

Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team Weekly Bulletin

Date: January 6, 2022

The Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team advise that, since the December 30, 2021 bulletin, (1388) new First Nations COVID-19 cases were identified as of 7:00 am Thursday, January 06, 2022. The total number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive First Nations cases in Manitoba has increased by 1388, taking the total to 23609 cases. Of the total cases, 11371 cases are off-reserve and 12238 cases are on-reserve. The total number of recovered cases are now 21051, there have been 281 deaths, and 2277 cases are considered active.

	On Reserve	Off Reserve	Total
Active Cases	1,076	1,201	2,277
Total Cases	12,000	11,609	23,609

% is of Provincial Totals

New cases- 1,388
 Presumed Active Cases

- On Reserve- 777
- Off Reserve- 833
- Total FN- 1,610
- Percentage of total in MB- 10%

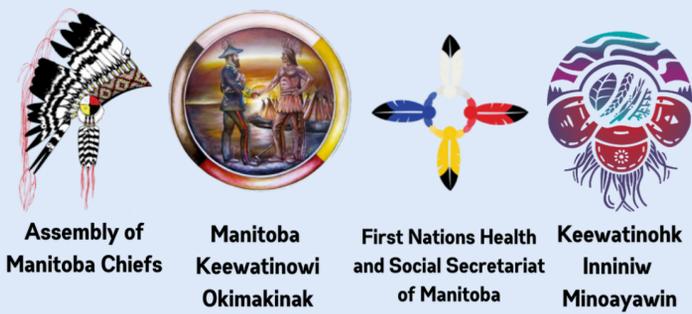
- Deaths
 - Current- 5 (2 male, 3 female)
 - Total- 281 (144 male, 137 female)
- Age range of deaths
 - Current- 52-87
 - Total- 4-97
- Deaths- Median Age
 - Current- 62
 - Total- 63

First Nations COVID-19 Hospitalizations

	Hospitalizations Totals (males/females)	Hospitalizations Active (males/females)	Age Range	Median Age	ICU Patients Active	ICU Patients Total	ICU Age Range	ICU Median Age
Current	70 (37/33)	60 (30/30)	1-82	49	11	13	11-75	49
Total	1,804 (777/1027)	NA	0-96	48	NA	462	2-87	54

Details of the 23,609 First Nations cases:

