

**AFN C-19 National Task Force
Daily Update for: May 5, 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 2020-05-05 11:00AM EDT

Province	Confirmed Cases	Hospitalization (ICU)*	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2,224	77 (20)	117	1,417
AB	5,836	89 (21)	104	2,942
SK	467	11 (4)*	6	307
MB	281	5 (0)*	6	238
ON	18,310	1,043 (223)	1,361	12,779
QC	32,623	1,772 (218)	2,280	7,578
Newfoundland/Lab	259	4 (2)	3	233
NB	118	0 (0)	-	118
NS	985	6 (2)	38	652
PEI	27		-	25
Yukon	11		-	11
NWT	5		-	5
Nunavut	0			
Repatriated Travelers	13			
Total	60,159	3,007 (490)	3,915	26,291
Active Cases= 30,953				

*Some provinces report numbers *current* hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Others report the total *cumulative* number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Also, numbers are amalgamated as they are made available from various hospitals; they are therefore updated intermittently and are likely to be less accurate and current than other data points.

	Cases	Deaths	Recovered
Globally	3,607,469	252,301	1,175,722

- Data is as of May 5 at 10:32am from Johns Hopkins University:
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Epidemic Summary

At this time, **68%** of COVID-19 cases were related to community transmission, while **16%** were either exposed while travelling or exposed to a traveler coming to Canada. The remaining **15%** are “pending”.

As of **May 4**, 2020, Canada has an overall case fatality rate of **6.3%**.

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 4, 2020**

Jurisdiction	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	NR
# test positive COVID-19 Cases	36	26	20	0	38	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: 193 per ISC as of May 5, 2020

Region	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL	Territories	Total
Confirmed	56	33	4	20	67	4	7	2	193

2020 Flood Season General Assessments: As Per ISC EMD 2020 FN Flood / Wildland Fire Situation Report as of May 1, 2020

Updates in **Bold**

FLOOD

- **BC:** No Change
- **AB: High Risk Flooding**
 - **Fort McKay First Nation (467)(CEO - George Arcand Jr.) - 4MAY2020:** Flood surge waters still have not reached Ft McKay. River forecast has indicated that if the ice breaks in the Ft McMurray town site without further impediment, worst case prediction is a 4 to 7m surge reaching Ft. McKay. Currently, most of the homes and infrastructure are well back and above the bank. Two homes closest to the bank are well above the bank. Only one is currently occupied. Community has been planning in the eventuality of an evacuation for the occupied home which be a relocation to somewhere within the community. Sandbags (500) have been staged by RMWB Ops Section to the community as a mitigation measure if they are required. There was one fatality from Ft McKay First Nation that occurred in the

Firebag River area north of Ft McMurray in which high water on a creek was a contributing factor. According to media, RCMP said officers were called to help two people stranded on the Athabasca River, northeast of the hamlet of Fort McKay. The two men had been on ATVs on a trail when water levels surged. They were able to hold on to a log until they could be rescued, said police. Both were taken to hospital in Fort McMurray, but the older man died. Two women, two children and two dogs were also rescued from a nearby cabin.

- **SK: Monitoring Water Levels (Low Flood Risk)**
 - **Red Earth First Nation (356) (Fabian Head) On-Reserve Population 1,642- 1MAY2020: April 29, 2020, Water Security Agency (WSA) notified the First Nation and Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) that the Carrot River had peaked on April 28, 2020 resulting in reduced water levels. PAGC will continue to monitor the situation with Red Earth, the province, and Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA). No further imminent threat of overland flooding to the community at this time. Localized flooding occurring, however, as a result of poor drainage; First Nation steaming culverts to increase natural drainage and completing further mitigation efforts by sandbagging areas that are impacted. No requirement for shelter-in-place and/or evacuation - the First Nation has been working on preparedness plans for sheltering in place (within Covid19) and/or evacuation – discussions with PAGC, NITHA, and the Red Cross have and continue to take place. Based on the following water update, they are hopeful they will not encounter any further issues and will not see a need to activate evacuation planning. ISC supporting the First Nation through EMAP with drainage assessment.**
 - **Cumberland House Cree Nation (350) (Chief Rene Boyer) On-Reserve Population 921 – 1MAY2020: Although they have not reported any issues related to spring flooding, they continue to monitor water levels. April 29, 2020, PAGC further advised they received information from the province indicating Cumberland House was seeing sustained outflows from the river system which would continue until May 1, 2020.**
- **MB FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOWERED IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA**
- **ON FLOOD RISK FORECAST – HIGH IN GREAT LAKES AREA DUE TO ELEVATED WATER LEVELS**
 - **1MAY2020: According to ECCC there is a risk of flooding of low-lying areas due to rainfall and snowmelt in Northeastern and Southern Ontario. The Great Lakes shorelines remain under a Flood Watch due to high water levels.**
- **QC No Change**
- **ATL FLOOD RISK FORECAST – LOW**
 - **1MAY2020: According to ECCC, water levels in the Saint John River are forecast to reach, but not exceed, flood stage in two communities: Fredericton on Sunday and**

in Gagetown on Monday. The New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization is not anticipating widespread effects given the current forecast but is ready to respond if the situation changes.

