doses administered
- **22,748,337** Total doses administered
- **11,169,767** People fully vaccinated

### Additional Operating and Maintenance Funding Available to Cover Winter Costs

All Ontario First Nations that have an existing COVID-19 isolation unit and have already received operating and maintenance funds can still apply for more funding to cover additional winter costs. This funding ends on March 31, 2022. To apply for funding, please send a proposal to [sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca) using the generic proposal template, which can be found [here](#), along with more information on applying for COVID-19 funding.

#### Update on COVID-19 in Ontario

COVID-19 cases in Ontario as a whole, as well as in First Nations communities in Ontario, are starting to creep upwards. Some communities in the south are on the verge of becoming hot spots and we may also see that trend start to appear soon in northern Ontario.

We know that the best way to protect ourselves, our families and our communities against COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated. As third doses become available, it is important that your community members get a booster. Third doses can help people maintain their protection against COVID-19 over time.

With winter firmly upon us, we are increasingly likely to gather indoors more often. COVID-19 spreads much more easily in closed, indoor settings. It is important to continue to reinforce to your community members the need to practice good public health measures; we are not out of the woods yet. These include: limiting close contact to members of their immediate household, wearing a mask in indoor public spaces regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, wearing a mask outdoors regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status when unable to maintain 2 metres of distance from anyone who they do not live with, following provincial gathering limits and washing hands frequently.

#### New COVID-19 Communications Resources

The [OneHealth Portal](#) is routinely updated with new resources. Notably, you can now find the following new items on the Portal:

- A [COVID-19 travel fact sheet in English](#) and [French](#) outlining proof of vaccination requirements and accommodations for Indigenous Peoples.
- The latest version of the [ISC Vaccines Toolkit \(Update 9\)](#), which includes a new webpage and radio PSA with information on proof of vaccination requirements for Indigenous Peoples.
- An updated version of the [Regional COVID-19 Communications Resources List](#).

As well, a poster with useful information on requirements for fully vaccinated travellers and unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age is [available online](#). *\*Please note that this poster is to be used for information only. It cannot be used as a proof of an exemption when travelling.\** This poster is available in [Eastern Ojibwe](#), [Cree](#), [English](#) and [French](#).

#### Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty and Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccines as a booster shot

Health Canada has authorized the use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty](#) and [Moderna Spikevax COVID-19](#) vaccines as a booster shot. A COVID-19 booster shot is an extra dose of the vaccine given after receiving a full series of a COVID-19 vaccine. For Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty, a full series is two doses, which means a booster will be a third dose. The booster shot is designed to help people maintain their protection against COVID-19 over time.

After a thorough, independent review of the evidence, Health Canada has determined that the Comirnaty and Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine booster shot meets the department's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements. The booster is authorized for adults 18 years of age and older, to be used at least 6 months after an individual has completed their primary vaccine series.

Evidence continues to show that being fully vaccinated provides strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19, including against the Delta variants. For information on authorized vaccines and treatments in Canada, visit the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments portal](#).

#### Applications Open for the New Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program

Have you heard of our new [Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program \(CSICP\)](#)? Cultural activities for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples are essential. This program provides funding for the construction and renovation of long houses, cultural centres, heritage parks, powwow grounds, cultural ceremonies, teachings, land-based education activities and more! Applications are open until December 1.

#### COVID-19 Cases

\*As of November 17, 2021, @ 4:30 p.m.

- **3,009** confirmed in-community
- **56** active cases on reserve
- **35** deaths
- **2,918** resolved (97.0%)



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