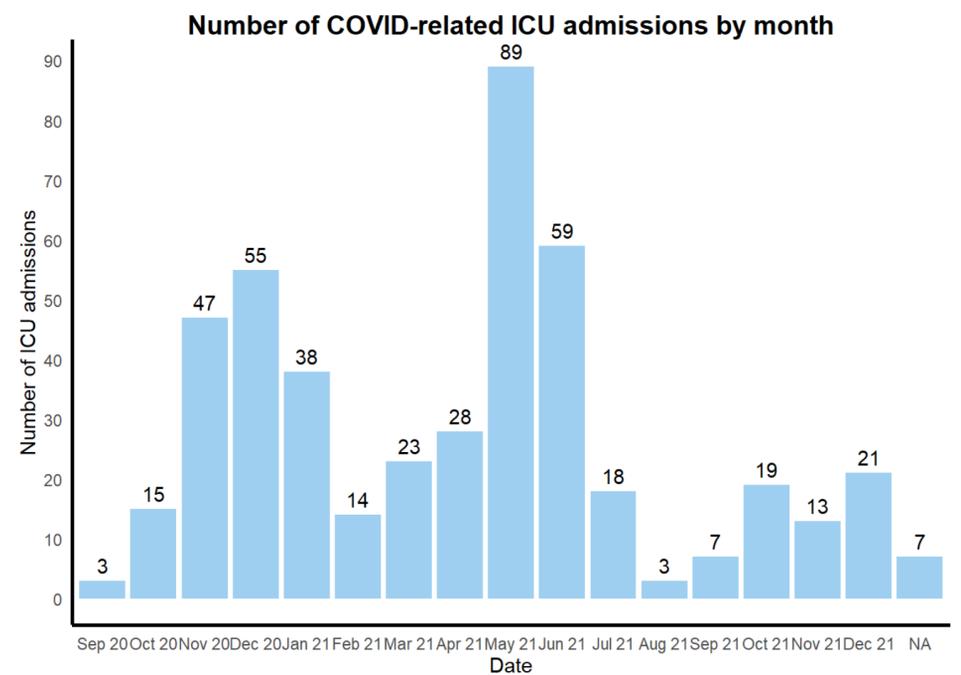
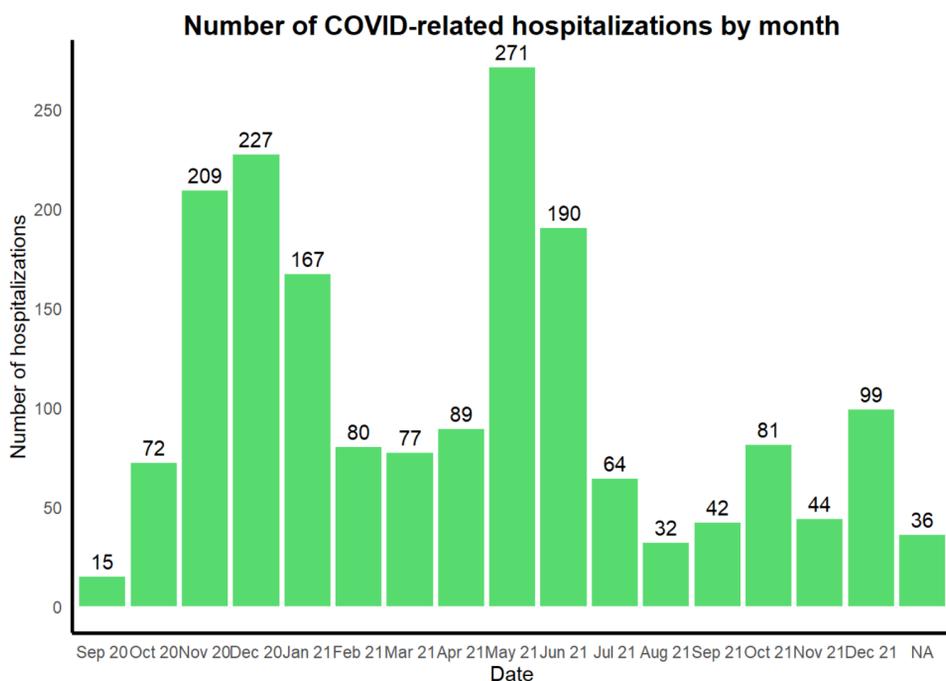
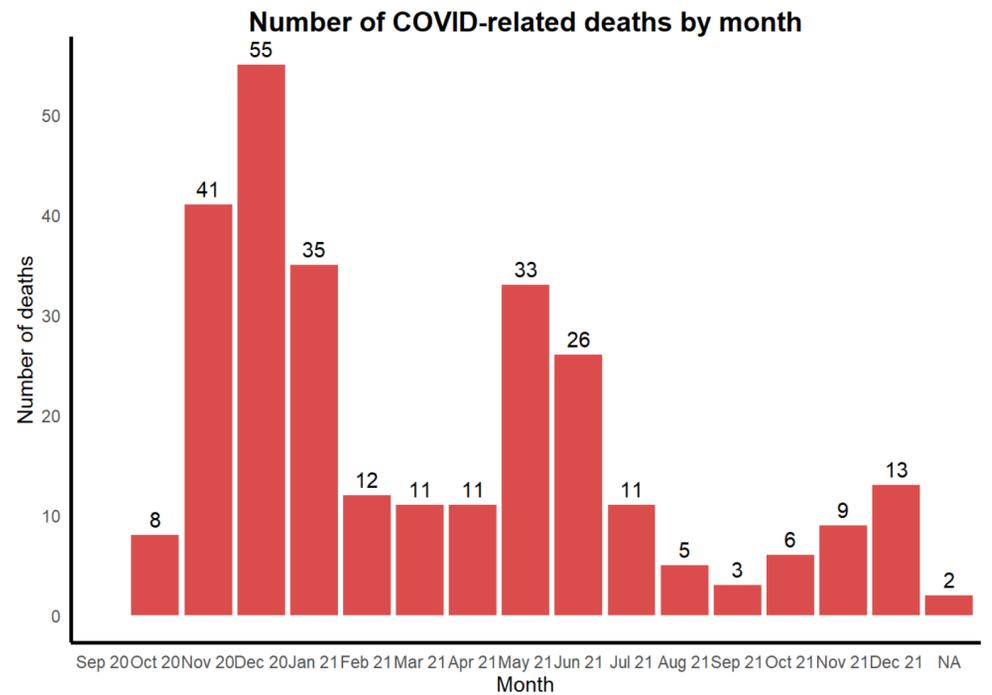
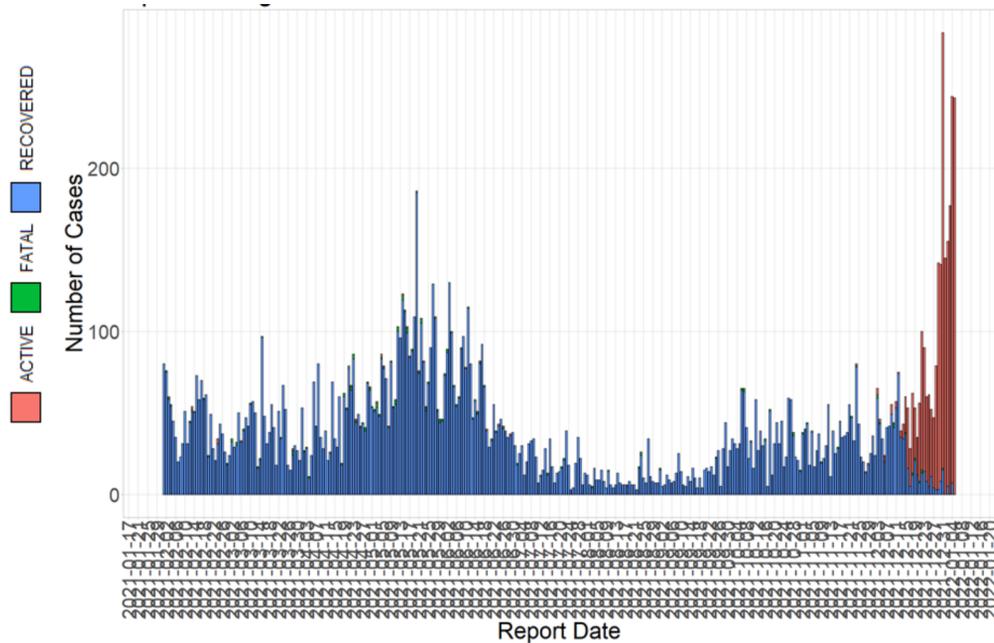
- 7422 people in Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)
- 2789 people in the Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)
- 1587 people in the Southern Health-Santé Sud (SHSS)
- 2049 people in the Prairie Mountain Regional Health Authority (PMH)
- 9762 people in the Northern Regional Health Authority (NRHA)
- 0 where the region is pending.
- The number of recovered cases is 21051.
- The total number of currently hospitalized cases is 70. This is 27% of all hospitalizations in the province currently.
- The number of active hospitalizations is 60. This is 27% of all active hospitalizations in the province.
- The number of First Nations people in the ICU due to COVID-19 is 11. This is 13% of all COVID-19 ICU admissions currently.
- The number of deaths among First Nations people due to COVID-19 is 281.
- The cases have occurred in 12209 females and 11389 males. 10 are listed as undifferentiated.
- The age range of positive people is 1-93.
- Most cases are in the 10-19 age group (in comparison to 20-29 for other Manitobans.)
- Average time from symptom onset until testing: 3 days (same as the rest of MB.)
- 33% of cases reported the presence of an underlying illness (in comparison to 34% for the rest of MB.)



Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team Weekly Bulletin

Date: January 6, 2022

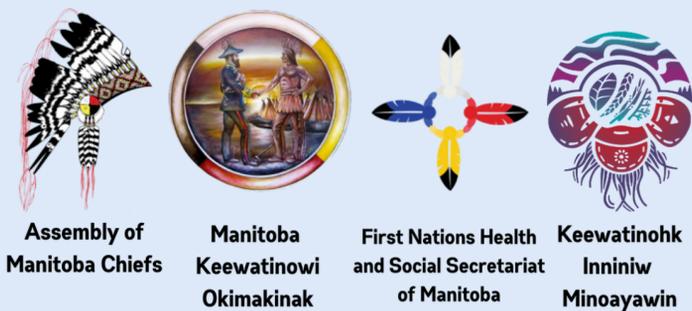
Epidemiological Curve- First Nations Cases



Discussion:

In the past week, there have been 1,388 new cases among First Nations people, with 676 of those occurring in people who live on-reserve. This is a significant increase in cases compared to the week prior and the epi curve of COVID-19 among First Nations people has also entered an exponential growth phase. At the end of day on January 5th there were active cases of COVID-19 in over 40 First Nation communities. Currently we have a mix of cases due to the Delta variant and to the Omicron variant although over the next 7-10 days it is likely the Omicron variant will take over as the dominant strain.

