

First Nations COVID-19 Epidemiology Report in Manitoba

Impact of Vaccinations on Severe Outcomes



Date: August 4, 2022

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been five waves in Manitoba, and over the same period of March 2020 to the present, the province has rolled out four doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. During the first four waves, the vaccine rollout of the first two doses and the initial booster have played a crucial role in managing severe outcomes (hospital, ICU admissions, and deaths) of COVID-19 in Manitoba.

As of July 28, 2022, the First Nations population in Manitoba has received 140,465 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, 128,030 of the second dose, 41,885 of the third dose, and 4,472 of the fourth. Overall, 89% of the First Nations population living on-reserve and just over 70% of the off-reserve First Nations population are fully vaccinated. Following that 30% of the First Nations

population on-reserve and 22% off-reserve received a third dose of the vaccine, with only 2% of the on-reserve population and 3.3% of the off-reserve population receiving the fourth dose. The uptake of both the third and fourth doses has been lower than the first two doses. Those who received the first booster (third dose) decreased by 67% compared to uptake in the second dose in the First Nations population. Uptake in the second booster (fourth dose) has decreased by 96.7% compared to the second dose in the First Nations population.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in First Nations were about 2.8 times higher in January 2022 compared to January 2021 (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1: First Nations COVID-19 Cases 2020-2022

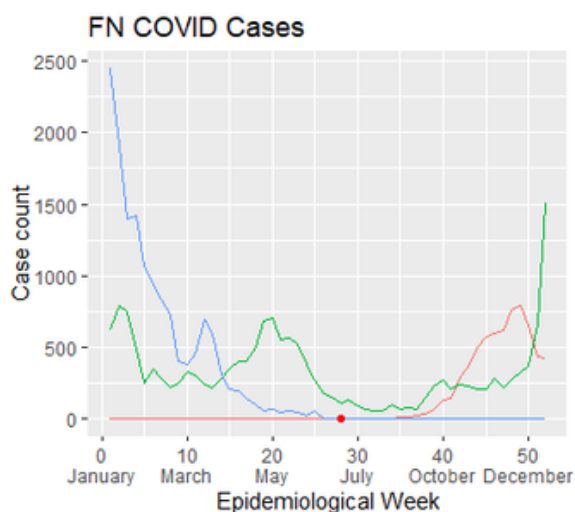
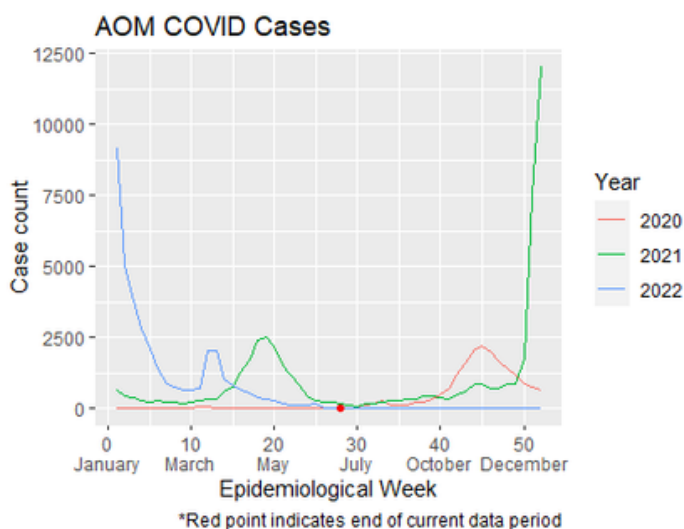


Figure 2: All other Manitoban COVID-19 Cases 2020-2022



Abbreviations

- FN, First Nations
- AOM, All Other Manitobans

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In Figure 3, cases of COVID-19 increased around October 2020, March 2021, October 2021, and December 2021, indicating the beginning of another wave (red bars). Vaccinations (blue bars) started to be available to First Nations citizens in December 2020 (first dose), January 2021 (second dose), March 2021 (third dose), and October 2022 (fourth dose). The number of COVID-19 cases decreased as a result of the vaccination uptake during the first, second, and third doses, but as uptake of the fourth dose decreases we are seeing COVID-19 cases increase once again.

In Figure 4, the hospital comparisons show that after the third and fourth doses, average weekly hospitalizations did not decline but plateaued or increased, as fewer people received the third and fourth doses, and a similar trend can be seen in Figure 5 for the ICU comparisons.

