

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region

February 11 2021

A cold snap across the Region reminds us that there's still more winter weather to come and with it are more challenges related to COVID-19. That said, let's remind ourselves that spring will soon be upon us, and that the rollout of the vaccine in First Nations communities continues. These are rays of sun to which we must all look forward to get us through the next few months.

The Province of Ontario announced on Monday, February 8, 2021, that it will gradually transition all regions out of the province-wide shutdown that took effect in January to a revised and strengthened [COVID-19 Framework](#). While cases have decreased in parts of the province, we are not in the clear yet. Cases in First Nations communities are still trending upward and the spread of more contagious variants of COVID-19, such as the B.1.1.7 are a growing concern.

We cannot let down our guard as the pandemic remains a serious threat. We know that COVID-19 fatigue is widespread among the members of your communities and it's important to acknowledge that it's a sentiment felt by many. While it's becoming increasingly difficult to maintain public health measures as the pandemic drags on, your ongoing efforts and those of your community members are making a difference and will continue to make a difference until everyone is vaccinated.

Communication remains key to reminding your community members to remain vigilant, to stay at home as much as possible and to continue to abide by public health restrictions to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) remains available to assist you and to work with you to fill your communications needs.

With that in mind, we hope that these bi-weekly updates provide you with the resources and information you need to communicate with your members and to help you to continue managing the pandemic in your communities.

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

What are the ingredients in the vaccines?

All of the ingredients in the vaccines are known and are part of the Health Canada review process for vaccines. There are no "unapproved products" in the vaccines.

Additional information and resources about vaccine ingredients:

- The Moderna vaccine ingredients (including non-medical ingredients) are available [here](#)
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine ingredients (including non-medical ingredients) are available [here](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Ingredients](#) Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNA)
- [Have you wondered, what is in the vaccine \(Moderna\)?](#) (SLFNA)
- [The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) (SLFNA)

Vaccines for other infections like meningitis and polio have prevented millions of people from these diseases and have saved lives.

Safety and side effects of COVID-19 vaccine

Temporary reactions to vaccines are a common and natural response to receiving a vaccine dose. These inflammatory reactions can last between a few hours to a few weeks after administration but do not disrupt daily life.

Severe or permanent reactions are extremely rare.

COVID-19 Mask Information

Currently, Canadian health authorities have **not** changed their guidance regarding mask usage and recommend people wear a 3-layer, well-fitting, non-medical face covering when out in public. If guidelines change we will provide updated information as soon as possible.

Additional resources about mask information:

- Health Canada: [COVID-19 medical masks and respirators](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) [Non-medical masks and face coverings](#)

ISC COVID-19 Vaccine Plan executive summary

Continued engagement between all levels of government with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners is vital to ensure timely and efficient administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The ISC Vaccine Plan provides more specific details to ensure there are clear parameters and guidance of the COVID-19 immunization campaign for Indigenous peoples.

A copy of the ISC COVID-19 Vaccine Plan can be obtained by emailing ISC at InfoPubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

13,486 Daily doses administered **412,119** Total doses administered

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

First Nations and Inuit communities can continue to access additional public health support to respond to (COVID-19). For more information please refer to the [Accessing additional public health support for First Nations and Inuit communities during COVID-19](#).

New Communications Resources

ISC has developed new communications resources to assist in addressing vaccine hesitancy in communities. The products are also available on the ISC Ontario [Onehealth](#) portal.

Products include:

- [Poster 1](#) – We're in this fight together/Let's stop COVID-19
- [Poster 2](#) – Together, let's stop COVID-19 one arm at a time
- [Regional Covid-19 Communications Resource List](#)
- [Two Public Service Announcements](#) about COVID-19 vaccines, available in English and various Indigenous languages
- [Vaccine Qs and As document](#)

Keeping up with public health measures after being fully vaccinated

With [new variants](#) of the virus emerging and the immunization campaign in its early stages, public health measures are important to help stop the spread of the disease. The Public Health Agency of Canada is reminding individuals who have been fully vaccinated to continue to follow the public health measures, which include social distancing, regular handwashing, wearing a mask and other personal protective equipment, and avoiding all non-essential travel. These measures are necessary to decrease chances of continued spread within communities to those who have not yet been vaccinated. This will be required until a certain percentage of people in a community have received the vaccine.

Indigenous Information Hub

The Centre for Wise Practices in Indigenous Health at Women's College Hospital has teamed up with Indigenous health-care workers and elders to launch a [new virtual hub](#), of COVID-19 information, called *Maad'ooking Mshkiki*, which means "sharing medicine" in Anishinaabemowin.

COVID-19 Cases

*As of February 10, 2021, @ 6:00 p.m.

628 confirmed in-community	4 deaths
73 active cases	551 resolved 87.7%

Update from Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs

The Ontario government launched Operation Remote Immunity on February 1 to deliver and administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to residents of 31 fly-in First Nations communities and Moosonee. This initiative is part of the first stage of Ontario's phased vaccine rollout plan -- prioritizing vulnerable populations that are at greatest risk of COVID-19 and severe illness, including Indigenous adults aged 18 and over.

Ornge, Ontario's provider of air ambulance and critical care transport services, in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), is sending multiple teams of highly qualified medical professionals to the communities on a daily basis, weather permitting. Many partners are instrumental in these efforts, including Indigenous leadership, health care agencies and health units, paramedic services, educational institutions, the provincial and federal governments, the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and not-for-profit organizations. Operation Remote Immunity aims to complete its work by April 30, 2021. Planning for vaccine distribution to additional First Nations communities and to urban Indigenous populations is underway through ongoing and regular engagement of the province's First Nations and Urban Indigenous Vaccine Distribution Sub-Tables.

Despite the reduced availability of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine due to shipment delays, the Ontario government has accelerated the vaccination of residents and staff in long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care homes with a new target date for completion of February 10, 2021. To protect access to second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for those who have already received their first dose, Ontario will maintain the maximum interval of 21-27 days for long-term care, retirement and First Nations elder care home residents and staff.

Ontario has also launched a new marketing campaign focusing on the action and potential outcome of disregarding public health advice. It asks Ontarians to continue following public health advice and measures until it is their time to get the vaccine. New "stay at home" creative will blanket social, digital, out-of-home, radio and print across the province.

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.