

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region

January 28 2021

We are now in the midst of the cold winter months along with an increasingly challenging situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the beginning of the distribution of the vaccine in Ontario gives us hope the upward surge in the number of cases, especially in Indigenous communities in Ontario, and the identification of variants of concern (for example the “UK variant” also known as B.1.1.7) means that we must remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. As we continue our work together to prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, it remains critical that communities continue to adhere to public health measures in order to keep everyone safe throughout this period, and stay informed as we learn more about the variants.

COVID-19 has taken, and continues to take a toll on our mental health. Our primary focus remains on efforts to combat the pandemic; however, it is more important than ever to remember to take care of yourselves, your families and your communities. Please also encourage your members to [reach out for support](#) if they need it.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will continue to be here for you and to help support you and your community as much as possible through this challenging period of the pandemic.

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

Ontario Declares Second Provincial Emergency to Address COVID-19 Crisis and Save Lives

In response to a significant increase in COVID-19 cases, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts declared a second [provincial emergency](#) as well as a Stay-At-Home Order effective January 14, 2021.

For more information regarding the latest Stay-At-Home Order please refer to [O. Reg. 11/21: Stay-at-Home Order](#).

Additional Public Health Measures

Due to the alarming and exceptional circumstances at hand, and to further interrupt the deadly trend of transmission in Ontario hospitals and long term care homes, additional public health measures have taken effect as of January 14, 2021. For more information regarding these additional measures please refer to the [COVID-19 public health measures and restrictions](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

9,513 Daily doses administered
305,330 Total doses administered

Status: All data reflects total from 8 p.m. the previous day

Update from Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs

A First Nations and Indigenous Vaccine Distribution Task Force Sub-table, Co-chaired by Ontario Indigenous Affairs Minister Greg Rickford and ORC Archibald, meets regularly to more broadly engage and partner with Indigenous communities and inform planning around vaccine rollout. An Urban Indigenous Sub-table has also been created to address the specific needs of urban Indigenous populations.

Guided by an Ethical Framework, Ontario has identified key populations to receive the vaccine first. Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high, are included as a Phase 1 priority group. Vaccination rollout is currently ongoing in Sioux Lookout and the James Bay Coast with expansion into 31 remote First Nation communities set to commence February 1.

Phase 1 also includes vaccine rollout to long-term care home residents and staff on-reserve, as well as Indigenous seniors' residences and complexes which include elements of congregate care. Ontario is working closely with First Nations and Indigenous partners to develop a comprehensive list of seniors residences which are not long-term care homes to inform the province's further Phase 1 rollout plans.

COVID-19 Vaccination Survey

A reminder to please select one appropriate person (pandemic lead/nurse in charge/health director) from the community to complete [this survey](#) regarding COVID-19 vaccination planning

Communications Resources

Recognizing the importance of community and local media engagement in helping to address vaccine hesitancy and support community preparedness for vaccine administration, the ISC Ontario Communications Team is developing additional communications products.

The products, listed below, will support suggested communications activities outlined in the ISC COVID-19 Communications Toolkit. The updated Toolkit and products in development are/will be available on the [ISC ON COVID-19 Portal](#).

- Updated ISC Toolkit
- COVID-19 Communications Resource List
- COVID-19 vaccine Qs & As
- Brochure with messaging to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy: contains a placeholder for your logo

Impact of new COVID-19 variants on testing

With the detection of new variants of COVID-19 in Canada, Health Canada has asked companies to monitor for impacts on the accuracy of COVID-19 test kits.

Genetic variations of viruses, such as the one that causes COVID-19, are not uncommon. The Government of Canada is closely and actively monitoring COVID-19 variants, including not only those identified in the U.K. and South Africa but any potential future variants.

Upon learning of the emerging COVID-19 variants, Health Canada immediately contacted all manufacturers of authorized testing devices and requested analyses of their tests' expected performance in accurately diagnosing positive cases of the new variants.

Health Canada is also working to increase access to testing options that could help the public health system distinguish an infection by a variant from other COVID-19 cases, to enable better tracking of emerging variants in Canada.

Government of Canada announces further reinforcement of COVID-19 supports for Indigenous communities

The Government of Canada continues to support First Nations, Inuit, Métis to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to keep their communities safe, and respond to outbreaks of COVID-19.

On January 13, 2021, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services highlighted \$1.2 billion in investments made through the Fall Economic Statement (FES) to provide support for the ongoing public health response to COVID-19 in Indigenous communities, including an additional \$380 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund.

Indigenous Community Support Fund: allocations to communities and organizations

The \$380 million announced for the latest round of the Indigenous Community Support Fund includes approximately \$145.2 million nationally for formula-based allocations and \$234.8 million nationally in needs-based funding. Formula-based funding is intended to provide the flexibility needed to address the specific needs identified by leadership and community members, and will be allocated using the same approach of the first two rounds of the Indigenous Community Support Fund. The needs-based funding will support Indigenous communities and organizations, including \$75 million to support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and First Nations living off reserve. While the application process to access needs-based funding is now closed, this newly announced support will be used to continue to fund applications already received by ISC, and to address COVID-19 emergency situations as they arise. ISC will work quickly to flow needs-based funding to successful applicants as soon as the application is approved. For more information please refer to the [Accessing additional public health support for First Nations and Inuit communities during COVID-19](#).

COVID-19 Cases

*As of January 27, 2021, @ 6:00 p.m.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 508 confirmed in-community | 2 deaths |
| 84 active cases | 422 resolved |
| | 83% |

Please visit our [Portal](#) for more information regarding COVID-19



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