

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 11, 2020**

Health Sector

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a1>

Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19, as of 2020-05-11 11:00AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,330	73 (20)	129	1,659
AB	6,253	71 (13)	117	4,389
SK	564	12 (4)	6	349
MB	287	4 (0)	7	247
ON	20,546	1,027 (194)	1,669	15,131
QC	37,721	1,831 (199)	2,928	9,526
Newfoundland/Lab	261	4 (2)	3	244
NB	120	0 (0)	-	118
NS	1,018	6 (3)	47	767
PEI	27		-	27
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	69,156	3,028 (435)	4,906	32,455
Active Cases=				
31,795				

*These are numbers of *current* hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Some sources report the total *cumulative* number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Also, hospitalization data are amalgamated as they are reported by various hospitals; they are therefore updated sporadically, intermittently, and are likely to be less accurate and current than other data points.

	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Globally	4,136,056	283,478	1,422,984

- Data is as of May 11 at 11:32am from Johns Hopkins University:
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Epidemic Summary

As of **May 8, 2020** **81%** of COVID-19 cases were related to community transmission, while **19%** were either exposed while travelling or exposed to a traveler coming to Canada.

As of **May 10, 2020**, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **7.0%**.

As of **May 10, 2020**, **47%** of all Canadian COVID-19 cases are reported to have recovered.

Risk to Canadians

COVID-19 is a serious health threat, and the situation is evolving daily. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered **high**.

There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- Aged 65 and over
- With compromised immune systems
- With underlying medical conditions

As provided by Pamela Wolfe-Roberge, CDCD, FNIHB/ISC

Please see below a summary of COVID-19 test positive cases, associated with First Nations communities in Canada, reported through communities, FNIHB Regional Medical Officers, and media as of **May 8, 2020**

Jurisdiction	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	NR
# test positive COVID-19 Cases	38	26	32	0	41	31	0	16*

Data Sources:

British Columbia: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

Alberta: <https://covid19stats.alberta.ca/#cases>

Saskatchewan: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/cases-and-risk-of-covid-19-in-saskatchewan>

Manitoba: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/index.html#cases>

Ontario: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0>

Quebec: <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/covid-19/donnees>

New Brunswick:

https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus/case-map.html

Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/data/>

Prince Edward Island: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/pei-covid-19-testing-data>

Newfoundland and Labrador: <https://covid-19-newfoundland-and-labrador-gnl.hub.arcgis.com/>

Yukon: <https://yukon.ca/covid-19>

Northwest Territories: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

Additional source (national): <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/tracking-every-case-of-covid-19-in-canada-1.4852102#alberta>

Housing, Infrastructure, Water & Emergency Management Sector

Local States of Emergencies:

First Nations Local States of Emergencies: As per ISC report – 08 May 2020

First Nation States of Emergency- As per ISC website May 08,2020									
Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	57	33	4	20	68	4	7	2	195

2020 Flood Season General Assessments: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 7, 2020 - **Updates in Bold**

FLOODING – No Change

2020 Flood Season General Risk Assessments: No Change

There are currently 22 communities impacted by flooding (, AB 13 and BC 9), and 5 partially evacuated (NWT 1, AB 3 and BC 1). There are 795 residents currently evacuated.

● **BC: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – DECREASING**

- 07MAY2020 Flood Forecast: Flood risk has been downgraded for the Northeast Area.
 - A Flood Watch remains in effect for the Cariboo and tributaries near and east of Williams Lake and Quesnel.
 - High Streamflow advisories are in place for the Cache Creek/Bonaparte areas, the North Okanagan, and the Upper Nicola River near Nicola Lake.
 - Increased snow melt due to rising temperatures and localized rain events may cause some flood waters to rise later in the week or over the weekend.

● **AB: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE TO HIGH**

- Repatriated
 - Little Red River Cree Nation (Chief Conroy Sewepagaham)
 - Sucker Creek First Nation (Chief James Badger)

● **SK: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – No Change**

● **MB: – No Change**

● **ON: FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH IN GREAT LAKES AREA DUE TO ELEVATED WATER LEVELS**

- 06MAY2020: River surveillance on James Bay Coast from 30 Apr, will continue to end of spring break up, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNRF) has predicted ice breakup to commence soon;
 - Flood risk for Kashechewan FN (Chief Leo Friday Sr) and Fort Albany FN (Chief Andrew Solomon) has been downgraded from HIGH to 'MODERATE to HIGH'; Elders within Kashechewan FN anticipate an easy break up;
 - Water levels and flows within the major tributaries of the Moose River (Abitibi, Missanabie & Mattagami Rivers) show abnormal increases due to ice break up;
 - The flood risk remains moderate for Moosonee and Moose Factory Island;
 - Provincial planning for potential evacuations is ongoing including discussion with potential hosting sites for evacuees; 800–900 people could evacuate Kashechewan FN if major flooding hits community; approximately 915 community members moved to traditional hunting camps.
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Wildfire: No Change

High Risk from BC to Southern Saskatchewan; low risk from Manitoba to the Atlantic.

