

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – Aug. 12, 2021

This week, countries across the world joined together to observe [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#). It is a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, traditions and languages of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world. There are 46 treaties and other agreements that cover the territory now called Ontario, and the Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples across the region contribute to its history and vibrancy. The 2021 theme is “Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract.” It compels us to continue to scrutinize existing systems and to meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities to foster relationships built on equal opportunities and respect for their inherent right to self-determination, self-government, and that of advanced social and economic equality. We remain deeply committed to this work.

We also want to recognize the Ontario wildland fire situation that has been developing over the past few weeks. We applaud your leadership and the efforts of partner organizations to ensure the care and safety of your communities in this stressful and difficult time. Overseeing evacuations while simultaneously maintaining COVID-19 mitigation efforts is no small feat. We commend your flexibility and recognize the immense strength you are demonstrating to your community members each day. Should you find that you or members of your community require assistance to deal with stress, burnout or anxiety, [the Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information can be found on the top of page two in this document.

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

Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on August 6

There are currently four [Variants of Concern \(VOC\)](#) in Canada: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta. At the national level, the Delta variant currently accounts for the majority of VOC cases.

Presently, those who are unvaccinated are at the greatest risk of infection and severe outcomes from COVID-19 and the variant strains. The spread of the virus in areas with low vaccination rates presents an ongoing risk of the continued spread of current VOCs and the potential development of new variants.

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, has established the Canadian SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance Group (CSVSG) to monitor and assess Variants of Interest (VOI). The CSVSG has developed [national definitions, classifications and public health actions](#) for SARS-CoV-2 VOI and VOC.

COVID-19: Vaccine safety post-market surveillance

The Government of Canada has produced a [short video to explain how vaccines are tested and monitored](#) when first developed, during clinical trials and after they have been approved for use.

The video uses colourful illustrations, written text and oral narration to explain how the federal, provincial and territorial governments work together once the vaccines have been distributed to monitor their safety and possible adverse effects. The surveillance information is kept in a database which is maintained and monitored by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A complementary [video about how vaccines are developed](#) that explains phased trials and safety standards is also available.

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **19,998,744** Total doses administered
- **81.14%** of eligible population (12+) have one dose; **72.23%** have both doses
- * All data reflects total from 6 p.m. the previous day

The national toll-free [Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) provides telephone crisis intervention counselling support for First Nations and Inuit, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as well as further assistance. Telephone counselling is available in English and French and, upon request, in Ojibway, Cree, and Inuktitut by dialing 1-855-242-3310. This is an invaluable resource for help managing stress, anxiety and fatigue.

Indian Land Registry System Service Transfer Pilot Project

As part of the Department's overall goal of advancing First Nations' self-determination in the care and delivery of services, ISC will be piloting a project to transfer the registration functions of the Indian Land Registry System (ILRS) to a First Nation lands organization.

The ILRS is a fundamental piece of the lands administration framework; however, the system is not currently ready to be transferred. This is due to a range of considerations, including regulations, technology, training, and impacts to communities and stakeholders, that must be addressed first.

In late 2020, ISC approached the Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association (OALA) submitted a proposal to partake in this pilot project as the project lead in Ontario. This project is expected to provide valuable insights on how land registry activities can be further streamlined prior to the transfer to First Nation organizations. Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association would be given the responsibility of registering a portion of land instruments (such as leases, allotments, designations and permits) on behalf of the ISC Ontario regional offices.

A pilot project with the OALA was identified as a key step in the modernization process for the ILRS as it will help evaluate feasibility, cost, and training needs, and also identify best practices and areas for improvement. The pilot is expected to begin in late 2021 and participation of First Nations (as clients) is voluntary. A letter accompanied by a Q&A document will be sent to Ontario Chiefs and Lands Managers to share more information, including details on how to participate in the pilot.

Updated Communications Resources List

The [Communications Resource List](#) was updated on August 10. The latest version includes:

- Information on travel restrictions and protocols for fully vaccinated travellers
- Updated resources from partner organizations (SLFNHA, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne)
- Guidance on life after vaccination (infographics from PHAC)

Reported side effects following COVID-19 vaccine

On July 23, the Government of Canada updated its COVID-19 vaccine adverse effects summary. As of July 16, a total of 44,694,799 vaccine doses have been administered throughout Canada. From this total, 10,167 individuals reported one or more adverse events side effects after receiving their vaccination. This equals approximately 2 out of every 10,000 vaccinated individuals.

Canada's independent drug authorization process is known globally for its high standards and rigorous review process. All vaccines authorized for use in Canada are safe, effective, and of high quality. The vaccines are monitored regularly after they have been approved and distributed to ensure they are safe and effective. Anyone experiencing adverse reactions to their vaccine is encouraged to report their symptoms to their local healthcare provider.

A summary of the report and additional information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities in Canada

As of August 3, 2021, over 86% of individuals aged 12 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in First Nations, Inuit and territorial communities. Of this group, over 64% have received their second dose.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, over 83% of individuals aged 12 and older have received one dose, with 63% having received two doses as of July 30, 2021. Read more information [here](#).

COVID-19 Cases

*As of Aug. 11, 2021, @ 4:30 p.m.

- **2,588** confirmed in-community
- **16** active cases on reserve
- **31** deaths since beginning of pandemic, 1.2% fatality rate
- **2,524** resolved (98.2%)



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.