

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – October 7, 2021

It has been one week since this year's historic first [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#), which coincided with Orange Shirt Day. Its creation was the answer to Call to Action 80, put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015. As we saw this year, this day provided Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike with the opportunity to learn, reflect, mourn, and commemorate residential school Survivors, their families, and their communities. We were heartened by the public's engagement last Thursday, with pictures of orange shirts flooding our social media and stories of young children learning about residential schools. This day plays an important role in recognizing that the history and legacy of residential schools is critical to the reconciliation process. We look forward to continuing to mark this new national day in the years to come.

We also marked the [National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) on Monday. Too many women and girls have not come home, and too many families do not have closure. We are reminded that much work remains to make Canada a safer place for Indigenous women and girls, and we mourn our Sisters in Spirit alongside you. While these days of commemoration are indeed important, the work does not stop here. We remain committed to working together to improve the lives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people.

We are now in our second fall season living with COVID-19. Progress on vaccine rates are helping to reduce the number and severity of new cases, but we must not relent - especially as colder weather approaches. We thank all of you for the work you are doing to keep your communities safe and healthy as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada – October 1, 2021

On September 28, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) released [updated guidance](#) recommending an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty or Moderna Spikevax) booster dose be given to residents in long-term care and seniors in other congregate settings who have already received a complete two-dose primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. Boosting immunity levels in these individuals who are at higher risk of exposure and serious illness will help to maintain their protection against infection and severe outcomes.

NACI is also advising that [COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time](#) as, or any time before or after, other vaccines. After reviewing currently available evidence and considering extensive experience with the delivery of routine vaccines, NACI has determined that a precautionary approach is no longer necessary to the co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines. This means that COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered with other important vaccines. This will make it easier for people to get their influenza vaccine this fall as well as catch up with [other routine vaccines](#) that may have been delayed during the pandemic.

Read the rest of the statement [here](#).

Ontario announces COVID-19 rapid antigen screening for students

The Province of Ontario has announced that it will provide access to local targeted COVID-19 rapid antigen screening by making it available for students through participating public health units where risk of transmission is high.

The program will support access to voluntary, rapid asymptomatic screening for unvaccinated children and students. This will help identify and prevent transmission in schools and licensed child care settings, as identified by local medical officers of health based on local epidemiological circumstances. This school-based program is in keeping with current provincial guidance for rapid antigen screening and based on advice from Public Health Ontario, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, and Ontario's Testing Strategy Expert Panel and is focused on screening of children in public health units with the highest risk of transmission.

More information can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

- **21,974,193** Total doses administered
- **86.6%** of eligible population (12+) have one dose;
- 75.9%** have both doses

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

Vaccine requirements for travellers

On October 6, the Government of Canada announced new vaccine requirements for passengers on planes, trains, and passenger vessels, such as cruise ships. Full details can be found [here](#).

Update on COVID-19 vaccines and the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization currently [recommends](#) that a complete series with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to all eligible individuals, including adolescents, without contraindications to the vaccine. Informed consent should include a discussion about the risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following vaccination.

Cases of myocarditis and/or pericarditis related to vaccines occur more often in adolescents and adults under 30 years of age, more often in males than in females, more often after a second dose of an mRNA vaccine than after a first dose and most occur within seven days of vaccination. Vaccine safety surveillance data in Canada also suggest relatively higher rates of myocarditis and/or pericarditis reported after Spikevax (Moderna) vaccination compared to Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech). While follow-up is ongoing, the available data indicate that the majority of affected individuals, even if hospitalized, experience relatively mild illness, respond well to conservative treatment, and recover quickly. It is also important to consider that the risk of cardiac complications, including myocarditis, has been shown to be substantially increased following SARS-CoV-2 infection, and that it is higher following infection than after vaccination.

Read the complete update [here](#).

Post COVID-19 Condition

When people still show symptoms of COVID-19 for weeks or months after their initial recovery, it's called post COVID-19 condition. It's also known as long COVID and may occur in some people after infection. You can get post COVID-19 condition if you were hospitalized or needed intensive care during recovery, or had a mild to severe infection with symptoms or even mild infection without symptoms.

Post COVID-19 condition is not COVID-19. Symptoms can be quite different from those during the initial infection. It refers to the longer-term effects some people experience after their COVID-19 illness. The condition can affect both adults and children. Get vaccinated for COVID-19 to protect against post COVID-19 condition.

More information can be found [here](#).

Additional support available through the Indigenous Community Support Fund

In June 2021, we announced details on the fourth round of the Indigenous Community Support Fund – an additional \$760 million announced in Budget 2021. The latest round of the Indigenous Community Support Fund included \$400 million for two direct formula allocations to First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities as well as \$360 million for needs-based requests from Indigenous communities and organizations, including \$150 support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and First Nations members living off reserve.

This week, the Ontario Region will issue approval letters for the second of two direct formula allocations for First Nations communities. This allocation has been calculated using a base allocation of \$25,000 and community-specific factors that take into consideration population, remoteness and community well-being and will be added to your funding agreement in the coming weeks by a Notice of Budget Adjustment.

The needs-based portion of the Indigenous Community Support Fund remains available to support Indigenous communities and organizations to prepare, prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they are located on or off reserve.

To date, over \$1.8 billion in support has been announced through the Indigenous Community Support Fund, including more than \$200 million for Ontario First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and organizations. These funds are providing Indigenous communities and organizations with resources to implement their own solutions, informed by public health guidance, related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information and details on the request process, please visit the [ICSF webpage](#).

COVID-19 Cases

*As of October 6, 2021 @ noon.

- **2,862** confirmed in-community since the beginning of the pandemic
- **38** active cases on reserve
- **32** deaths since beginning of pandemic
- **2,792** resolved (97.6%)



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.