1. **British Columbia** - No new wildfires
2. **Alberta** - No fires reported to date
3. **Saskatchewan** - No new wildfires
4. **Manitoba** - No fires reported to date
5. **Ontario Wildfire Update** - No fires reported to date
6. **Quebec Wildfire Update** - No new wildfires
7. **New Brunswick Wildfire Update** - No new wildfires
8. **Nova Scotia Wildfire Update** - No new wildfires - all areas Not Applicable, Low or Moderate
9. **Prince Edward Island** - No fires reported to date
10. **Newfoundland/Labrador** - No fires reported to date
11. **Yukon Territories Wildfire Update** - No new wildfires

Northwest Territories Wildfire Update – No fires reported to date

Communications Sector

'Go back to the old way:' First Nations return to land during COVID-19 pandemic

Toronto Sun - May 10, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/news/provincial/go-back-to-the-old-way-first-nations-return-to-land-during-covid-19-pandemic/wcm/4e698695-de16-44e0-8683-ed18397f88b>

Feds stress dangers to long-term care residents and Indigenous communities

National Observer - May 10, 2020

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/10/news/feds-stress-dangers-long-term-care-residents-and-indigenous-communities>

First Nations COVID-19 cases undercounted, says AFN national chief

Inuit leader calls for increased testing and a decrease in the delay getting test results

CBC News - May 08, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/indigenous-leaders-covid19-data-testing-1.5562555>

AFN Taskforce Formed To Streamline Covid-19 Information For Indigenous Communities

Alberta Native News - May 8, 2020

<https://www.albertanativenews.com/afn-taskforce-formed-to-streamline-covid-19-information-for-indigenous-communities/>

Numbers

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298#chap5>

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

On First Nations reserves in provinces, as of May 10, ISC is aware of:

- 175 confirmed positive COVID-19
- 19 hospitalizations
- 2 deaths

Case numbers per region:

- British Columbia: 39
- Alberta: 29
- Saskatchewan: 35
- Ontario: 41
- Quebec: 31

Full Stories

'Go back to the old way:' First Nations return to land during COVID-19 pandemic

Toronto Sun - May 10, 2020

<https://torontosun.com/news/provincial/go-back-to-the-old-way-first-nations-return-to-land-during-covid-19-pandemic/wcm/4e698695-de16-44e0-8683-ed18397f88b>

First Nations leaders who have called on their communities to return to the land to find food during the COVID-19 pandemic are also seeing people reconnect with their traditions.

On the shores of Southern Indian Lake in Manitoba, Chief Shirley Ducharme of the O Pison-Na-Piwin Cree Nation has called on members to hunt and fish, and to share their bounty.

Right now, it's goose and duck season and the community is excited about boiling the birds in an open-fire pot to get tender meat and soup.

"We crave those when it's not the season to hunt," she said.

Restrictions to limit the spread of the virus have made it difficult for the more than 1,100 people on the reserve. They can no longer travel south, there's anxiety about food prices, and, like elsewhere, parents need to keep children who aren't going to school occupied.

Manitoba has eased some of its restrictions, but Ducharme said O Pison-Na-Piwin's will remain until at least the end of the month, since overcrowding in households and some people's health problems put them at risk.

The First Nation formed a pandemic committee and one of its projects is to arrange for kids and their families to connect with elders to learn traditional skills from their backyards. That means baking bannock, preparing geese for cooking, gathering traditional medicines, boiling tea and taking part in scavenger hunts.

"It all entails with traditional and culture things that we have always kept alive and are now carrying on through generations and generations," Ducharme said.

Indigenous Services Canada says there are more than 168 cases of COVID-19 among First Nations across the country as of May 8. La Loche, a Dene village in northern Saskatchewan, has been of particular concern as an outbreak there has been linked to the deaths of two elders. The virus has also spread to nearby First Nations.

