

COVID-19 Update

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

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



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – Ontario Region – March 10, 2022

Health Canada authorizes Medicago COVID-19 vaccine for adults 18 to 64

On February 24, 2022, [Health Canada authorized Medicago's Covifenz COVID-19 vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults 18 to 64 years of age. After a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, the department has determined that the vaccine meets Health Canada's stringent safety, efficacy and quality requirements, and that the benefits of this vaccine outweigh the potential risks.

This is the first authorized COVID-19 vaccine developed by a Canadian-based company, and the first that uses a plant-based protein technology. Medicago's Covifenz is authorized as a two-dose regimen of 3.75 micrograms per dose, to be administered 21 days apart. In clinical trials, the vaccine was found to be 71 per cent effective against symptomatic infection and 100 per cent effective against severe disease caused by COVID-19.

Visit the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatment portal](#) to learn more.

Government of Canada signs new COVID-19 antibody therapy agreement

On February 23, 2022, the Minister of Public Services and Procurement announced that the government has signed a new conditional agreement with AstraZeneca for 100,000 doses of its antibody therapy, Evusheld, for the prevention (pre-exposure prophylaxis) of COVID-19. The antibody therapy is under review by Health Canada for use in specific high-risk patient populations, such as people who are immunocompromised and are unable to mount a successful antibody response despite vaccination. Health Canada is currently prioritizing the review of all COVID-19 vaccines and drugs. Should the therapy receive regulatory approval, initial deliveries would be expected to arrive in Canada within a month of authorization.

While COVID-19 is still circulating in Canada and internationally, a vaccines plus approach continues to be essential to the pandemic response in Canada. This includes layering vaccination with timed and targeted public health measures and individual protective practices. You can read more [here](#).

Rapid antigen test kits and potential exposure to hazardous substances

Health Canada is advising Canadians about potential risks associated with the misuse or accidental ingestion or spillage of COVID-19 rapid antigen test kit solutions on the skin on a precautionary basis to help mitigate the associated risks. Health Canada has determined that the kits are safe and effective when used as intended. However, many test kits include liquid solutions with chemical preservatives, such as sodium azide and Proclin that may be poisonous if swallowed or absorbed through the skin, particularly in children and pets.

What you should do

- Keep rapid antigen test kits and solutions out of the reach of children and pets.
- Do not swallow the solutions, and avoid eye and skin contact.
- Wash hands thoroughly after use.
- If spillage occurs, rinse well with water.
- Follow all instructions for proper disposal.
- Report any health product-related [side effects](#) or [complaints](#) to Health Canada.
- Contact your local Poison Information and Control Centre in cases of accidental ingestion of chemicals or direct skin exposure.

Please [visit the full public health advisory](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Cases

*As of March 8, 2022 at 7 P.M.

- **11,945** confirmed in-community
- **1,113** active cases on reserve
- **59** deaths
- **10,773** resolved (90.2%)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario

*All data reflects totals from 8 p.m. on March 8, 2022

- **13,764** Daily doses administered
- **31,821,019** Total doses administered
- **12,047,319** People fully vaccinated

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

ISC Status Card Validity date extension ends May 1, 2022

Since April 2020, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has extended the validity date of status cards (including the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, the Certificate of Indian Status, and the Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This extension will end on **May 1, 2022**.

- If your status card is past its renewal date, you should renew it now.
- Indian status does not expire. Your registration number confirms your status and can be used to access some services and programs; however some service providers may require that your card is up to date, which is why it is important to renew it.
- If you hold the laminated version of the Certificate of Indian Status (aka Status Card), now is a good opportunity to apply for the [Secure Certificate of Indian Status](#) (aka Secure Status Card).
- The application forms for a Secure Certificate of Indian Status are available by [mail](#), [online](#), at an [Indigenous Services Canada regional office](#), or may be available at your First Nation Office. **Please be sure to call ahead** if you are planning on visiting any of these locations.
- You should submit your form as soon as possible to allow for processing time and avoid delays; however; if you need proof of registration to access services immediately, you can [ask for a Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document](#) while you are waiting for your new card.
- The Government of Canada does not charge a fee to apply for or renew a secure status card. Please take advantage of the [SCIS Photo App](#) that will allow you to submit the required passport quality photo at no cost.

For detailed information on renewing your secure status card, please visit the [How to renew your status card page](#).

Call for proposals - Projects that enhance water and wastewater capacity building efforts in First Nations communities

Indigenous Services Canada has launched a call for proposals for projects that address the retention, recruitment, and availability of water and wastewater operators working on reserve. Skilled water and wastewater operators are essential to ensuring long-term access to safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals that will address community-based, regional, or national issues related to building water and wastewater operator capacity in First Nations communities. Proposals delivered or offered by Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations, or in partnership with Indigenous peoples will be prioritized. Additionally, funding will be awarded to initiatives that present projects, tools, studies, and/or strategies that will be used to broadly benefit water and wastewater operators in First Nations communities on reserve.

Details:

- The call for proposals is open until April 25, 2022. All proposals must be received electronically before 11:59 pm ET on April 25, 2022, or be postmarked April 25, 2022.
- Projects that are selected will receive up to \$500,000 in funding to support new or expanded capacity building initiatives.
- For details on how to apply, visit [Capacity building for water and wastewater operators](#).

REMINDER: 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. **Nominations are open until March 31, 2022.** Learn more [here](#).

Click the banner for a sharable list of mental wellness resources.

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.