While the most recent evidence suggests that Omicron has a lower case hospitalization rate particularly among younger, fully vaccinated individuals there will still be significant health care strain due to the sheer volume of cases. In addition there is some emerging evidence of more severe illness in the pediatric population even though over all the risk of severe illness remains low.



Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team Weekly Bulletin

Date: January 6, 2022

Changes to testing eligibility and public health management are happening rapidly in the province. Due to the different context in First Nation communities, we don't always apply those provincial changes on reserve, but we are committed to providing updates and guidance/ direction within 24 hours of a change announced by the province. We use that time to evaluate the science and the evidence, and consider what the impacts will be to First Nations given underlying differences in factors like housing conditions, community infrastructure, health care access, and higher rates of severe outcomes among First Nations people.

Public Health Case and Contact Management Changes

On Monday, December 20th Manitoba changed its approach to case and contact management. The key reasons for this change include the transmission dynamics of Omicron which make the previous process of contact notification less helpful in controlling the spread of this variant. However vaccination- particularly third doses- and early treatment are critical strategies for reducing the risk of severe outcomes, so this shift is meant to redeploy some human resources to these important activities.

In the province, due to the testing changes many people will not have direct contact with public health but instead will be referred to fact sheets and links for information on isolation periods (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/self-isolation.html>) and notifying close contacts (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/monitoring/index.html#:~:text=Do%20I%20need%20to%20notify%20my%20close%20contacts%3F,as%20critical%20health%20care%20resources>).

In First Nation communities, as much as possible we will maintain the status quo approach of the health team taking on the role of notification. However, we are already in the position of needing to switch the approach in many communities where we are needing to ask cases to notify their close contacts in line with the current provincial approach. This is so we can focus on priority activities including testing symptomatic individuals, brief case investigations and vaccinations.

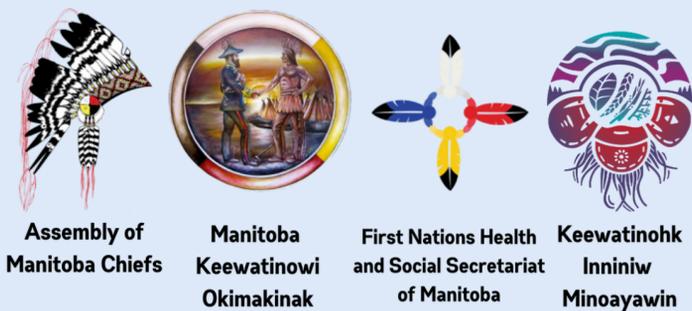
Isolation Periods

On December 31, 2021 the province made an announcement changing the isolation period for fully vaccinated cases. At that time, there was still a significant amount of COVID due to the Delta variant in First Nation communities and the evidence around safety of moving to a five day isolation period was unclear particularly in higher risk contexts like First Nation communities. Since we already manage some things differently due to the higher risk context, for example requiring all close contacts to isolate regardless of vaccination status, guidance was provided to maintain a longer isolation period for fully vaccinated cases in First Nation communities.

The following table summarizes isolation periods and is accurate as of January 6, 2022.

Vaccine Status	Isolation for <u>Cases</u>	Isolation for <u>Close Contacts</u>	Isolation for <u>Close Contacts who are Essential Workers</u>
Not Fully Vaccinated	10 days from symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic	10 days plus 4 days of self-monitoring	10 days plus 4 days of self-monitoring
Fully Vaccinated**	7 day minimum* , 10 days may be directed by Community Leadership	10 days plus 4 days of self-monitoring	Can work with PPE if asymptomatic, isolate when not at work

*Symptoms are resolving and 24 hours have elapsed without fever, and without use of fever reducing medications



Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team Weekly Bulletin

Date: January 6, 2022

Rapid Antigen Testing for Symptomatic Fully Vaccinated Individuals

All communities have received Rapid Antigen Test Kits for distribution to their 5-11/ K-6 students. These kits should be preserved for this purpose.

