



COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISCSK REGION

March 1, 2021

Hello/Tansi,

Protect your health and community



While the pandemic response must continue, the roll out of vaccines in Saskatchewan is providing hope and optimism. The current downward trend in daily case counts is evidence that community-based measures are having an effect and our collective effort is making a difference. Therefore, it is crucial that strong public health measures are kept in place in order to maintain momentum in our fight against COVID-19.

In light of the variants of concern, we must continue to maintain a high degree of caution and not ease restrictions too fast. We need to maintain the strictest vigilance in our [public health measures](#) and [individual practices](#). This will help to prevent the variants of concern from reaccelerating the epidemic and making it much more difficult to control.

Please encourage your community members to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to protect themselves, their families and communities. The COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to safely resume normal life.

IN THE NEWS

On February 22, [Saskatchewan pharmacists are a key partner in the COVID-19 immunization plan](#) and [Saskatchewan expanded rapid testing kit use](#).

On February 23, [the province announced \\$15 Million](#) in funding for pandemic research by the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan.

On February 23, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, [Dr. Theresa Tam said](#) results from COVID-19 vaccinations so far are encouraging enough that she thinks the need for massive lockdowns could be over before the end of the summer. But Tam says some of the more personal measures, like wearing masks and limiting close contact outside our households, may be with us longer.

On February 24, [Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said](#) allocating COVID-19 vaccine doses for indigenous people in urban areas through the provinces is fast and more effective the delivery directly through Canada.

On February 26, [Health Canada approved use](#) of AstraZeneca vaccine and [Minister Anita Anand of Public Services and Procurement, announced](#) that Canada has secured 2 million doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for use in adults 18 years of age and older.

COVID-19 IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

As of March 1, 2021: 5683 confirmed; 5410 recovered; 224 active cases and 49 deaths

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

There have been 9,624 vaccine doses administered in Saskatchewan First Nations communities as of Feb 28, 2021. This represents 12.3% of all doses administered in Saskatchewan.

Out of the 9624 doses, 6777 doses are first dose and 2847 doses are second dose. Hence 13.2% (6777/51,269) of people over the age 18 living in Saskatchewan First Nations communities have received their first dose. 2847 (5.6% of the eligible population) individuals have received their first and second doses.

As of February 28th, 2021:

Total Vaccine Doses Administered in Saskatchewan			
Saskatchewan Zones	Provincial Total	First Nations Communities Total	Percentage Administered in First Nations Communities
<u>Far North West</u>	3,136	725	23.1%
<u>Far North Central</u>	905	788	87.1%
<u>Far North East</u>	3,335	1,890	56.7%
<u>North West</u>	7,523	1,449	19.3%
<u>North Central</u>	10,053	1,167	11.6%
<u>North East</u>	2,829	425	15.0%
<u>Saskatoon</u>	14,920	*	*
<u>Regina</u>	12,857	*	*
<u>Central West</u>	2,357		
<u>Central East</u>	7,751	1,337	17.2%
<u>South West</u>	2,333	*	*
<u>South Central</u>	2,767	*	*
<u>South East</u>	7,460	1,843	24.7%
Totals:	78,226	9,624	12.3%

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

VACCINE MISINFORMATION/FRAUD

We understand some inaccurate information has been circulating to certain communities about the vaccine that includes false and distorted information about potential side effects. The spread of misinformation can have real consequences and can distort people's behaviours and decision-making.

It is important that everyone obtain information from trusted sources. That includes federal, provincial and territorial health authorities, community health centres, nursing stations or local healthcare providers. We also encourage people to consider the source of information before spreading or sharing articles or facts.

Vaccination is a choice. Vaccines used in Canada must be approved by Health Canada and the COVID-19 vaccine is held to the same safety standards as other vaccines to make sure it is safe and effective.

To reduce or stop the spread of false information, Canadians should be on alert, check the sources where the content came from, and validate the content with information provided by legitimate websites.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/covid-19-vaccine-treatment.html>

For information on COVID-19 Fraud and Scams visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/covid19.html#b00>

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

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