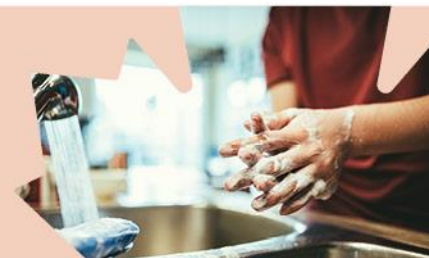


COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – September 23, 2021

September 22 marks the official start of autumn. As the colourful brilliance of the season sweeps across Ontario, take pause and embrace the time of transition. Enjoy the crisp air, the crunch of fallen leaves underfoot, and the spoils of harvest time.

The cooler weather also brings us into another inevitability; cold and flu season. Last year, Canada saw significantly lower rates of both illnesses due to mandated COVID-19 mitigation efforts including: staying home, social distancing, the use of masks while in close proximity with others, increased hygiene including frequent handwashing and the use of alcohol-based sanitizers, school closures, and reduced travel. The public health measures to protect against COVID-19 are also effective at protecting against colds and flus due to the similar ways in which these viruses spread. By maintaining these measures while reckoning with a fourth wave of COVID-19, we can mitigate some of the additional stress on our healthcare system that could be caused by an uptick in severe respiratory illness outcomes. With many children back to in-person learning at school and many group activities resuming, it is especially important to do what we can to minimize the risk of transmission.

This is also the time to start making plans to receive the seasonal flu vaccine when it becomes available shortly. Flu vaccines are safe and approved for everyone six months of age and older. More information about the flu vaccine can be found [here](#).

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

Updated advice about an additional or third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised people

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released updated advice regarding an additional or third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately or severely immunocompromised people, who are more likely to have had a less than adequate immune response to their initial 1 or 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series. |

NACI recommends that:

1. For those who have not yet been immunized, moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals in the authorized age groups should be immunized with a primary series of 3 doses of an authorized mRNA vaccine.
2. For those moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals in the authorized age groups who have previously received a 1 or 2-dose complete primary series, including those who received a mixed vaccine schedule, should be offered an additional dose of an authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Read the full update [here](#). Ontario has already begun administering third doses to select vulnerable populations.

Vaccination and public health measures

- High rates of vaccination remain vital to controlling the impact of COVID-19, particularly with the increased threat of variants of concern, and as the economy schools and workplaces reopen.
- It is important that everyone get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as they are eligible. It's the best way to protect themselves, their families and their communities against COVID-19.
- Continue following local public health advice and public health measures, regardless of vaccination status.
- Public health measures such as continuing to wear a mask indoors remain effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and are still needed in the context of the Delta variant being the predominant strain in Canada.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **21,475,030** Total doses administered
 - **85%** of eligible population (12+) have one dose;
 - **79%** 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

[Three public service announcement scripts for radio](#) detail the importance of getting both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to protect ourselves and our communities. These products are available in English and French and are currently being translated into the following Indigenous languages:

- Blackfoot
- Denesuline
- Eastern and Western Ojibway
- Inuktitut (North Baffin and South Baffin)
- Inuttut (Nunatsiavut)
- Michif Cree and Michif French
- Mi'kmaq
- Mohawk (Eastern and Western dialect)
- OjiCree (Roman orthography and Syllabics)
- Plains Cree and Swampy Cree
- Stoney

Ivermectin not authorized to prevent or treat COVID-19, may cause serious health problems

Health Canada has received concerning reports of the use of veterinary ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. Canadians should never consume health products intended for animals because of the potential serious health dangers these products pose.

In this light, Health Canada is advising Canadians not to use either the veterinary or human drug versions of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. There is no evidence that ivermectin in either formulation is safe or effective when used for those purposes. The human version of ivermectin is authorized for sale in Canada only for the treatment of parasitic worm infections in people.

Both the veterinary and human versions of ivermectin, especially at high doses, can be dangerous for humans and may cause serious health problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, allergic reactions, dizziness, seizures, coma and even death. Ivermectin products for animals have a higher concentrated dose than ivermectin products for people.

Health Canada authorizes name changes for the Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines

On September 16, 2021, Health Canada authorized brand name changes for the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines and transitioned to an authorization under the [Food and Drug Regulations](#). The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine will now be named Comirnaty and the Moderna vaccine will be named SpikeVax. AstraZeneca’s brand name change to Vaxzevria, made under the [Interim Order \(IO\) Respecting the Importation, Sale and Advertising of Drugs for Use in Relation to COVID-19](#), was also authorized on the same day.

The manufacturers made submissions to Health Canada to seek approval under the [Food and Drug Regulations](#) that included a change in the product’s name to a more unique brand name.

These name changes do not affect the vaccines themselves—only their names. The Canadian Product Monographs and other supporting documents have been updated to reflect the name changes. All Covid-19 vaccines authorized in Canada remain valid.

Winners of the Sagamok Anishnawbek Community Vaccine Challenge Video Contest announced

Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation received a \$25,000 grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada to host a video competition to encourage young people to get fully vaccinated. Congratulations to the winning content creators from Fort Williams First Nation (\$2,500 prize), Walpole Island First Nation (\$1,500 prize), and Whitefish Bay Treaty #3 (\$1,000 prize), and to Nicole Eshkakogan, Sagamok Anishnawbek’s director of community wellness, for the fantastic idea to engage with a younger population via social media. Watch the winning submissions [here](#).

COVID-19 Cases

*As of September 23, 2021, @ 4:30 p.m.

- **2,803** confirmed in-community since the beginning of the pandemic
- **69** active cases on reserve
- **32** deaths since beginning of pandemic
- **2,702** resolved (96.4%)



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.