

## ISC-AB Vaccine Update April 12, 2022

### General Updates:

- The number of active cases, on reserve and across Alberta, have dropped recently.
- As of April 4, there are approximately 832 active cases in Alberta; 990 individuals are in hospital (44 in ICU). As there may be more cases identified through take-home rapid antigen tests as well as unconfirmed/asymptomatic cases, the actual case count in the province is likely much higher. It is likely that more individuals have been infected with the Omicron variant during the most recent wave than has been officially recorded. The hospitalization number has remained fairly steady as has the percent positivity rate (26.36%).
- As of April 12, there have been 19,757 probable and confirmed on-reserve cases of COVID-19. Of these total cases – 19,345 have recovered and 234 are active cases in 33 First Nation communities; 6 communities have 10 or more active cases. There are 23 individuals in hospital (four in ICU) and, sadly, 174, individuals have passed away.
- As of April 4 – 8,603,560 immunizations have been administered in Alberta, with approximately 90.2% of the population age 12 and older having received at least one dose (81.1% of the total population) and approximately 86.7% having received two doses (76.6% of the total population).
- Wastewater surveillance data is showing an increase in cases and has not gone down to zero anywhere in the province.
- Understanding the impact of immunization on outcomes ([COVID-19 Alberta statistics | alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID-19-Alberta-statistics)) – you will see absolute numbers and rate per 100,000. As you get older the rate of hospitalization goes up in addition, the rates get significantly higher for those unvaccinated.
- As mentioned at previous vaccine updates, ISC-AB uses Indian Registry data for the population age 12 and older living on reserve as the denominator. The numerator consists of all the doses administered on reserve and doses reconciled through the provincial registry. The doses administered on reserve would also include individuals not residing on reserve, etc.
- As of April 11 – 121,905 immunizations have been administered in First Nation communities in Alberta, with approximately 60,340 first doses, 49,883 second doses, 11,682 third doses, and 71 fourth doses. Approximately, 89.2% of the population age 12 and older living on reserve have received at least one dose (75.4% of the total population), 76.3% have received at least two doses (62.3% of the total population), and 18.3% have received three doses (14.6% of the total population).
- As of April 11:
  - 5-11 year olds: Approximately 29.6% first doses, 10.3% second doses.
  - 12-17 year olds: Approximately 77.2% first doses, 62.3% second doses, 2.3% third doses.
  - 18-34 year olds: Approximately 70.4% first doses, 56.7% second doses, 7.6% third doses.
  - 35-49 year olds: Approximately 98.0% first doses, 84.8% second doses, 20.0% third doses.
  - 50-64 year olds: Approximately 100% first doses, 91.6% second doses, 34.1% third doses.

- 65+ year olds: Approximately 100% first doses, 95.3% second doses, 52.3% third doses.
- Rate of immunization by Treaty Area:
  - Treaty 6: Approximately 70.4% of the population age 12 and older living on reserve have received one dose, 59.5% have received two doses, and 12.0% have received three doses.
  - Treaty 7: Approximately 100% of the population age 12 and older living on reserve have received one dose, 90.1% have received two doses, and 27.4% have received three doses.
  - Treaty 8: Approximately 99.9% of the population age 12 and older living on reserve have received one dose, 81.6% have received two doses, and 16.6% have received three doses.
- ISC-AB has noted a decrease in the number of overall doses being administered, although vaccine coverage for third doses among older populations (who may be more vulnerable) has increased slightly. Starting April 12, all Albertans age 70 and older, First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta age 65 and older, and all seniors in congregate care can receive a fourth dose of vaccine. Appointments for fourth shots can be made five months after those eligible received their third shot.
- WHO is following two other variants (B3 and B4).
- Regarding non mRNA vaccine clinical trials:
  - Novavax Nuvaxovid: The vaccine is approved for people who are 18 years of age and older. Clinical trials showed that, beginning one week after the second dose, Novavax ([COVID-19 protein subunit vaccine](#)) was 90% effective in protecting trial participants aged 18 and above against COVID-19. Let us know if you would like additional information and access to the vaccine.

### Vaccine Clinic Update:

- AHS COVID-19 Biological Pages were revised April 11, and Health Directors can expect an email with more information from Brent Whittall shortly. Highlights include:
  - Anaphylaxis that followed a mRNA vaccine is no longer an absolute contraindication for receiving another mRNA vaccine, but an allergist's assessment is required.
  - The 8 week to 3 month recommended interval between a COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization can be shortened upon the client's request.
  - Moderna can now be used for 6-11 years olds. Same product as 12+ but the dose is less; two dose series but could be 3 if immunocompromised. Pfizer is still preferred, however.
  - Pfizer 5-11: preferred product over Moderna.
  - Pfizer 65+ – 5 month space between first and second booster doses.
  - Pfizer 65+ - smaller dose for forth dose (2<sup>nd</sup> booster).

## Questions:

- ***For the forth dose started with AHS, when do we start on-reserve?***
  - Second booster starting this week, biological pages will be sent out today for 65+ and 5 month spacing between second booster
- ***Increase in cases out of the provincial tournament and cautious of the Treaty tournament?***
  - This validates, locally, what we are hearing and seeing with hospitalization rates.
- ***Increase in influenza and RSV in child care facilities.***
- ***If the variant is spreading in the tournaments, perhaps an advisory/recommendation could be put out about wearing masks.***
  - An email was sent out that can be shared to reinforce people keep vigilant for the organizers of the event.

Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication. We will meet again **May 10, 2022 at 1PM.**