



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs



Manitoba Keewatinowiw Okimakanak



First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba

## Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team PRCT BULLETIN

June 26th, 2020

As of Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 am, the Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team (PRTC) advised that:

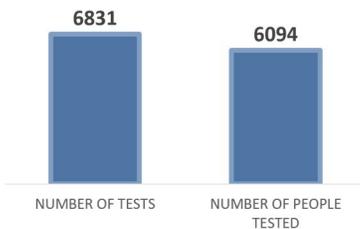
Since our last report on June 19<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the total number of First Nations COVID-19 cases **remains at 16 cases**. The number of active cases remains at 0.

### Details of the 16 cases:

- 14 people in Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)
- 1 person in the Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)
- 1 person in the Southern Health-Santé Sud (SHSS)
- The number of recovered cases is 16
- The number of currently hospitalized cases is 0
- The number of deaths among First Nations people due to COVID-19 is 0.
- 13 female and 3 male
- The age range of positive people: 1-69
- Most people in the 20-29 age group (same as rest of MB)
- Travel-acquired cases: 27% (in comparison to 24% for other Manitobans)
- Acquisition through contact with a known positive case: 73% (in comparison to 56% for other Manitobans)
- Average time from symptom onset until testing: 6 days (same as the rest of MB)
- 43% of cases reported the presence of an underlying illness. (same as the rest of MB)

### First Nation Testing

As of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, the number of First Nations COVID-19 tests has risen by 640, for a total of 6831 tests were conducted for First Nations across Manitoba since the pandemic began. For First Nations the average test number per person tested is 1.12, which is higher than the provincial average of 1.07 tests/person.



**Figure 1. Number of tests performed and number of people tested.**

The total number of tests in First Nations represents 12% of the overall tests done in Manitoba; testing numbers are highest in hospital, particularly in Winnipeg; the main sources of test samples excluding Winnipeg were from nursing stations.

- Asymptomatic surveillance has yet to identify any First Nations cases.
- Except in the very young, testing rates are higher in women, 61% overall. This mirrors the provincial testing trends where they are seeing more women who are being tested at 61%.

- A total of 6094 First Nations people have been tested to date. Of those, 53.1% of tests were completed for First Nations who live on reserve and 46.8% of tests were completed for First Nations who live in urban or rural areas, 0.1% tests for individuals whose residence was unknown.
- Among status First Nations, 166 people were flagged as experiencing homelessness, representing 2.7% of all First Nations who were tested and 43% of all people who were experiencing homelessness at the time of their test.

Unlike the majority of cases in Manitoba, First Nations people are most likely to be infected through close contact to a known case of COVID-19.

Below are some of the testing trends noted for First Nations individuals.

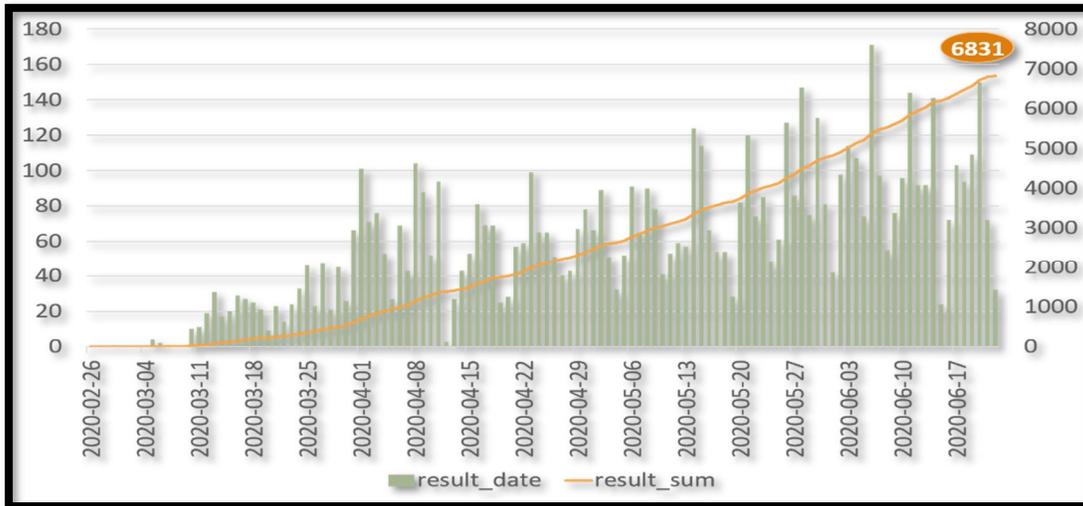


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of First Nations testing in Manitoba.