● **YT FLOOD RISK FORECAST – MODERATE**

- **1MAY2020: The Yukon and Klondike Rivers may experience moderate ice jam intensity in the next five days. Moderate ice jamming and minor flooding of the Klondike River in the Rock Creek area should be expected until May 6th. A moderate ice jam on the Yukon River is also expected at Dawson or Moosehide between May 2nd and May 5th, although probability of flooding remains low for Dawson.**

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

Communications Sector

COVID-19 data on Indigenous Manitobans kept secret

Winnipeg Free Press - May 4, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/covid-19-data-on-indigenous-manitobans-kept-secret-570191322.html>

Province defends COVID-19 checkpoints following criticism from Indigenous group

The Canadian Press - May 3, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/province-defends-covid-19-checkpoints-013142615.html>

COVID-19 assessment clinic opened by Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

Global News - May 4, 2020

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6902448/kettle-and-stony-point-first-nation-covid-19-clinic/>

Mi'kmaw technology educators shift 3D printers to producing face shields

CBC News - May 4, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/mi-kmaw-3d-printers-ppe-coronavirus-1.5551215>

Numbers

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

As of May 4, ISC is aware of 151 confirmed positive COVID-19 tests on First Nations reserves in provinces.

- British Columbia: 36
- Alberta: 26
- Saskatchewan: 20
- Ontario: 38
- Quebec: 31

Full Stories

COVID-19 data on Indigenous Manitobans kept secret

Winnipeg Free Press - May 4, 2020

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/coronavirus/covid-19-data-on-indigenous-manitobans-kept-secret-570191322.html>

Manitoba is sitting on more than a month's worth of data about COVID-19 cases in the at-risk Indigenous community that it will not release to the public, saying it belongs to its First Nation partners.

Chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin said public-health nurses have been asking those who test positive for COVID-19 to share their Indigenous identity or First Nation status since the beginning of April. He wouldn't divulge how many of the 281 Manitobans who've tested positive in Manitoba so far self-identify as Indigenous.

"We haven't been reporting on that as of yet. We're going to still work with our Indigenous partners on how and when we might disclose those type of things," Manitoba's top public-health doctor said Monday. Manitoba has restricted visitors from travelling to northern First Nations and communities north of the 53rd parallel to try and prevent a COVID-19 outbreak and, so far, so good, although Manitoba's prairie neighbours have had to battle COVID-19 outbreaks, including one in the Dene village of LaLoche, Sask., and one at Alberta's Stoney Nakoda First Nation linked to a nearby meat-packing plant.

"We don't have a case in a First Nations community," Roussin said.

Dr. Tom Wong, chief medical officer of public health at Indigenous Services Canada, has said it's too early to determine the severity of the outbreaks and if the situation will worsen in the 23 Indigenous communities across Canada reported as of April 30. On Monday, there was one piece of good news: Nunavut health officials confirmed a case reported there last week has turned out to be negative.

Collecting information about COVID-19 and sharing it with the public is vital for people to make informed decisions, said a former Manitoba grand chief who had her own, first-hand coronavirus scare.

"I think we have to be as transparent as possible — as a community, as a province and as a nation — about who is getting tested and what percentage, if any, is impacting First Nations," said Sheila North. The former Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak grand chief tested negative for COVID-19 in March. She'd done a lot of travelling to Mexico and London, Ont. before visiting Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House) Cree Nation then returning home and developing flu-like symptoms. She went into self-isolation and got tested for COVID-19.

Waiting for her results, she feared she might have unknowingly infected people in the First Nation, she recalled in an interview Monday. She didn't but she worries about it happening to other people in similar situations.

Right now, there may be no known cases of COVID-19 in First Nations in the province, but North wants to know how many of the 27,466 Manitobans tested so far are Indigenous or First Nation residents. People who live in the north can travel back and forth to their First Nations, and there is a fear someone might bring the virus home with them.

"There's definitely some stigma," said North. "People are scared and the stories of H1N1 didn't help."

During the 2008-09 H1N1 epidemic, 11 Manitobans died and hundreds of people on northern First Nations became ill.