There are no confirmed cases involving Manitoba First Nations, but Chief Nelson Genaille of the Sapotaweyak Cree said his community is watching closely and taking precautions. About 1,000 people live on the reserve about 600 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

Genaille said he's advised his members to look to their own backyards to find traditional sustenance and food.

"That's where we are at right now with today's epidemic: go back to the old way when you were eating something natural."

The Sapotaweyak have used social media to connect those who need food to people who are able to hunt and fish. The First Nation pays for gas for the hunting and delivery trips.

Genaille's people live on the shores of Lake Winnipegosis, so they already deal with travelling long distances and paying high food costs. He said a return to the land is necessary during these uncertain times when costs and supply are unpredictable.

It's also reminded a lot of members how important their traditions are.

"Because of the road restrictions, the only access they do have is back into the wilderness. We are very privileged where we are situated."

Feds stress dangers to long-term care residents and Indigenous communities

National Observer - May 10, 2020

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/05/10/news/feds-stress-dangers-long-term-care-residents-and-indigenous-communities>

Federal officials stressed the dangers to long-term care residents and Indigenous communities if COVID-19 restrictions are lifted too quickly after projections in Quebec painted a dire picture of the potential cost.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Saturday he is "very worried" about residents of Montreal — the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada — where the province is preparing to loosen confinement measures despite a rash of fatal outbreaks at nursing homes.

"We must make sure that we are ensuring protection of our older citizens as an absolute priority," Trudeau told reporters.

"I understand the economic pressures we're all under and I understand people do want to go outside. But we need to do it in ways that we are sure are going to keep people safe, because the last thing that people want is a few weeks from now (is) being told, 'OK, we loosened the rules and now COVID's spreading again and you're all going to have to go inside for the rest of the summer.'"

The comments came less than 24 hours after Quebec's public health institute said deaths could soar to 150 a day in the greater Montreal area if physical distancing measures are lifted. New cases could mushroom to 10,000 by June amid a potential surge in hospitalizations.

Premier Francois Legault said this week that elementary schools, daycares and retail stores with outdoor entrances in Montreal can reopen May 25 — the second time he has pushed back the date, but ahead of other large cities.

Federal officials remain concerned about a rising death toll.

"I'm afraid of more people dying and more outbreaks," said Dr. Howard Njoo, the country's deputy chief public health officer.

Long-term care residents account for more than 80 per cent of deaths caused by the virus across Canada despite making up only one in five cases, chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam said Saturday. Stricter measures "may have to be reinstated" if controls ease up too soon, she said, calling the impact on seniors "a national tragedy."

"The virus has not disappeared from the face of the Earth," Tam said.

Easing COVID-19 restrictions too soon could jeopardize vulnerable communities

Questions about access to supplies are emerging among other vulnerable populations as health officials and community leaders work to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan's far north.

The region has seen a spike in cases in and around the remote Dene village of La Loche, a community of 2,800 about 600 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon where an outbreak has affected more than 100 residents.

Leonard Montgrand, the regional representative of Metis Nation-Saskatchewan, said Friday the situation is getting scary because infrastructure isn't set up to respond to the crisis.

Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said outbreaks of COVID-19 in First Nations communities may have been delayed because of their remoteness, but the government needs to remain vigilant in the future.

"You could see languages disappear," he said, referring to elders who make up the last generation to speak some Indigenous dialects.

Miller cited a need for more resources and better data collection to help protect the communities and understand the spread of the virus among Indigenous people, and called on provincial governments to help in that area.

The full scope of the outbreak among Indigenous populations remains unknown because federal data collection is carried out mainly among on-reserve and northern communities, he said.

NDP MP Niki Ashton criticized Miller after the government sent medical tents to the First Nations community of Pukatawagan in northern Manitoba that "weren't requested," calling the move "paternalistic."

"Rather than listening to the community and respecting their request to retrofit their youth centre into a temporary quarantine space, your department decided to impose an outside solution that was unwanted, unneeded, dangerous and simply wrong," Ashton said in a public letter Friday.

Canada's case count climbed past 67,000 on Saturday. Quebecers make up more than half of the total cases, with 36,986 — about half of which are in Montreal.

On top of sustained community transmission in pockets of the city, long-term care homes have come under such strain that 1,350 Canadian Forces soldiers will be deployed to 25 facilities by mid-May to help residents, the federal government says.

"They're dying in indignity in vast numbers. And that will continue if there are measures that are relaxed too soon. That is the scientific conclusion," Miller said.

The news Saturday was a bit better in Ontario, where Premier Doug Ford announced provincial parks will reopen Monday after one of the lowest daily case counts in recent weeks — 346 new confirmed cases for a total of 19,944, including 1,599 deaths.

