

# COVID-19 Update

For more information:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Information for Indigenous communities:  
[Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus-info-indigenous)



## INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – February 24, 2022

### Ontario continues to ease public health measures

On February 17, 2022, Ontario continued to relax public health measures, increasing gathering limits and removing or increasing capacity limits in many public settings. On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, Ontario is scheduled to [further ease COVID-19 restrictions](#). The province plans to:

- Lift all capacity limits in all remaining indoor public settings.
- Lift proof of vaccination requirements for all settings.

Businesses and other settings may choose to continue to require proof of vaccination. Masking requirements will remain in place at this time.

### A Message from Indigenous Service Canada – Ontario Region on Reopening

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) recognizes that circumstances differ between remote and isolated communities and urban settings, and that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

ISC Ontario Region will continue to provide First Nations communities with public health information and expertise in order to support decision-making in their respective pandemic response and recovery efforts. This pandemic is not over, but discussions are taking place at various levels about what a shift towards an endemic approach to managing COVID-19 might look like in the months ahead.

Vaccines continue to be the most effective tool against severe COVID-19 – including Omicron and other variants – particularly when used in combination with public health and individual measures.

ISC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be guided by the latest scientific evidence. As hospitalization and ICU admission are still high in some areas, ISC continues to work with communities to track key epidemiological indicators to quickly detect emerging issues of concern, particularly in Indigenous communities.

### Health Canada authorizes Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine

On February 17, 2022, Health Canada authorized [Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults 18 years of age and older. This is the fifth COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada. After a thorough, independent review of the evidence, the Department has determined that this vaccine meets Canada's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements.

Unlike Moderna and Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccines, which use [mRNA technology](#), Nuvaxovid is a [protein-based vaccine](#) that is administered as a two-dose regimen of 5 mcg per dose, 21 days apart. Based on the clinical trials overall, Nuvaxovid is 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 100% effective at preventing severe disease.

While additional confirmatory data is needed, preliminary and exploratory data shows that Nuvaxovid does produce neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant. You can read more about the Health Canada decision [here](#).

### Parenting during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted families in different ways and can be stressful for everyone. Parents, caregivers and children are facing new challenges as the pandemic affects our daily work and home routines. Many schools, daycares and most workplaces have closed, and children and parents are suddenly at home full-time more often. Even trips to the doctor for routine childhood vaccination may have been missed. Even though we're all trying our best, adjusting to these new challenges has created new stresses for families.

During this time, parents might be worried about their child's development and if they're reaching developmental milestones. When parents and caregivers are stressed, it becomes more difficult for them to meet the physical, mental and emotional needs of their children.

For guidance and tips for parents navigating the pandemic, as well as mental health resources available to families, please visit [COVID-19 resources for parents and children](#). And remember to catch up on any missed routine childhood vaccines.



## My Vaxx Journey Youth Campaign Giveaway

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC), along with Indigenous Youth Working Group on Vaccine Uptake, [announced the official launch](#) of the nationwide My Vaxx Journey Kicks COVID video giveaway. The youth-led My Vaxx Journey social media campaign kicked off on February 7, 2022, and is open to First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth across Canada ages 12 to 29.

My Vaxx Journey aims to honour the voices of Indigenous Youth in Canada through the sharing of videos that speak to their own vaccine journeys. Video entrants that meet giveaway criteria will be eligible to receive one of 150 pairs of Retro Air Jordan 4s. Giveaway requirements, rules, consent, and terms and conditions are available at [myvaxxjourney.ca](https://myvaxxjourney.ca).

## 2022 National First Nations Water Leadership Award

The annual National First Nations Water Leadership Award recognizes First Nations individuals or organizations that have demonstrated leadership and outstanding dedication to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities. The winner will receive a trophy and \$500 art piece. Also, \$10,000 in bursaries will be awarded in the winner's name to First Nation applicants who are pursuing or furthering their career in the water and wastewater industry.

\*The nomination period for the 2022 National First Nations Water Leadership Award is open until March 31, 2022.\*

Eligible candidates are First Nations individuals, community members or leaders; First Nations organizations; and First Nations communities.

Eligible candidates must have demonstrated leadership and made outstanding contributions to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the Advisory Committee will consider the following criteria in their selection:

- Innovation – How has the nominee demonstrated innovation in their work involving water?
- Leadership – How has the nominee demonstrated leadership in their work involving water?
- Inspirational – Does the nominee inspire others? Is their work involving water impactful?
- Knowledgeable – How has the nominee demonstrated that they have expanded their knowledge, shared it and used it to problem solve?
- Collaboration – How does the nominee collaborate with others? Has the nominee developed strong relationships to improve water outcomes?

For more information on the Award, selection criteria, how to submit a nomination and last year's nominees, please visit the [National First Nations Water Leadership Award webpage](#).

**Nominations are due before March 31, 2022.**

## COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

\*All data reflects totals from 8 p.m. on February 23, 2022

- **29,826** Daily doses administered
- **31,588,850** Total doses administered
- **11,983,625** People fully vaccinated

## COVID-19 Cases

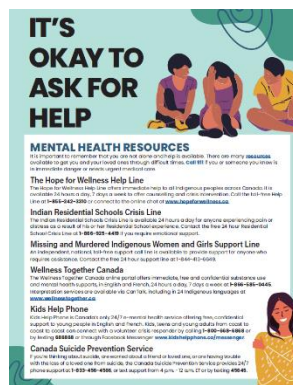
\*As of February 22, 2022 at 9 p.m.

- **9,973** confirmed in-community
- **1,043** active cases on reserve
- **54** deaths
- **8,876** resolved (89.0%)

## New Communications Resources

The following new communications resources are now available:

- [Infographic](#) with information on mental health resources for Indigenous people.
- [Social media posts](#) with information on mental health resources for Indigenous people. These are unbranded and can be used by any First Nation or organization.
- A new fact sheet on pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a newborn during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can [download it here in multiple Indigenous languages](#) by selecting a language in the dropdown menu below the fact sheet preview.



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.