



COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC SKREGION

May 10, 2021



Hello/Tansi,

The Government of Saskatchewan released the [Re-Opening Roadmap](#) - a three-step plan to gradually lift current public health restrictions as Saskatchewan reaches significant vaccination levels. The Re-Opening Roadmap also provides Saskatchewan people with an incentive to continue following public health measures and a clear reason to get vaccinated. In Indigenous communities, the number of residents being inoculated continues to increase at an impressive rate. Again, this is due in large part to the leadership and education efforts of you, the leaders of your respective communities. According to the Province, Phase One is expected to begin as early as this month, with Phase Three starting in July.

The most significant variable that can impact the success of this plan are the COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC), which are circulating across Saskatchewan, both in the North and the South. They make up forty percent of new cases in First Nations communities – a number that continues to rise. So far, most variant cases have been B.1.1.7 (UK) variant, but a case of the P.1 (Brazil) variant was recently detected in a Saskatchewan First Nation, with more anticipated as it's spreading widely throughout Western Canada.

Vaccines take time to work. Coupled with the current health measures in place, the vaccines approved for use in Canada work very well against illness from B.1.1.7 but less well against P.1. The good news? If vaccinated people are infected with a variant, they almost never go to the hospital or lose their life.

IN THE NEWS

On May 5, 2021, [Health Canada authorized](#) the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group.

Also on May, 5, 2021, Minister of Natural Resources, Seamus O'Regan, launched the next call for proposals for the [Indigenous Forestry Initiative \(IFI\)](#), to support Indigenous participation in forestry-related opportunities, businesses, careers and governance.

On May 5, 2021, the [Saskatchewan Health Authority announced](#) it would be adjusting Level 3 visitor restrictions in long-term care homes in Regina (and area) to allow for limited outdoor visitation.

And, lastly on May 5, 2021, the federal government reiterated that Budget 2021 laid out [significant investments](#) to support Indigenous communities in the fight against COVID-19. The budget supports the ongoing public health response to COVID-19 in Indigenous communities, maintains essential health care services for First Nations and Inuit, and makes sure students, schools, and post-secondary institutions have the support they need during the pandemic.

On May 6, 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan unveiled their [second dose strategy](#), which included youth vaccine sequencing. The Province also provided updates on [Public Health Orders](#), which include the mandatory mask order, as well as establishments which serve food, beverages and liquor.

COVID-19 IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

As of May 10, 2021: 6643 confirmed; 6491 recovered; 76 active; 58 deaths

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

There have been 27,486 vaccine doses administered in Saskatchewan First Nations communities as of May 9, 2021. This represents 5.3% of all doses administered in Saskatchewan.

Out of the 27,486 doses, 20,817 doses are the first dose, and 6,669 doses are the second dose. Hence 40.6% (20,817/51,269) of people over the age 18 living in

Saskatchewan First Nations communities have received their first dose. 6,669 (13.0% of the eligible population) individuals have received their first and second doses.

Total Vaccine Doses Administered in Saskatchewan as of May 10, 2021

Saskatchewan Zones	Provincial Total	First Nations Communities Total	Percentage Administered in First Nations Communities
Far North West	9,603	2,632	27.4%
Far North Central	912	593	65.0%
Far North East	8,117	4,601	56.7%
North West	35,545	5,200	14.6%
North Central	37,430	5,059	13.5%
North East	18,848	1,068	5.7%
Saskatoon*	131,474	*	*
Central West	16,079		
Central East	45,233	3,051	6.7%
Regina*	118,743	*	*
South West	15,075	*	*
South Central*	26,586	*	*
South East	38,000	5,281	13.9%
Totals:	518,133***	27,486	5.3%

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

**SK province is unable to assign locations for 16,488 doses.

***Coverage depends on the denominator used (2019 INAC) and is based on doses administered at a First Nations community service delivery site. Both on and off-reserve members may access the site.

Vaccine Rollout

administered. Nearly 70 per cent of residents over the age of 40 have received their first dose. The province aims to expand eligibility to everyone 12 and older by May 20, with residents 32 and older currently eligible for a vaccine.

Saskatchewan expects to receive 63,180 doses of the Pfizer vaccine this week, with deliveries completed by May 12. Pharmacies in the province will receive 31,590 doses, while Regina and Saskatoon will add 10,350 and 8,190 doses, respectively. The remainder will go to Prince Albert (1,170) and First Nations in the province.

COVID-19 Free Rapid Tests for Employees

The federal government has launched a portal where organizations can apply to receive [**COVID-19 free rapid tests for your employees.**](#)

Rapid tests, otherwise known as antigen testing, offer COVID-19 test results in 15 minutes or so, and are generally used as a first layer of screening before those who receive positive results are given a follow-up standard PCR test to confirm their infection status. Chambers of commerce across Canada will distribute rapid tests to smaller workplaces. **Non-profit, charitable, and Indigenous community organizations will also be able to access rapid tests, through the Red Cross.**

FHQTC Quick Cuts with Dr. Khan 15 Months into the Pandemic

Dr. Khan, Medical Health Officer, Indigenous Services Canada, discusses the current state of the pandemic, the third wave, where we have been, and where we are going. To view and share, follow the link youtu.be/SfNnRP0fXqQpic.twitter.com/Sdt7nkt59E

STC Indigenous Vaccination Site Tour

Take a virtual tour of the Central Saskatchewan Indigenous Vaccination Site at the SaskTel Centre in Saskatoon. To view and share, follow the link youtube.com/watch?v=eVQlob...

As a vaccine. 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