Meanwhile, Trudeau said Canada will not pay the full price for medical masks that do not meet medical standards.

On Friday, the federal government suspended shipments of N95 respirators from a Montreal-based supplier after about eight million of the masks made in China failed to meet specifications.

"There are ongoing discussions ongoing with them about whether there are alternative uses for these masks, but we will not be paying for masks that do not hit the standards that we expect to give to our front-line workers," he said.

Trudeau said the discovery speaks to the "rigorous verification system" administered by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

NDP procurement critic Mathew Green questioned the government's purchasing process for personal protective equipment, saying officials had "skirted the question of quality control and ultimately the bottom line cost" of PPE orders.

Trudeau declined to specify on Saturday the per-unit cost of N95 masks, which federal officials have previously pegged at anywhere from \$1.20 to \$6 apiece.

Last month the Public Health Agency of Canada announced the government had bought around one million faulty KN95 respirators from a China-based supplier, which Ottawa said has pledged to replace them.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 9, 2020.

**First Nations COVID-19 cases undercounted, says AFN national chief
Inuit leader calls for increased testing and a decrease in the delay getting test results
CBC News - May 08, 2020**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/indigenous-leaders-covid19-data-testing-1.5562555>

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde says COVID-19 infection rates among First Nations people are undercounted as a result of failures in information sharing between federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is reporting that as of May 7 there were 165 cases on reserves across the country, including 17 hospitalizations and two deaths.

Bellegarde said the department's numbers, while showing an upward trend, are failing to capture the true picture of the situation.

"I fear that there are already far more cases among our people than we currently know," said Bellegarde, in testimony before the House of Commons Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee Friday.

"Unfortunately, largely due to gaps in co-ordination and information sharing with the federal government and the provinces and territories, First Nations do not have access to reliable sources of information that tracks infections among First Nations."

The Indigenous affairs committee heard from all three national Indigenous leaders on Friday.

ISC does not report recovered cases or the names of affected First Nations, saying it's a privacy issue, or include numbers of cases among First Nations people living off-reserve.

"There has to be a better way of tracking," said Bellegarde.

"We get it about legal requirements and confidentiality, but you need good data."

Bellegarde said Indigenous people should consider voluntarily showing a status card or declaring they are First Nations, Métis or Inuit when getting tested to help improve the accuracy of data.

Conservative MP Gary Vidal, the Indigenous Services critic, said the federal department has inadequate data because it only has information on the on-reserve population and relies on provinces and territories to gather its information.

"In essence what we have is some very inaccurate data we are using to make decisions," said Vidal, during the committee hearing.

ISC has said it depends on data from provincial and territorial health authorities and they don't require individuals to self-identify.

Inuit leader calls for more testing

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed said the 51 communities across the Inuit homeland were so far faring well in the pandemic.

"Our status sits in stark contrast to the rest of the country," said Obed.

"We have been successful so far in protecting our communities from COVID-19."

The Inuit region of Nunavik, in northern Quebec, was reporting 16 COVID-19 cases as of Friday, according to Quebec government numbers.

Obed called for increased testing in Inuit communities and a decrease in the delay getting test results. He said there is also a tuberculosis testing machine that could be used for COVID-19 and he called on Ottawa to explore this option.

Métis leader concerned over Sask. outbreak

David Chartrand, vice-president of the Métis National Council, said Métis are still being left behind. He said the Métis have been hit harder than their First Nations neighbours during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak in La Loche, Sask., as a result of negligence by the federal and provincial government.

"You look at La Loche, just how fast it is," said Chartrand.

"With a plan, you can stop it ... without a plan, it takes off."

La Loche Mayor Robert St. Pierre said Saskatchewan has responded to the needs of La Loche.

"Everybody is entitled to their comments," said St. Pierre, who is president of Métis Local 39.

"The province has made the efforts and they are coming through on a lot of the requests in the community we have at this time, so that is the important thing."

AFN Taskforce Formed To Streamline Covid-19 Information For Indigenous Communities

Alberta Native News - May 8, 2020

<https://www.albertanativenews.com/afn-taskforce-formed-to-streamline-covid-19-information-for-indigenous-communities/>

On May 5, 2020, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) announced the creation of the AFN COVID-19 National Task Force. The Task Force aims to receive accurate data regarding Indigenous people affected by the virus and provide assessments and recommendations for how Indigenous People within Canada as a whole should proceed going forward.

