

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – November 4, 2021

In 2016, the Province of Ontario declared the first week of November as Treaties Recognition Week. This legislation is the first of its kind in Canada, and we celebrate the Province's effort to honour the importance of treaties and help teach students and residents of Ontario more about treaty rights and relationships. A list of provincial resources and events can be found [here](#). Many videos have also been developed to share the [importance of treaties, treaty relationships and rights in Ontario](#). These resources are great for children and adults alike.

Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7 at 2 a.m., so we can "fall back" and enjoy an extra hour of daylight in the morning.

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

Guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization on Booster Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines

On October 29, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada released [interim guidance on booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#) from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

At this time, based on the current evidence, NACI recommends that populations at highest risk of waning protection following their primary series and at highest risk of severe COVID-19 illness should be offered a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary series. These populations include:

- Adults living in long-term care or other congregate settings that provide care for seniors (as recommended by NACI on September 28, 2021)
- Adults 80 years of age and older (the Province of Ontario will vaccinate adults 70 years of age and older)

NACI also recommends that other key populations may be offered a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary series. They may have increased risk of lower protection over time since vaccination, increased risk of severe illness or are essential for maintaining health system capacity. These populations include:

- Adults in or from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- Adults 70 to 79 years of age
- Frontline healthcare workers who have direct in-person contact with patients and who were vaccinated with a very short interval.

Work is underway federally and provincially to facilitate the roll-out of booster doses in First Nations communities. Provincial and Territorial Governments develop their own vaccination plans while after considering NACI recommendations.

Proof of vaccination for Indigenous peoples and Northerners in remote communities

As of October 30, 2021, if you are travelling in Canada by plane or train, you will need proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect you, your family and friends and your community.

If you are fully vaccinated, you must show your latest proof of vaccination to be able to travel.

If you are not fully vaccinated, the Government of Canada is engaging with Indigenous peoples, provinces and territories to ensure that travellers from remote communities who are not fully vaccinated are still able to travel to obtain essential services including:

- medical treatment
- child custody arrangements
- education
- essential supplies including food
- treaty negotiations

There are some temporary accommodations for remote communities if you are travelling by plane or by train. Temporary accommodations are particularly important for unvaccinated persons traveling for medical purposes. More information on temporary accommodations for people who are not fully vaccinated traveling to and from remote communities, as well as available testing locations at gateway airports can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **22,852,851** Total doses administered
- **85%** of eligible population (12+) have both doses;
- 4%** have one dose.

* All data reflects total from 6 p.m. the previous day



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Indian Residential School Supports

A [National Residential School Crisis Line](#) is available to provide support to former residential school students. You can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-Hour National Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419. There is also the Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310, or connect to the online chat through their website (to access the web site, please copy and paste the following link in your browser: <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca/>).

Vaccine Mandate for Travel and the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program encourages clients and travellers to obtain copies of their proof of COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible and to keep a digital copy (or code) on their smart phone or keep a paper copy in their wallet or a safe place.

If a client or traveller cannot obtain a digital copy of their proof of vaccination credential and cannot print it themselves, it is recommended that they contact the relevant provincial or territorial public health authority to request a copy, which will be mailed to them (refer to contact information at the end of this document).

If an unvaccinated client on medical travel receives a positive COVID-19 test result and is unable to board a flight as scheduled, local public health authorities will be informed and will provide further guidance.

- If the client is in their home community, they will likely be required to self-isolate at home.
- If a client is transiting through a gateway airport and is unable to board their connecting flight, they will be referred to a provincial/territorial isolation or quarantine centre, as required.
- If there is no provincial isolation centre NIHB will cover expenses related to self-isolation (e.g., food and accommodations). NIHB will reschedule the client's travel home once they have been cleared by Public Health.

Simultaneous administration of the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines (including seasonal flu)

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has updated information about the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine simultaneously with other vaccines.

The seasonal influenza vaccines may be given:

- at the same time as
- at any time before
- at any time after the administration of other vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines.

NACI will continue to:

- monitor the evidence base, including ongoing and anticipated trials investigating influenza vaccines administered at the same time as, or any time before or after, COVID-19 vaccines
- update its recommendations as needed

Further information on the simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines in the [NACI guidance concerning the use of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Indigenous Community Support Fund update

The Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) provides Indigenous leadership and organizations with the flexibility needed to design and implement community-based solutions to prevent, prepare and respond to the spread of COVID-19 within their communities.

The ICSF includes a formula-based funding stream, which has been fully allocated to Ontario First Nations, and a need-based funding stream, which is administered through an application process. Needs-based funding supports are available to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, and national, regional and local Indigenous organizations supporting Indigenous peoples living in urban centres or away from their communities. Organizations must be incorporated to be eligible for funding.

Needs-based funding requests will continue to be accepted and evaluated until all available funding has been fully exhausted. Each request is assessed for eligibility and prioritized on a case-by-case needs-basis, according to the following criteria: COVID-19 risk; readiness; human impact; and, prior funding.

Examples of activities that can be funded through the needs-based funding stream include:

- measures to address food insecurity
- educational and other support for children
- mental health and emergency response activities
- personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies
- supports to update, review or activate pandemic plans

How to request funds:

- Complete a request budget using the Indigenous Community Support Fund Request form available [here](#)
- Email your completed request to the Ontario COVID-19 inbox at: sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca

Other items to note:

- Overhead administrative costs cannot exceed 15% of the direct project costs, and project expenses must be incurred by the project completion date, as set out in the approved project request, no later than March 31, 2022.

COVID-19 Cases

*As of November 4, 2021, @ 12 p.m.

- **2,940** confirmed in-community since the beginning of the pandemic
- **27** active cases on reserve
- **34** deaths since beginning of pandemic
- **2,879** resolved (97.9%)



Please feel free to contact the FNIHB Ontario COVID-19 generic inbox: covid-19fnihbontario@sac-isc.gc.ca if you or your community members have any information needs.