



# COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM ISC SK REGION

April 26, 2021

Hello/Tansi,

Protect your health and community



Over the past weeks, we have seen and heard from leadership and Public Health experts the need to stay vigilant in our fight against COVID-19. While there may be a light at the end of the tunnel, we can't ignore the fact that there's still plenty of tunnel left. Now more than ever, we need to be patient, strong, and continue to accelerate vaccine rollout. Our message must continue to be clear: Get Vaccinated. It's our way forward and out of this pandemic.

We want to thank all of you for your continuing efforts to keep your communities safe.

## IN THE NEWS

On April 19, 2021, the federal government released [Budget 2021](#). As part of the Budget, the government is allocating an additional \$1.2 billion in 2021-22 to continue supporting the COVID-19 response in [Indigenous Communities](#), including \$478.1 million on a cash basis to continue to support the ongoing public health response to COVID-19 in Indigenous communities. Budget 2021 also proposes to invest an additional \$760.8 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help First Nations and Métis Nation communities, and urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations serving Indigenous peoples meet the unique needs of their populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 20, 2021, the [Government of Saskatchewan announced](#) that it was expanding capacity to provide secure, responsive virtual health care, so patients can safely, securely and conveniently access services well into the future. The Ministry of Health and eHealth Saskatchewan are developing an action plan to enhance virtual services, focusing on security, privacy and user experience.

On April 21, 2021, the federal government highlighted that Budget 2021 sets a goal of on average [\\$10 a day child-care](#) within the next five years. Through this, the federal government is committing to work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners to build a Canada-wide, community-based early learning and child care system.

On April 21, the Province of Saskatchewan announced it will be using [AstraZeneca to immunize adults 40 years](#) and older.

On April 23, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) lowered the age of eligibility and recommended the AstraZeneca vaccine to anyone 30 years of age and older.

### COVID-19 IN SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

As of April 26, 2021: 6542 confirmed; 6399 recovered; 87 active; 56 deaths

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

There have been 23,085 vaccine doses administered in Saskatchewan First Nations communities as of April 25, 2021. Out of the 23,085 doses, 17,315 doses are first dose and 5,770 doses are second dose. Hence 33.8% (17,315/51,269) of people over the age 18 living in Saskatchewan First Nations communities have received their first dose. 5,770 (11.3% of the eligible population) individuals have received their first and second doses.

### Total Vaccine Doses Administered in Saskatchewan as of April 26, 2021

Saskatchewan Zones	Provincial Total	First Nations Communities Total	Percentage Administered in First Nations Communities
Far North West	7,904	2,246	28.4%
Far North Central	803	582	72.5%
Far North East	6,889	4,054	58.8%
North West	27,263	4,489	16.5%
North Central	29,444	4,050	13.8%
North East	15,139	891	5.9%
Saskatoon*	96,293	*	*
Central West	12,813		
Central East	36,632	2,699	7.4%
Regina*	89,859	*	*
South West	12,031	*	*
South Central*	21,807	*	*
South East	30,642	4,074	13.3%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>399,745***</b>	<b>23,085</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

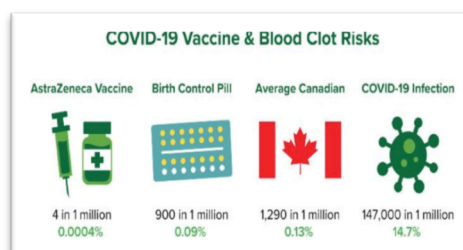
\*\*Due to community confidentiality with only one community per zone, First Nations communities' data in Saskatoon region is combined with North Central, and Regina, South West and South Central are combined with South East.

\*\*\*SK province is unable to assign locations for 12,226 doses.

## Is the AstraZeneca Vaccine Safe?

One of the side effects being noted in media coverage of the AstraZeneca vaccine is the risk of blood clotting. **As of April 26**, four cases have been noted in Canada, but none in Indigenous communities.

Health Canada's position on the AstraZeneca vaccine has not changed: The potential risk of blood clotting is very rare, and the benefits of the vaccine in protecting against COVID-19 outweigh its potential risks. Health Canada's findings are based on a sound and thorough **safety review** of all evidence available.



Health Canada reassures Canadians that the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine continues to be safe and effective

at protecting all Canadians, including Indigenous communities, against COVID-19 and encourages people to get immunized with any of the COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized in Canada.

Therefore, the message from leading health experts remains the same: **The best vaccine is the one that is offered to you. Please take it. It is your best defense against the COVID-19 virus.** For more information, please visit **Health Canada's website**.

### Pharmacy Vaccination Pilot Project

Select pharmacies in 14 Saskatchewan communities will start to receive vaccine on April 29 as part of a pilot program to offer COVID-19 vaccinations. Up to 63 pharmacies will participate in a small-scale rollout to refine distribution and vaccination processes. Additional pharmacies in more communities will be added as larger volumes of vaccine become available in the coming weeks. For more information visit **[www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-pharmacies](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-pharmacies)**.

Please continue to send your questions and requests related to COVID-19 to [aadnc.skemergency.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.skemergency.aandc@canada.ca). Visit our **Saskatchewan portal** for links to a variety of COVID-19 resources in various Indigenous languages