

# COVID-19 Update

For more information:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Information for Indigenous communities:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous)



## INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region

October 2020

*As we enter the month of October and continue our preparations for winter, all of us are faced with the additional challenge of the second wave of COVID-19. We recognize that you continue to do what you can to prepare and respond to the second wave, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you in these difficult times. ISC is receiving information about new technologies, programs and services to combat the pandemic at a rapid pace. We are doing our best to share this information and guidance with you as soon as we are made aware. We are therefore pleased to provide you with our second monthly COVID-19 Update. Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us to keep your community members healthy and safe and together, we will get through this.*

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

### Availability of testing for First Nation communities

ISC continues to explore options for making more testing and technologies accessible to First Nations communities in Ontario. You and your community members have likely heard about new rapid antigen tests as well as other devices that have recently been approved by Health Canada. We are following these developments and working with Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Ministry of Health to learn more about when these tests will be available for distribution.

### In-person Registration and Membership Services

Ontario Region offices are open for in-person registration and membership services with public health guidelines in place. Individuals who want to access these services must first call for an appointment. Please click [here](#) for contact information.

Individuals who wish to fill out application forms before coming in, can access them online. Click [here](#).

### Training for Contact Tracers

The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada are pleased to announce the release of the three new courses to support training of Canadian contact tracers: Introduction to Contact Tracing, Introduction to Case Interviewing, and Introduction to Public Health in Canada.

There is no cost to participate in the courses. For more information, such as how to register, send an email to: [phac.ceprtraining-formationcmiu.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.ceprtraining-formationcmiu.aspc@canada.ca)

### COVID-19 Funding Allocated To-Date

Since March 1, 2020, and as of October 2, 2020, \$303.6M has been made available to Ontario Region First Nations and Indigenous organizations to support COVID-19 response efforts, and \$258.3M to provide additional supports for children and families, for a total of \$561.9M.

Of the \$303.6M that has been made available to support COVID-19, \$279.9M has been sourced from the \$2.2 billion that has been committed in specific COVID-19 support to Indigenous and northern communities and organizations. The remaining \$23.7M has been sourced from existing funding sources to support COVID-19 response efforts.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has published a new COVIDTrends dashboard that allows users to input their postal code or search by municipality to see the number of cases of COVID-19 and deaths in their area. Click [here](#) to access it.

## Revised COVID-19 symptoms for school children

Ontario has revised its COVID-19 screening guidance for schools and child care in an effort to help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19. Click [here](#) for more information about the Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care.

## Nursing staff update

ISC recognizes the challenges faced by First Nations communities as a result of COVID-19 and is closely monitoring the need for nursing resources.

Since March, ISC has recruited 20 community nurses and 27 public health nurses. We know that there is a shortage of nurses and we continue to work with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Chiefs of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation on our recruiting efforts.

The nursing shortage has also created an opportunity to open recruitment up to an interdisciplinary team approach where in addition to registered nurses and practical nurses, other health professionals, such as paramedics, are available to be sent to communities in time of clusters or needs.

ISC will continue to work with you to discuss options available to assist with managing the pandemic in your community.

## Funding for urban indigenous organizations in northern Ontario

On October 2, 2020, the Government of Canada announced funding for 34 Indigenous organizations in northern Ontario to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

To read more about it, click [here](#).

## Online Flu Resources

A reminder that as flu season quickly approaches, it is imperative that we stay diligent with our physical distancing and cleaning measures. Many steps to avoid the flu are similar to those in place for the COVID-19 pandemic: wash hands frequently, cough and sneeze into your elbow, and stay away from others if sick. In order to protect yourself and your family from the flu, it's important to also get your flu shot.

Indigenous Services Canada has resources online including a factsheet and posters with information on the flu shot and additional ways to help prevent the flu, available in both English and French. This year, we have developed two updated posters. The first is targeted to seniors, and the second to families – particularly those with children under 5 years – since both seniors and young children are more at risk for serious complications from the flu.

We would invite you to please share these posters and links with your networks and with communities to raise awareness on the flu and the flu shot.

[ISC's seasonal flu page](#)

[Flu fact sheet](#)

**\*NEW** [Flu resource for seniors](#)

**\*NEW** [Flu resource for families](#)

### COVID-19 Cases

\*As of October 5, 2020, @ 4:30 p.m.

<b>80</b>	confirmed in-community	<b>2</b>	deaths
<b>11</b>	active cases	<b>67</b>	resolved (84%)

