

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – June 23, 2022

Booster Doses: Adolescents

Health Canada has authorized the use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty](#) COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose for adolescents 16 to 17 years of age. The booster is to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary vaccine series of two doses. Vaccines continue to be one of the most effective tools against COVID-19. Protection from COVID-19 vaccines can decrease over time, and a booster dose increases the immune response and helps improve protection against severe outcomes.

Individuals should consult the [provincial portal](#) and their local public health guidance for the most recent information about adolescent booster doses and vaccine availability in their region.

New COVID-19 Resources for Community Health and Safety

ISC recently updated its COVID-19 Communications Toolkit. The digital toolkit can now be found on the webpage [Communication resources for community health and safety](#). This page is also hosted on ISC Ontario Region's [OneHealth Portal](#). The toolkit includes new links about booster doses and vaccines for children, as well as posters intended for different audiences including community members and nurses. When updating your vaccination outreach plan, please consider including the resources that work for you.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

The Ontario Ministry of Health webpage for vaccine data is undergoing changes at this time. When new information on this topic becomes available, it will be shared here.

Post COVID-19 Condition

[Post COVID-19 condition](#) is not the same as COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2). Also known as “long COVID,” post COVID-19 condition refers to the longer-term effects some people will experience more than 12 weeks after their initial COVID-19 infection. [Symptoms can be quite different](#) from those experienced during the initial infection, but commonly include fatigue, shortness of breath, cough, joint pain, and chest pain. Other issues can include cognitive problems, difficulty concentrating, depression, muscle pain, headache, rapid heartbeat, and intermittent fever. Symptoms can also sometimes disappear and reappear without having another diagnosis to explain them.

The condition can impact both adults and children, with evidence demonstrating a greater risk to individuals who were hospitalized or needed intensive care during recovery. Individuals should contact their health provider if they are experiencing prolonged physical symptoms, or symptoms of anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For more details, as well as information on support groups, please visit [Post COVID-19 condition \(long COVID\)](#).

COVID-19 Cases

*As of June 17, 2022 at 8:30 A.M. EST

- 19,854 confirmed in-community
- 291 active cases on reserve
- 66 deaths
- 19,497 resolved (98.2%)

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

Opioid Overdoses: What to Do

There has been an increase in fentanyl- and carfentanyl-related opioid overdoses, as they are being used as cutting agents for other commonly used substances. Opioids affect a person's breathing, causing it to become weaker, shallower, or even stop. Overdoses are a medical emergency and staying at the scene with someone could save their life. However, substance use emergencies can be scary for both substance users and witnesses, due to fears about safety and legal repercussions.

It is important that all individuals know that if they've **taken drugs, or are in possession of some, they are protected from simple drug possession charges by the [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#)**. This law applies to the person who seeks help and anyone else at the scene when help arrives. If an individual **suspects an opioid overdose** and there are 911 Emergency Services in the area, **they should immediately call 911, stay at the scene, and give naloxone if available**. In the **absence of 911 services, individuals should immediately contact their local nursing station, health centre, and/or other community emergency response, and administer a naloxone kit as soon as possible**. Ontario provides free take-home naloxone kits at participating pharmacies, no prescription needed.

[Consult the Ontario website](#) for naloxone availability or ask a pharmacy provider. For more information about supporting community members who use substances, resources can be found in the [COVID-19 and substance use toolkit](#), [OneHealth Portal: Mental Health & Substance Use](#), and [Canada.ca/Opioids](#).

Emergency Management Coordinators Map

ISC Ontario Region is developing a series of tools to assist First Nations when preparing for and responding to emergency events. The first tool that we've launched is a map listing each Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) in Ontario, their contact information, and the First Nation communities they serve. This map will be updated periodically. Click here for access to the map: [EMC Contacts - Google My Maps](#).

Indigenous History Month

This week, Canada commemorated National Indigenous Peoples Day amidst observances of [Indigenous History Month](#) (IHM). Indigenous Peoples Day and IHM emphasize the importance of prioritizing the needs, and celebrating the cultures, languages, advocacy and resilience, of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. IHM also serves as a vital reminder of the work the Government of Canada still has to do towards reconciliation. For more information on what the Government of Canada has done throughout IHM, please visit the [IHM Learning Portal](#). The learning resources are all Indigenous created or co-created.

Monkeypox: Outbreak Update

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working with regional public health partners to [monitor and investigate cases of monkeypox](#) in Canada. As of June 10, 2022, there have been 112 publicly reported cases. PHAC is continuing to collect and analyze information reported by the provinces and territories to help to determine if there are any increased health risks to the general public. Monkeypox is usually a mild illness and most people recover on their own after a few weeks. However, in some situations, monkeypox illness can become serious. Individuals usually [develop symptoms](#) 5 to 21 days after exposure to the monkeypox virus. These can include fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, headache, joint pain, and later on, rashes. If any individual is experiencing these symptoms or has had contact with a known or suspected monkeypox case, they should immediately contact a health care provider.

[Individuals diagnosed with monkeypox](#) are infectious until their skin heals and should isolate until their rash/lesions have scabbed over and fallen off. For up-to-date national information on risk and prevention, visit [Public Health Agency of Canada: Monkeypox](#). For information about the Ontario region, visit [Public Health Ontario: Monkeypox](#).

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

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
if you or your community members have any information needs.