Now when someone in a remote community is sick, it raises alarm and for good reason, she said.

"There's minimal medical services up there," she said.

Some communities have no running water and many homes are overcrowded.

"The leadership are doing the best with what they have," said North.

Dr. Marsha Anderson, a Cree doctor who grew up in the North End with roots in Norway House Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation, tweeted about the need for data that identifies not just whether someone is Indigenous but also race and ethnicity, which public-health nurses started asking positive COVID-19 patients about on Friday.

"This is important progress in empowering us to see and respond to disproportionate impacts that have been seen in other jurisdictions where this info is collected, particularly in Black and Indigenous communities," tweeted Anderson, a medical officer of health with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and a University of Manitoba professor.

When the Free Press asked to interview Anderson for her thoughts on collecting the data and whether it should be shared with the public, Shared Health would not allow the interview.

"We will just let Dr. Roussin's comments on it from this afternoon's press conference stand as the response for today," spokesman Paul Turenne said in an email, without explaining why.

The province won't release any COVID-19 data about how many infected people self-identify as Indigenous people unless their Indigenous partners agree to it, Roussin said.

"That's their data. Indigenous people are our partners," said Roussin, who worked with northern First Nations before becoming chief of public health. In March, he helped lead a COVID-19 preparedness workshop with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

"I would only release numbers in collaboration with such partners," he said Monday.

"Those who are working in the field who are doing contact tracing are well aware of the cases and contacts."

Province defends COVID-19 checkpoints following criticism from Indigenous group

[The Canadian Press](https://ca.news.yahoo.com/province-defends-covid-19-checkpoints-013142615.html) - May 3, 2020

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/province-defends-covid-19-checkpoints-013142615.html>

BEAUVAL, Sask. — An Indigenous group in Saskatchewan is criticizing the province's management of checkpoints that are meant to protect northern communities experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19.

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief Bobby Cameron says in a news release that the province was quick to take over local checkpoints, but his group is now getting calls that officers are stopping northerners from travelling south to get groceries.

Beauval Mayor Nick Daigneault says in the release that he was assured by the government that community members would be allowed to travel for groceries after their only grocery store was closed due to COVID-19.

Chief medical health officer Dr. Saqib Shahab expressed concern last week about an outbreak of COVID-19 in La Loche, a Dene village about 600 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority has also declared an outbreak in Beauval.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency said in an email that travel within the northern region is allowed for residents, but that people should not travel for food or medical care if it's already available within their own community.

The email conceded that not all checkpoints are staffed 24/7, but that they all have permanent signage.

"Limiting non-essential travel helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 into communities throughout the province," the government email stated.

Shahab told a news conference last week that aggressive contact tracing was underway in La Loche and that between 50 to 100 health authority staff are set to be in the community for added support.

The virus is spreading through the community after someone who had been in northern Alberta brought it into the region.

The public safety agency email noted checkpoints are staffed by the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, along with provincial protection and response team members, which it says includes highway patrol and conservation officers.

It also noted RCMP have increased patrols on roads in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.

Daigneault said his community had hired its own security companies to monitor the checkpoints, but said the government came in "hard, fast and very disorganized."

"The province says they want to work with us, but our input and efforts are being ignored," he said.

Cameron, meanwhile, suggested in the news release that the outbreaks could have been prevented if the province had heeded his organization's calls for checkpoints and border closures earlier.

COVID-19 assessment clinic opened by Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

Global News - May 4, 2020

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6902448/kettle-and-stony-point-first-nation-covid-19-clinic/>

Residents of Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation will no longer have to make a lengthy trip to Sarnia, Ont. or Petrolia, Ont. to get tested for the novel coronavirus.

The First Nation announced on Monday the opening of a new COVID-19 assessment clinic at the Kettle and Stony Point Health Centre, something Chief Jason Henry says will help the community avoid what could be a potentially devastating outbreak.

"The sooner you know that you are positive or negative, the sooner you can change how you're going about your daily activities, and the sooner health professionals can start doing contact tracing and help to limit the spread of the virus," Henry said Monday.

"Overall, we're very fortunate here in southwestern Ontario with our access to health care, we're much farther ahead than many other First Nations in the province. But still... 45 minutes is a long time to access testing or health care in general."

Kettle and Stony Point First Nation has been under a state of emergency since mid-March, and a result, has closed itself off to visitors and established a screening check-point at the community's entrance.

The new clinic will mean residents will be able to get tested without having to go outside of First Nation borders.

The clinic is being opened in partnership with Lambton Public Health and Bluewater Health, with registered nurses at the health clinic conducting the swab tests, Henry said. The health unit will do contract tracing, while Bluewater Health will help process the tests and procure swabs. With the ongoing pandemic, Henry said having the clinic close by is all the more important given the seriousness of the virus, and the elevated health risks face by members of Indigenous communities.

