



COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC SK REGION

April 12, 2021

Hello/Tansi,

Protect your health and community



Over the past year, First Nations people in Saskatchewan have mobilized to combat this virus and have collectively sacrificed a great deal. The development of vaccines able to protect against COVID-19 outcomes has provided a new opportunity to protect ourselves, our families and communities, so all of us can return to a sense of normalcy. With increasing supply of approved vaccines that are safe and effective against COVID-19, we are now well-equipped to scale up vaccination and maximize protection of all First Nations people.

Having as many eligible individuals as possible receive an effective first vaccine dose means that we can provide a very high level of protection to more people quickly, saving lives and reducing illness. This critical first dose will lead to reduced transmission in the community. Please encourage your community to get vaccinated. We are well positioned to have all people 18 years plus to have access to vaccine by mid-May.

We want to thank all of you for your continuing efforts to keep your communities safe. Please keep in mind that you can continue to access [additional public health support](#) to respond to First Nations communities during COVID-19.

IN THE NEWS

On April 9, the [Prime Minister provided updates on federal response to COVID-19](#), including the release of federal modelling data concerning the possible impact of COVID-19 in Canada.

On April 8, [the Saskatchewan province announced that the Regina COVID-19 vaccine drive through](#) will begin administering Pfizer/Biontech vaccines. Eligible residents ages 55+ can book their appointment online.

On April 7, Saskatchewan's Health Minister [Paul Merriman announced that everyone 30 years of age and older in the province could be vaccinated by 10 May](#) if it sticks to its current age-based vaccine strategy. The updated Provincial Order and Restaurant and Bar Order have now been posted ...Both were extended to April 26th.

On April 7, Minister Marc Miller announced that [Indigenous leadership key to COVID-19 case decline.](#)

COVID-19 IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

As of April 12, 2021: 6373 confirmed; 6251 recovered; 66 active; 56 deaths

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

There have been 17,030 vaccine doses administered in Saskatchewan First Nations communities as of April 11, 2021. This represents 6.0% of all doses administered in Saskatchewan.

Out of the 17,030 doses, 12,071 doses are first dose and 4,959 doses are second dose. Hence 23.5% (12,071/51,269) of people over the age 18 living in Saskatchewan First Nations communities have received their first dose. 4,959 (9.7% of the eligible population) individuals have received their first and second doses.

As of April 11th, 2021:

Total Vaccine Doses Administered in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Zones	Provincial Total	First Nations Communities Total	Percentage Administered in First Nations Communities
Far North West	6,285	1,991	31.7%
Far North Central	726	548	75.5%
Far North East	5,195	3,036	58.4%
North West	19,437	2,751	14.2%
North Central	20,972	2,765	13.2%
North East	11,202	703	6.3%
Saskatoon*	64,511	*	*
Central West	8,072		
Central East	27,054	2,459	9.1%
Regina*	65,995	*	*
South West	7,449	*	*
South Central*	15,522	*	*
South East	20,895	2,777	13.3%
Totals:	282,065**	17,030	6.0%

**Due to community confidentiality with only one community per zone, First Nations communities data in Saskatchewan region is combined with North Central, and Regina, South West and South Central are combined with South East.

Extended dose interval for 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement on [Extended dose intervals for COVID-19 vaccines to optimize early vaccine rollout and population protection in the context of limited vaccine supply](#) and [Summary of the Extended Dose Intervals statement of April 7, 2021](#) are now available online

The statement provides the complete analysis that supports the recommendation to extend the time between the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccines up to four months.

Extending COVID-19 vaccine dose intervals will optimize early vaccine rollout and population protection. It will do this by allowing many more people to gain protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes, since they will receive the first dose of an effective COVID-19 vaccine earlier.

Recommendation remains unchanged; more evidence to support its implementation. NACI expects that the time between first and second dose will be less than four months. As the vaccine roll-out proceeds, the interval between doses will likely get closer to 2 months.

NACI will continue to carefully monitor the evolving evidence on effectiveness of an extended dose interval and will adjust its recommendations as needed.

Vaccines and treatments for COVID-19: Safety after authorization

After a vaccine has been authorized for use in Canada, Health Canada continues to monitor its safety and effectiveness; this is called the [post-market surveillance](#).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada is increasing their monitoring and assessment activities of emerging safety issues. Health Canada is also closely monitoring the emerging variants of the COVID-19 virus to assess the impact of the new variants on the effectiveness of the approved vaccines and treatments. If issues are identified, Health Canada will work quickly with the manufacturers and public health laboratories to mitigate the risks and inform Canadians.

Please continue to send your questions and requests related to COVID-19 to aandc.skemergency.aandc@canada.ca

Visit our [Saskatchewan portal](#) for links to a variety of COVID-19 resources in various Indigenous languages