



COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC SKREGION

November 1, 2021

Hello/Tansi/Wotziye

Even as we see brighter days ahead and some aspects of life return to normal, the pandemic is still with us. So, as we forge ahead in Wave 4, please follow the advice of our public health officials by getting vaccinated, using our layers of protection and following public health orders.

Being vaccinated against COVID-19 does not protect you from the flu and being vaccinated against the flu does not protect you from COVID-19. Getting the flu shot and the COVID-19 shot can help your community stay healthy. We will continue to closely monitor the evolution of COVID-19 vaccines and work with vaccine suppliers to access new formulations as quickly as possible, so we can finish the fight against COVID-19.

On Oct. 26, 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced his new federal cabinet. These new Ministers will be tasked with helping to lead Canada out of the current pandemic, while ensuring the Federal Government remains focused on all matters that touch the lives of Indigenous people in Canada. The following Ministers are responsible for areas that directly impact Indigenous people and communities:

[The Honourable Dan Vandal:](#)

Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

[The Honourable Patty Hajdu:](#)

Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario

[The Honourable Marc Miller:](#)

Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Useful links

[Saskatchewan Planning Delivery Of Vaccinations For Five To 11 Year Olds:](#) Saskatchewan has ordered 112,000 doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine specially formulated for children aged five to 11 with delivery anticipated in mid-November, 2021.

On Oct 27, the [Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority \(NITHA\) issued a 28-Day "Circuit Breaker"](#), as a short term, time-limited measure meant to break the chain of transmission of the Delta variant in northern Saskatchewan.

Transport Canada announced the details on the vaccination requirement for air and rail transportation [here](#).



Vaccination for supplier personnel

The Government of Canada has mandated that all federal contractors working on federal worksites, must be fully vaccinated by **November 15**. Companies will be responsible for attesting to the fact that individual contractors who are working on federal worksites are in compliance with the vaccination policy. Public Services and Procurement Canada will obtain the vaccination attestation for contracts issued by PSPC on behalf of departments.

NACI recommendations on vaccine

On Friday, October 29, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada will release interim guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. This will include a strong booster recommendation for adults 80 years of age and older and a discretionary booster recommendation for other key populations, including those 70 to 79 years of age.

[Interim guidance on booster COVID-19 vaccine doses in Canada](#)

[Summary of the NACI Statement \(PDF\)](#)

At this time, based on the current evidence, NACI recommends that populations at highest risk of waning protection following their primary series and at highest risk of severe COVID-19 illness should be offered a booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their primary series. These populations include:

- Adults living in long-term care or other congregate settings that provide care for seniors (as recommended by NACI on September 28, 2021)
- Adults 80 years of age and older

It is currently unknown how long effectiveness from a booster dose may last. NACI will continue to monitor the evolving evidence.

National Vaccine Mandate: Accommodations for Remote Communities

The national [vaccination mandate](#) includes specific accommodation to recognize the unique needs of travellers from Northern, remote and isolated communities to ensure they will be able to travel to obtain essential services in support of their medical, health, or social well-being, and return safely to their homes.

As of October 30, 2021, proof of vaccination is required if you are travelling by plane or by train. There will be a short transition period, from October 30 to November 29, 2021, where those unable to provide proof of vaccination will be able to travel if they can show a valid COVID-19 molecular test taken within 72 hours of travel.

If you cannot provide proof of vaccination and are travelling from a remote community, you are exempt from the mandatory COVID test before departure until local testing capacity is in place.

If you cannot provide proof of vaccination and are travelling from a designated gateway airport (Prince Albert, Saskatoon, or Regina), and are 12 or older, you must provide proof of negative test within 72 hours of departure. A free rapid COVID molecular test kit will be provided free of charge by the airline if you do not already have proof of negative test. Please arrive at the airport at least 1 hour early if testing is required.

If you test negative, you will be able you to continue your travel anywhere in Canada without need for another test result for 72 hours.

If you test positive you cannot travel. The airline will contact 811 for further direction. 811 will assist with securing space at an assisted self-isolation site if you do not have an alternative safe place to isolate.

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.