Some communities may also have procured tests through the Employer Testing Programs managed by the Chamber of Commerce. This program is being reviewed and changes are coming. At this time orders are not being filled. We will provide updates when available.

Some communities may have procured rapid antigen tests through their own mechanisms and may provide their own direction on how to use that supply.

FNIHB has worked with the province to preposition Rapid Antigen Tests in First Nation communities for the purpose of testing symptomatic individuals. Guidance has been provided to Nursing Stations and Health Centers on who is eligible to receive and use these tests, and when to use the rapid molecular tests (Abbott ID Now and GeneXpert) or Cadham PCR tests.

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

Doses of Monoclonal Antibody Treatment have been prepositioned in some First Nation communities and are available through referral for all First Nations people who qualify for treatment. Monoclonal Antibody Treatments are used to reduce the risk of severe outcomes in people who have symptoms and have tested positive for COVID-19. The treatment has to be given within 7 days. It is administered by an IV infusion. More information about Monoclonal Antibody Treatment and who qualifies is available here:

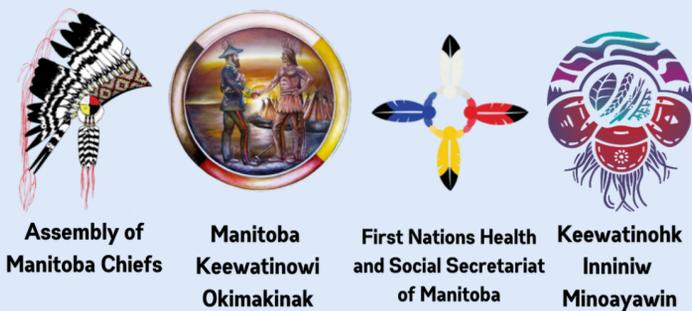
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/treatment/index.html>.

Recommended Actions:

In response to the worsening situation in Manitoba and anticipated significant strain to the health care system, new Public Health Orders took effect on December 27, 2021. The orders that are in effect are designed to significantly reduce close contacts.

Some of the current orders include:

- Private indoor gatherings can be household plus 10 if all the guest over 12 years old are fully vaccinated.
- Private indoor gatherings where anyone over 12 is not fully vaccinated are limited to the household plus 5 additional people.
- Except otherwise permitted indoor public gatherings are limited to 25% of the usual capacity of the premises or 25 people or 50 people if outdoors.
- Indoor and outdoor gatherings where everyone over 12 is fully vaccinated must not exceed 50% of the usual capacity or 250 people, whichever is lower.
- Restaurants are limited to 50% capacity and only fully vaccinated people can attend; liquor service ends at 10pm in licensed premises.
- Gyms and fitness centers are limited to 50% and only fully vaccinated people can attend.
- Casinos, bingo halls and VLTs are limited to 50% capacity and only fully vaccinated people can attend.



Assembly of
Manitoba Chiefs

Manitoba
Keewatinowi
Okimakinak

First Nations Health
and Social Secretariat
of Manitoba

Keewatinohk
Inniniw
Minoayawin

Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team Weekly Bulletin

Date: January 6, 2022

Many communities have additional measures in place to reduce close contacts to try to limit the spread of COVID-19. We appreciate this critical support from Community Leaders and fully support these measures as we try to prevent severe outcomes and protect the health care workforce and health care access.

COVID-19 Resources and Links:

Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Alert Levels

<https://manitobachiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/PRCT-MB-First-Nations-COVID-Alert-Levels.pdf>

School Division Reopening Plans

<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/school-divisions.html>

Restoring Safe Schools: August 13 - School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html>

Applying Current Public Health Orders and Guidance to Community Events

<https://manitobachiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/PRCT-GUIDE-Applying-Current-Public-Health-Orders-and-Guidance-to-Community-Events-29May2020-FINALasof459pm.pdf>

Public Health Considerations During COVID-19 for Sundance Leaders

https://d5d8ad59-8391-4802-9f0a-f5f5d600d7e9.filesusr.com/ugd/38252a_de8caedd52c5409e9607394c383c7929.pdf?index=true

Manitoba Government COVID-19 information

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>

Please visit any of the following websites for more information and resources on COVID-19:

www.manitobachiefs.com

www.mkonation.com

www.fnhssm.com