National Chief Perry Bellegrate said, "The AFN Executive Committee has established the AFN C-19 National Task Force to work in partnership with the AFN Health and Emergency Management Sectors and external experts to provide information, updates, analysis and recommendations as required during this pandemic.

"This is a time of crisis and uncertainty. First Nations must have access to timely and accurate information and we need to over-communicate.

"The AFN C-19 National Task Force will be a valuable asset in this effort. We will continue to push all governments to engage directly with First Nations and to act on our unique needs."

On May 6, 2020, research in an article done by CBC News showed that a data gap exists in COVID-19 cases within Indigenous communities.

There is some data that exists, but there is far too little.

Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) released a cumulative amount of positive cases of the virus in Indigenous peoples—showing that the numbers of those infected is steadily rising. Broken down by province, ISC reported on May 5, 2020, that there were 161 positive cases of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities within Canada.

The data released fails to provide the amount of recovered cases, the amount and specific names of First Nations infected, nor does it include Indigenous people living off-reserve.

Without proper data, Indigenous People all across Canada will be living in possibly misguided fear.

People need to know when their community is safe, when their grocery store is safe, when they're safe.

For example, the first known death of a Cree person from Quebec was reported on May 5, 2020. The elder passed away in a long-term care facility — due to health care restrictions and privacy, it is unknown if the location was off-reserve.

After CBCIndigenous asked ISC why more data wasn't available, it was revealed that there has been 2 deaths and 17 hospitalizations of Indigenous People.

Courtney Skye, who is from Six Nations of the Grand River and is a researcher at Yellowhead Institute, claims that community accounts and the word-of-mouth of Indigenous communities is out-pacing ISC's data – regarding the number of Indigenous people who have died from COVID-19.

In the article by CBC, Courtney Skye said,

“There's all these ways in which lived realities of First Nations are not captured and represented fairly. Clearly, First Nations have less access to health care, reporting, transparency. It's frustration because you want to see people treated fairly, and considered equally.”

Spokesperson for Indigenous Service Canada, Rola Tfaili, stated in an email to CBC News: “Provinces and territories don't require individuals to self-identify when testing at their provincial or territorial test centres. While ISC tracks the sources of information available, all test samples are analyzed by the provincial health system laboratories and the authority for publicly sharing information on the confirmed cases of COVID-19 for individuals living off reserve rests with the provinces and territories, as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada.”

However, it is not all bad news as the province of Manitoba has started collecting data regarding their Indigenous population specifically.

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) released a statement on May 6, 2020, praising the province's decision.

“I want to commend the research team at the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba for working diligently to ensure that the province is collecting First Nations data during the pandemic,”

Grand Chief Garrison Settee said, “From my understanding, Manitoba is the first province in Canada to collect this information. By providing this information to First Nations leaders and health directors, the province is showing respect for our need to be informed of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our citizens.”

Manitoba is the first province in Canada to collect Indigenous-specific COVID-19 data.

Regional Chief Kevin Hart, co-chair of the AFN COVID-19 National Task Force, said, “The work of the AFN Task Force is critical. I know from my work on Emergency Management that First Nations will be facing additional challenges on top of this unprecedented pandemic. We can't only react, we need to be ready. This Task Force will play an important role in that approach.”

The AFN has developed resources and materials for First Nations on the current COVID-19 pandemic. To review or download these resources, visit the AFN COVID-19 Webpage.

Meanwhile, Northern Saskatchewan has seen an outbreak. On May 6, Canada's chief public health officer stated it is an area of concern as the compromised location is not only remote, but home to First Nations.

Health Officials claims the cause of the outbreak is due to “travel from an oil sands work camp in Northern Alberta.”

The outcome of the Saskatchewan outbreak has been a lockdown for all non-essential travel, two deaths of Elders in La Loche (the Dene village in which the outbreak started) due to COVID-19, and the Clearwater River Dene Nation as well as, the English River First Nation have reported cases.

Despite Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's claim that the province had “flattened the curve,” the La Loche outbreak has driven up the amount of infections. In the North region alone, there are 138 confirmed cases.

The province plans to reopen — just in the places where there hasn't been a spike in infection.

Premier Moe also set a target for 1,500 COVID-19 tests a day, but government data reveals the province has not made their quota.

“The testing that needs to be done is being done.” Premier Moe stated.

“Our testing is starting to increase again from where it was maybe a week or so ago and I would expect it may increase in the days ahead. In particular, dealing with the one more serious outbreak we have in La Loche and that surrounding area.’

