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COVID-19 First Nations and Inuit community guide on accessing additional supports for public health measures

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About the support

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) works with Indigenous communities to support the public health response to COVID-19 with additional funding of \$285.1 million. This funding supports community-led responses to the pandemic, and provides targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities. In case of outbreaks, this funding can be drawn upon to provide surge capacity and additional support for community-based services in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

In British Columbia, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) coordinates health specific community requests.

Territorial governments are responsible for primary care and public health for all residents of the territories, and the provincial government is responsible for Nunavik. For Nunatsiavut, its government delivers public health whereas the province is responsible for primary care. ISC-FNIHB continues to work closely with territorial and provincial governments and Indigenous governments to support health programming for First Nations and Inuit in the territories. For more information on COVID-19 preparedness in the north including the three territories, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut, please consult {[hyperlink: COVID-19 preparedness and response in the territories, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut](#)}.

Who can access public health support

First Nations communities and organizations that deliver community-based services in response to COVID-19 public health needs. In case of outbreaks, this funding can be accessed for surge capacity and additional support for similar services in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

Eligible items

Examples of COVID-19 public health expenses that may be supported include costs related to:

- Supplies and storage;
- Surge health infrastructure;
- Staffing and surge capacity;

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- Mental health and wellbeing;
- Food security to support physical isolation (note: in the case of the three territories, and in collaboration with territorial and provincial governments, this also includes food security to support isolation hubs for Inuit communities);
- Community perimeter security specific to public health, effective May 29th, 2020;
- Supports to update, review or activate pandemic response plans such as physical distancing markers or installation of Plexiglas shields where necessary to minimize virus transmission.

For other types of funding available, consult this [link](#): {hyperlink to current webpage that has all sources of funding}.

Supplies and storage

- Personal protective equipment for essential workers in communities that require:
 - non-medical masks or surgical masks
 - gloves, hand sanitizer
 - These would be supplies not covered by the provincial/territorial or ISC stockpile which are dedicated to health care workers in homes and community long-term care, health facilities or caregivers
- Infection prevention and control supplies such as soap, sanitizers, disinfectants, and personal care supplies
- Physical distancing markers or installation of Plexiglas shields where necessary to minimize virus transmission

Surge health infrastructure

Requests are being assessed on a case-by-case basis. First Nations communities are asked to work with ISC regional offices before re-tooling or buying to:

- Adapt community space for surge health infrastructure to be used for screening, testing, isolation or accommodations of health professionals as well as operational and maintenance costs
- Purchase of mobile structures for screening, testing, isolation or accommodations for health professionals (rental of space for isolation or accommodation may also be an option)
- Ensure provisioning of supplies and equipment, including storage, to ensure the re-tooled or purchased space is operational

Staffing and surge capacity

- Staffing additional primary care nurses, public health nurses, paramedics and community workers;
- Community training

Mental health and wellbeing

- Mental health and addictions services, including treatment centers, and funding to adapt services to maintain physical distancing
- Access to virtual platforms to safely provide tele-health sessions

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- Surge capacity for crisis lines
- Virtually facilitated peer support sessions for youth and community members

Food security to support physical isolation

- Activities on the land to support physical isolation and food security
- Support for people self-isolating on the advice of a medical professional can be considered as an eligible expense to help ensure continued self-isolation

Community perimeter security specific to public health, eligible as of May 29th, 2020

- Security checkpoints to minimize non-essential border travel through screening and access control
- Additional security supports in the community may be needed to maintain public health services and prevent risks to healthcare professionals
- Eligible expenses could include compensation for security personnel, food, personal equipment, such as masks and safety gear, equipment such as traffic cones, vehicle use, training cost, travel and accommodation if required

Supports to update, review or activate pandemic response plans

- Establishment of health emergency measures committee
- Support from public health expertise
- Development and implementation of de-confinement plan

Other types of expenses

- Working with other governments, including provincial authorities
- Translation of documents or messages into Indigenous languages, English or French

[Submit a request for public health support](#)

Consult the [ISC regional office](#) when submitting a request for funding or for eligibility questions.

Include the following information when requesting funding or reimbursement:

- cost and quantity
- brief description of the item or service and the essential function it provides to the community in reducing the spread of COVID-19, or to respond to cases in your community

Consult the [template to request public health support under COVID-19](#) for a detailed example of a funding request.

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Template to request public health support under COVID-19

Name of community: _____

Date of submission: _____

Name of authorized requestor (print name): _____

Approval signature (authorized signature): _____

For purchase requests, submit a table of funding estimates.

Template example:

Request/reimbursement (specify if a purchase request or a reimbursement)

Requested Item	Cost per unit	Quantity	Total Cost	Reason for request
Bed linens	\$20 per flat bed sheet	5 flat sheets	\$100.00	Additional 5 bed sheets to support infection prevention control measures in communities where self-isolation of members occurring in separate facility from house
Bed linens	\$100/package of 5 sheets	1 package	\$100.00	Additional 5 bed sheets to support infection prevention control measures in communities where self-isolation of members occurring in separate facility from house

Contact

[Regional offices](#)

Related links

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)
- [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#)
- [COVID-19 preparedness and response in the territories, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut](#)