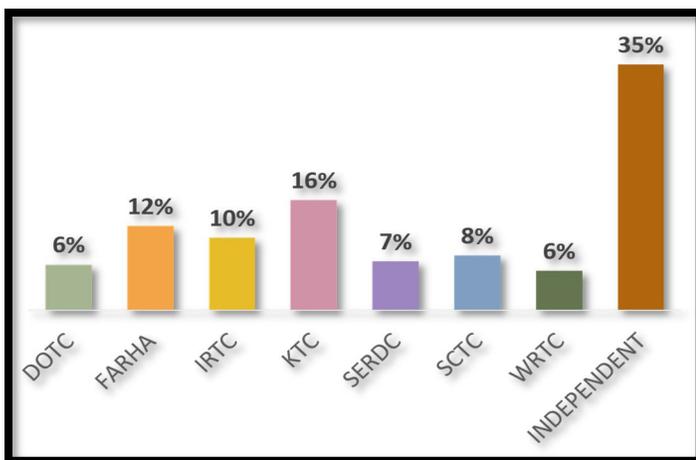


Figure 3. Number of people tested for COVID-19 by Tribal Council region of home community.

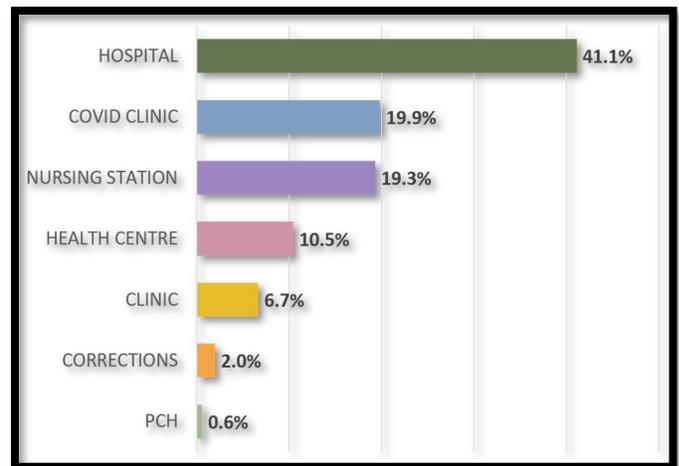


Figure 4. Test sampling by type of site.

### First Nation Contacts

- 50 Status First Nations have been named as contacts over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic
- 75% of COVID-19 infections were a result of close contact to a positive COVID-19 case
- Of the 16 First Nation cases, 7 cases can be linked to clusters or outbreaks

As Manitoba continues to review and change public health measures, the PRCT encourages people to continue to be diligent about following the effective public health measures to keep the spread low and minimize the risks.

**Phase 3 of Manitoba's Restart Strategy will start on June 21, 2020. Some of the key changes included in Phase 3 include: increasing indoor gathering sizes to 50 and outdoor gathering sizes to 100; the possibility of larger gathering if people can be divided into subgroups; removal of the public health order for self-isolation for people entering MB from Northwestern Ontario, Western provinces, and the Territories; opening of restaurants and patios to full capacity if physical distancing between tables can be maintained; and, opening of non-smoking indoor recreation spaces like VLT lounges or bingo halls. As Phase 3 begins, it is important we continue to follow public health measures, including:**

- **Practice frequent hand hygiene;**
- **Follow physical distancing measures when outside of your home;**
- **Follow gathering size orders;**
- **Stay home if you have any symptoms, even mild symptoms, that could be from COVID-19;**
- **Get tested within 1-2 days if you develop symptoms.**

The full details of Phase 3 are available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-three.html>.

The PRTC finalized a document called, "**Applying Current Public Health Orders and Guidance to Community Events**" that outlined guidelines for First Nations to consider in hosting events and gatherings, this document included implications of the Restart Strategy for Manitoba First Nation planning strategies to consider for gatherings in ways that follow public health orders and guidance. You can access this document online at <https://manitobachiefs.com/wp-content/uploads/PRCT-GUIDE-Applying-Current-Public-Health-Orders-and-Guidance-to-Community-Events-29May2020-FINALasof459pm.pdf>. This document as well as the previous guidance on Ceremonial and Spiritual Practices will be updated to reflect the changes in Manitoba's public health guidance.

You can access testing by calling the health facility in your community, going to the RHA testing site closest to you, calling your health care provider, or use the Screening Tool available here

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> to find out when/ where you can be tested.

Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at: <https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.

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**Please visit any of the following websites for more information and resources on COVID-19**  
[www.manitobachiefs.com](http://www.manitobachiefs.com) [www.scoinc.mb.ca](http://www.scoinc.mb.ca) [www.mkonation.com](http://www.mkonation.com) [www.fnhssm.com](http://www.fnhssm.com)