



COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC SK REGION

April 19, 2021

Hello/Tansi,

Protect your health and community



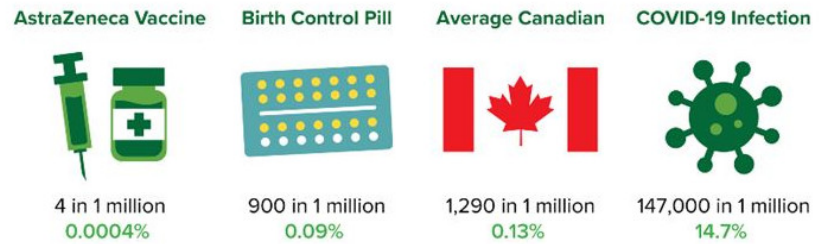
We had all hoped that by this spring, we would be nearing the end of the crisis caused by COVID-19. However as new variants emerge, the spread of COVID-19 continues to accelerate in Canada. This is not the time to relax our guard.

Infections, hospitalizations, disability and deaths from COVID-19 are ongoing. With COVID-19 variants of concern spreading more quickly and affecting younger adults, there is an urgent public health and health equity need to provide immunity to as many people as quickly as possible.

Vaccine deployment is rolling out across First Nations communities. However we hear concerns about the AstraZeneca vaccine in particular. All of the vaccines being offered in Saskatchewan are safe. The best vaccine is the one you are offered. If you are eligible and can receive a vaccine today, go get it!

Intensive care units across Canada are at the brink of being overrun with younger adults. These are front-line workers and parents with young children - many are fighting for their lives. We must stretch all available first doses across Saskatchewan to help save lives, and dose by dose, get to a near normal way of life. Prioritizing first doses contributes to the safety of all communities. Everyone will receive a second dose. The interval between 1st and 2nd doses will shorten when supplies allow.

COVID-19 Vaccine & Blood Clot Risks



IN THE NEWS

On April 13, the [provincial Public Health Order](#) was announced which will include limit of worship gathering sizes to allow no more than 30 people. These Public Health Order measures are in effect until April 26.

On April 14, [Health Canada issued a Public Advisory](#) to inform Canadians of Astrazeneca and COVISHIELD vaccines and possible side effects. Health Canada concludes that the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 outweigh the risks of this very rare event. The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) and the [Chief Medical Officers of Health](#) recommended that use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines be paused in adults under age 55 pending the ongoing Health Canada assessment on this issue.

On April 15, the [Government of Canada announced funding for new COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites](#) in Saskatchewan.

COVID-19 IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

As of April 19, 2021: **6445** confirmed; **6316** recovered; **73** active; **56** deaths

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

There have been 19,910 vaccine doses administered in Saskatchewan First Nations communities as of April 18, 2021. Out of the 19,910 doses, 14,574 doses are first dose and 5,336 doses are second dose. Hence 28.4% (14,574/51,269) of people over the age 18 living in Saskatchewan First Nations communities have received their first dose. 5,336 (10.4% of the eligible population) individuals have received their first and second doses.

As of April 19th, 2021:

Total Vaccine Doses Administered in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Zones	Provincial Total	First Nations Communities Total	Percentage Administered in First Nations Communities
Far North West	6,690	2,131	31.9%
Far North Central	741	505	68.2%
Far North East	5,870	3,245	55.3%
North West	23,121	4,036	17.5%
North Central	25,046	3,246	13.0%
North East	11,802	577	4.9%
Saskatoon*	80,085	*	*
Central West	10,037		
Central East	32,069	2,535	7.9%
Regina*	84,542	*	*
South West	9,318	*	*
South Central*	19,755	*	*
South East	25,591	3,635	14.2%
Totals:	345,126**	19,910	5.8%

**Due to community confidentiality with only one community per zone, F

Saskatoon region is combined with North Central, and Regina, South West and South Central are combined with South East.

Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites Program

An increase in COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan has strained available housing in many communities, causing a need for safe alternatives for voluntary isolation.

Saskatchewan residents who need to self-isolate can access the Community Led Voluntary Isolation Support Program if they are either:

- Exposed to COVID-19;
- Diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Over the age of 40; or
- Have a health condition as identified by the Public Health Agency of Canada as increasing risks when infected with COVID-19.

Funding for the [Community Led Voluntary Isolation Support Program](#) is provided through the Government of Canada until March 2022. Through this program, the government is announcing \$11.6 million in funding 15 months for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to establish safe voluntary isolation sites in Saskatchewan.

Sites will open on an as-needed basis beginning in April 2021 and will accommodate identified individuals who are unable to safely self-isolate at home during an outbreak in their community. Transportation to and from isolation sites will be provided for those who require transportation. People who utilize this program will be provided with the essentials during their stay, including safe lodging, meals and incidentals.

Each site will provide a safe, comfortable place to self-isolate and the decision to stay is entirely voluntary. These sites are in addition to the provincial ASIS program and the infrastructure isolation projects through ISC.

COVID -19 Toolkit Update 3

We wanted to draw your attention to the following updates to the COVID-19 Toolkit:

- New social media messages
- New resources:
 - o Posters
 - o Videos
 - o Webpages

You can access via this link: [Toolkit - Update 3](#)

We hope this update will be useful and we thank you for

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