A 2018 federal government report found life expectancy at birth in areas with a high concentration of First Nations people to be 73.7 for women and 67.6 for men, an average of 11.2 years lower than areas with a low concentration of First Nations people.

“If we’re saying, provincially, that this is going to affect people that are 60 plus in the highest percentages, that gets pushed down to probably 40 plus in Indigenous communities based on the co-morbidities and underlying health issues,” Henry said.

“Diabetes is rampant in our communities and many indigenous people suffer from cancer... And then, of course, we have the systemic issues where First Nations have difficulty accessing health care for various reasons.

“That leads to this strange realm where we’re sort of living less healthy than the rest of the country.”

Three cases have been confirmed on the reserve since the start of the pandemic and all have recovered, Henry said, noting local health officials believe the figure is likely an undercount.

“The local medical centre has indicated to us that they believe that there were more people that were positive with COVID-19, but refused to be tested for various reasons,” he said.

“That may have been access to the testing sites, it may have been fear for having fingers pointed. It’s hard to say why they denied the test.”

The community’s first case was the third confirmed case on an Ontario First Nations.

First Nations reserves and remote communities are considered among the most vulnerable areas in the country, due to often over-crowded living conditions that make physical distancing next to impossible and the lack of ready access to health-care services.

Indigenous Services Canada reported Sunday it was aware of 144 confirmed cases on First Nations reserves in provinces across the country, including 38 in Ontario.

“During COVID-19, during a global pandemic, it’s no time to be drawing lines in the sand and saying, ‘you stand on that side and we stand on this side’ in terms of the jurisdiction over health care,” Henry said.

“This has been a push and pull for decades between the province, between First Nations and the federal government. And this relationship that we’re fostering now with our local county for health care puts us in a great position going forward to best serve the needs of our people.”

Mi'kmaw technology educators shift 3D printers to producing face shields

CBC News - May 4, 2020

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/mi-kmaw-3d-printers-ppe-coronavirus-1.5551215>

A Mi'kmaw not-for-profit organization that offers programs to develop technological skills in First Nations youth in Nova Scotia is shifting gears to produce and distribute thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Digital Mi'kmaq, a program operated by the not-for-profit development corporation Ulnooweg, has been running science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives in Mi'kmaw communities for students from kindergarten to high school since 2018.

One of those initiatives included establishing "maker labs" in Mi'kmaw schools, to give students access to 3D printing technology. As measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 shut down schools and Mi'kmaw communities, the educators decided to re-purpose the printers.

"When the country basically shut down, our team looked around and said 'OK, what can we do to help our community?'" said Ulnooweg chief operating officer Chris Googoo, of We'koqm'aq First Nation.

"When the word got out, globally, about these 3D printers and their ability to make these face shields, it didn't take us long to go searching for the specifications."

The manufacturer of the printers Digital Mi'kmaq is using has made the design layout for the shields available free of charge to the public, Googoo said. After ensuring the type of printers they owned could do the job, they gathered all of them from the communities and began producing the mounts that hold flexible plastic face shields.

Early in March, Digital Mi'kmaq received a licence from Health Canada to produce and distribute the equipment. The licence also allows the team to import and distribute other medical supplies like KN95 surgical masks and medical gloves, which they are shipping to communities alongside the face shields.

The company has 25 printers working nearly 24 hours a day, and each can print a single face shield mount in around 2.5 hours, Googoo said. He said the process needs only one staff member to oversee the printing, and to troubleshoot any problems.

At current capacity, Googoo estimates the 25 printers can produce between 800 and 1,000 face shield mounts per week.

'It's super important'

Holly Griffiths, a mechanical engineer who began working as an educational facilitator with Digital Mi'kmaq in January, had just begun rolling out a program that taught students underwater robotics when public health orders shut down the schools.

"We're a bit of an idea machine, so we're always pivoting and coming up with new ideas," said Griffiths.

"It just seemed natural for us to do the same in this situation."

Griffiths is now overseeing the production and maintenance of the 3D printers at an Ulnooweg office space in Halifax. The office space is adjacent to another used by the organizers of the 2020 North American Indigenous Games and since the games were postponed until 2021, the organizers have offered their space to the printing operation.

The extra space will be handy, Griffiths said, because Digital Mi'kmaq is expanding the operation by ordering 50 new printers from the manufacturer.

The expansion stands to increase the number of printed face shield mounts to around 3,000 per week, and allow the organization to ship equipment to communities in other parts of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq, which includes Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

