

# COVID-19 Update

For more information:  
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



## INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – April 26, 2022

### Booster dose durability

While many people have expressed fatigue with COVID-19 and messaging around vaccination, encouraging community members to get their booster doses remains critically important. With limited uptake of booster doses, there is plenty of work to be done to ensure that adolescents and adults living on and off reserve are as protected as possible against serious illness from COVID-19.

As with vaccines for other diseases, you are protected best when you stay up to date with vaccination schedules. Over time, the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine can decrease. Booster shots are commonly given for many vaccines that we routinely receive throughout our lives. They help to renew our protection against a disease.

Third doses provide effective protection against serious illness and hospitalization. For adults, booster protection should last for at least three months at its recommended efficacy level. Fourth doses help to further renew the body's protection against COVID-19.

To illustrate how helpful a booster dose can be to fighting off COVID-19, consider this: An adult who received their second dose four months ago is about 30-40% protected against infection from Omicron – a significant drop in protection compared to other variants. Two weeks after getting a booster shot, an individual's protection against infection from Omicron nearly doubles to almost 80%. Booster doses are even more effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization.

### Mental Health Week: May 2-8, 2022

The 71<sup>st</sup> annual Canadian Mental Health Association Mental Health Week is coming up from May 2-8, 2022. The last two years have been challenging for many people and this week provides an excellent opportunity to talk about best practices to maintain mental wellness, where to get help, and the importance of continuing to reduce stigma associated with mental health challenges.

Check out these resources to help you start the conversation in your community:

- [Mental Health Week website](#)
- [Sharable list of mental wellness resources](#)
- [Sharable social media posts with mental wellness resources](#)



### COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

\*All data reflects totals from 8 p.m. on April 26, 2022

- **34,168** Daily doses administered
- **32,661,787** Total doses administered
- **12,162,088** People fully vaccinated

### COVID-19 Cases

\*As of April 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

- **16,514** confirmed in-community
- **891** active cases on reserve
- **64** deaths
- **15,559** resolved (94.2%)

For the most up-to-date national information on COVID-19, visit the [Indigenous Services Canada](#) website or the Government of Canada's Twitter and Facebook pages at @GCIndigenous and @GCIndigenousHealth.

## Other Updates

### ISC Status Card Validity date extension ends May 1, 2022

Since April 2020, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has extended the validity date of status cards (including the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, the Certificate of Indian Status, and the Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This extension will end on **May 1, 2022**.

- If your status card is past its renewal date, you should renew it now.
- Indian status does not expire. Your registration number confirms your status and can be used to access some services and programs; however some service providers may require that your card is up to date, which is why it is important to renew it.
- If you hold the laminated version of the Certificate of Indian Status (aka Status Card), now is a good opportunity to apply for the [Secure Certificate of Indian Status](#) (aka Secure Status Card).
- The application forms for a Secure Certificate of Indian Status are available by [mail](#), [online](#), at an [Indigenous Services Canada regional office](#), or may be available at your First Nation Office. **Please be sure to call ahead** if you are planning on visiting any of these locations.
- You should submit your form as soon as possible to allow for processing time and avoid delays; however, if you need proof of registration to access services immediately, you can [ask for a Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document](#) while you are waiting for your new card.
- The Government of Canada does not charge a fee to apply for or renew a secure status card. Please take advantage of the [SCIS Photo App](#) that will allow you to submit the required passport quality photo at no cost.

For detailed information on renewing your secure status card, please visit the [How to renew your status card page](#).

### DEADLINE EXTENDED: Call for proposals - Projects that enhance water and wastewater capacity building efforts in First Nations communities

Indigenous Services Canada has launched a call for proposals for projects that address the retention, recruitment, and availability of water and wastewater operators working on reserve. Skilled water and wastewater operators are essential to ensuring long-term access to safe drinking water in First Nations communities. **The deadline to submit proposals has been extended to May 9, 2022.**

Applicants are invited to submit proposals that will address community-based, regional, or national issues related to building water and wastewater operator capacity in First Nations communities. Proposals delivered or offered by Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations, or in partnership with Indigenous peoples will be prioritized. Additionally, funding will be awarded to initiatives that present projects, tools, studies, and/or strategies that will be used to broadly benefit water and wastewater operators in First Nations communities on reserve.

Details:

- The call for proposals has been extended to May 9, 2022. All proposals must be received electronically before 11:59 pm ET on May 9, 2022, or be postmarked May 9, 2022.
- Projects that are selected will receive up to \$500,000 in funding to support new or expanded capacity building initiatives.
- For details on how to apply, visit [Capacity building for water and wastewater operators](#).

### National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – May 5, 2022

On May 5, 2022, we mark the National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), also known as Red Dress Day. Red dresses act as a visual reminder of all the women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who have gone missing or have been murdered. We mourn them alongside you and commit to continuing to work towards ending this ongoing tragedy. For information and resources on this important topic, visit:

- [National Inquiry into MMIWG](#)
- [About the National Action Plan](#)
- [The REDress Project](#)
- [MMIWG - The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

Individuals can also call the National 24/7 MMIWG crisis line at 1-844-413-6649 for immediate emotional assistance.

## Help is available whenever you need it.

Immediate support is available 24/7  
for all Indigenous people in Canada.

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat  
**1-855-242-3310 or [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)**

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
**1-866-925-4419**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls Support Line  
**1-844-413-6649**



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.