

Ontario Region Update

Information on COVID-19:
Canada.ca/coronavirus

Information for Indigenous communities on
COVID-19: www.sac-isc.gc.ca



INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA – July 21, 2022

Reinfections from COVID-19

Reinfection with COVID-19 does happen, and there are at least a couple of reasons for this. The first is that immunity naturally decreases as time passes between last infection or COVID-19 vaccination which increases your susceptibility to infection. Another factor is the emergence of new variants of the COVID-19 virus. The immune system may not respond to new variants as well as it would to variants from previous infections or vaccinations. While vaccines or previous infections may not completely prevent infection, recent vaccination provides a boost of protection that can prevent against hospitalization and serious illness if someone does become infected with COVID-19. This is why it is important to remain up to date on all available COVID-19 vaccine doses.

While people may be disappointed that they become infected with COVID-19 after vaccination, the good news is they should now have what is referred to as “[hybrid immunity](#)” or “hybrid protection”. Hybrid immunity can also be achieved if they get vaccinated after infection. While not being able to prevent infection from all new variants, hybrid immunity provides high levels of antibodies that last a long time, which should help prevent serious infection and hospitalization. This is why everyone is encouraged to get boosters when they are eligible, even after they have had a COVID-19 infection—it gives the best protection

The seventh wave has shown that the latest COVID-19 variant, BA.5, causes reinfection and the reinfection can occur sooner than has been seen with previous variants. The best way community members can prevent reinfections and community spread is by being up to date with vaccinations and continuing to adhere to public health measures, such as: wearing a well-fitting mask (N95 or equivalent, if available); getting vaccinated with all doses for which you are eligible; and avoiding large indoor gatherings with people who are not household members.

Ontario COVID-19 Cases

*As of July 15, 2022 at 8:30 A.M. EST

- **21, 682 cases** confirmed in-community
- **877** active cases on reserve
- **66** deaths
- **20, 739** resolved (95.6%)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

[As of July 28, 2022](#), children between six months and five years old will be eligible to receive a pediatric COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario. Immunocompromised youths between 12 and 17 years old will also be eligible for their second booster (fifth dose) at this time. This latest announcement from the Province of Ontario comes after Health Canada authorized the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for pediatric use on July 14, 2022. The Moderna vaccine is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group, expanding potential eligibility to 1.7 million children.

Community members seeking pediatric vaccines for their children can visit the [Ontario COVID-19 vaccination booking portal](#) to find available appointments, and/or speak to their local health provider, nursing station, or health authority for more information. Community members can also read [Health Canada's statement](#) to learn more about the approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for pediatric use.

COVID-19 Fall Planning: Vaccine Booster Program

On June 29, 2022, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released temporary guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) about fall vaccinations. To read the full NACI statement, including supporting evidence and reasoning, please see [NACI Statement: Interim guidance on planning considerations for a fall 2022 COVID-19 vaccine booster program in Canada](#).

Ontario COVID-19 Vaccines

*As of July 17, 2022

- **50.3%** of Ontario has received a primary series and a booster dose.
- **82.4%** of Ontario has completed a primary series.

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 [@GCIIndigenous](#) and [@GCIIndigenousHealth](#).

Other Updates

Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation Signed

On July 4, 2022, the Government of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and the plaintiffs in the Moushoom and Trout class action lawsuits announced that a final settlement agreement has been signed. This agreement concerns the compensation for First Nations children and families harmed by the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle, and by the discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program. The settlement agreement is the largest in Canadian history, providing \$20 billion split amongst eligible individuals. Once approved by the Federal Court and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, the following groups will be eligible for compensation:

- Children who were removed from their homes under the First Nations Child and Family Services program between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 2022
- Children who were impacted by the government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle between December 12, 2007 and November 2, 2017
- Children who did not receive or were delayed in receiving an essential public service or product between April 1, 1991 and December 11, 2007

Caregiving parents or caregiving grandparents of the children above may also be eligible for compensation. This agreement aims to ensure that survivors and their families receive fair compensation. With respect to [long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program](#), Parties are working hard at reaching a final settlement agreement to ensure a solid, reformed system that ends the discrimination found by the Tribunal. Please visit the [full news release](#) for more information.

National Council for Reconciliation

On June 22, Minister Marc Miller introduced Bill C-29 in Parliament, which would enable the creation of a National Council for Reconciliation. If passed, Bill C-29 would respond to Calls to Action 53 and 54 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The Bill would also lay the foundation to address TRC Calls to Action 55 and 56. The Council would be Indigenous-led and monitor, evaluate and report on reconciliation efforts, including the implementation of the Calls to Action. For more information, please visit the [backgrounder](#) and [full news release](#).

Extreme Heat Events

Climate change continues to impact the amount of extreme weather events, including heat waves. Heat waves increase cases of heat illness, a serious health condition which often include headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, sleepiness and rapid breathing. [Elders, infants and children are especially vulnerable to heat illness](#). We encourage you to share information about heat illness with your community members, as well as steps to prevent and treat it within community. Self-monitoring and looking out for others during extreme heat events helps lower serious health outcomes related to overheating.

For more information and tools about dealing with extreme heat events, visit [Climate Change and Health](#).

Papal Visit

Pope Francis is expected to visit Edmonton, Iqaluit, and Quebec between July 24 to 29, 2022. In anticipation of the papal visit, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has launched a [support page for Indigenous communities](#), which includes an overview of pertinent information about the visit, including support services, reporting requirements for funding, and event locations. More details about the papal visit, including registration for in-person events in Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut, can also be found at [www.papalvisit.ca](#).

Emotional supports and other support services are available to residential school survivors, their family members, and Indigenous communities through the [Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program](#). This includes information about funding opportunities, trauma-informed cultural support services, and professional mental health counselling that will continue before, during, and after the visit. Resolution Health Support Workers and cultural support providers will also be on site at specific papal events.

Other mental health and emotional support services include the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line, which provides culturally-grounded support and crisis intervention. If online chat support is preferred, similar services are available through the Hope for Wellness Help Line. Contact information for these services can be found at the bottom of every Ontario Update.

**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.