Figure 3: Case Comparisons

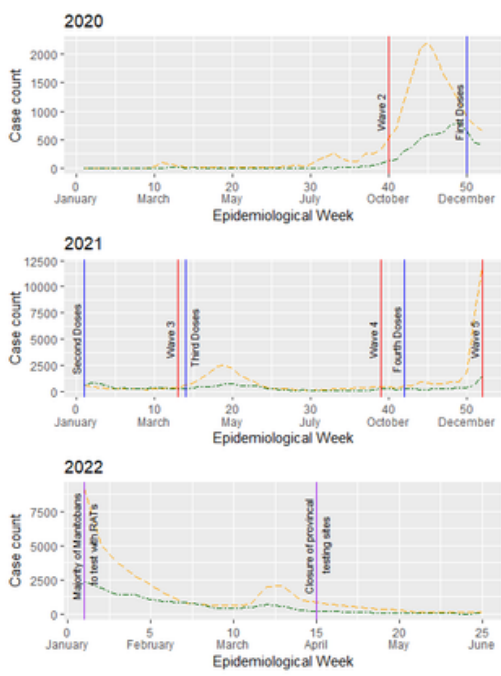


Figure 4: Hospital Comparisons

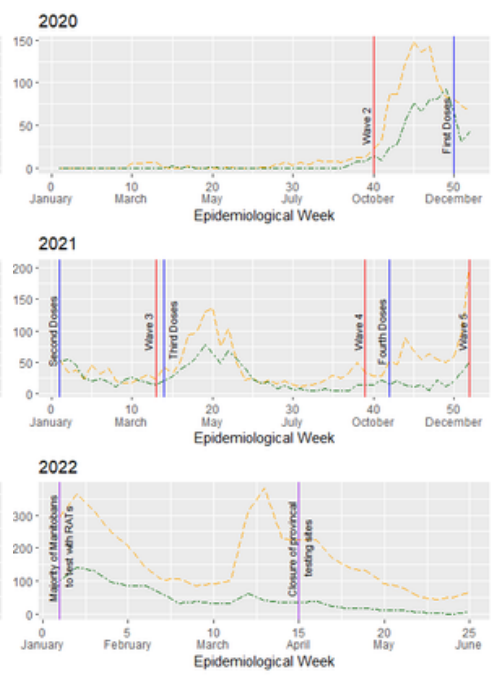
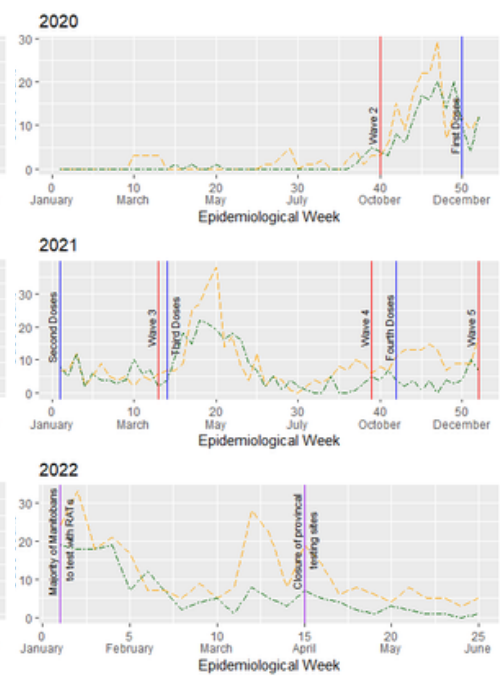


Figure 5: ICU Comparisons



Abbreviations

- FN, First Nations
- AOM, All Other Manitobans

FN status

- AOM
- FN

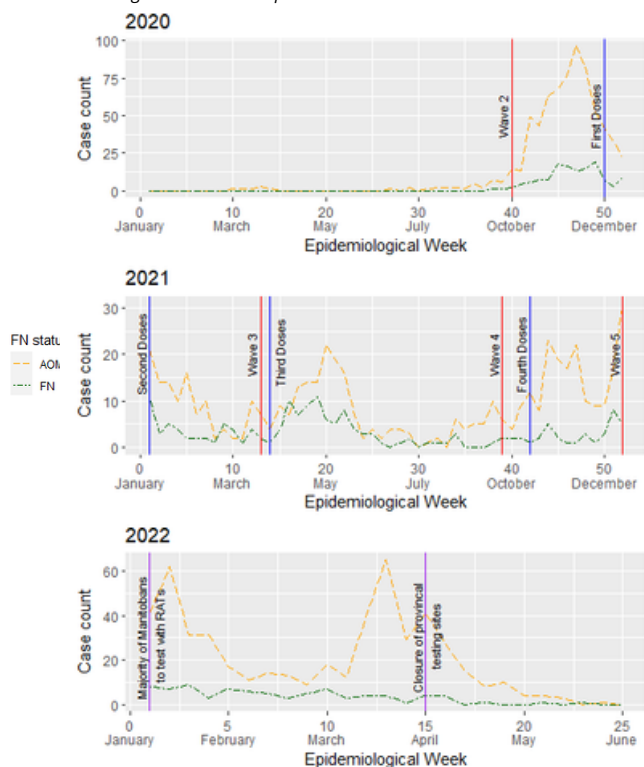
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In Figure 6 the average weekly deaths plateaued for the same time period after the third and fourth dose lines.

Figure 6: Death Comparisons



We saw a positive uptake of First Nations citizens to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families and loved ones, 89% of First Nations citizens living in their communities are fully vaccinated and 70% of First Nations citizens living in urban or rural areas are also fully vaccinated with at least 2 doses. As COVID-19 continues to spread, with the slower uptake of the fourth dose, severe outcomes are plateauing or increasing. Throughout the pandemic, First Nations have relied on high quality and accurate data to inform decision-making to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in communities and amongst their citizens. Since the province has closed testing sites it has become challenging to measure the true spread of COVID-19 amongst First Nations. We encourage all First Nations and Manitobans to continue to protect one another by getting their vaccinations to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of severe outcomes. Sharing your rapid test results will also help First Nations in continuing to monitor the spread of COVID-19 by having access to reliable data to help inform public health decisions to protect First Nations communities and citizens.

Highlights

- In January 2022 compared to January 2021 the First Nations population saw a 181.5% rise in new cases of COVID-19.
- After the rollout of the first and second doses of vaccines the weekly new cases in the First Nations population decreased by 69.8% from the peak of wave 2 to the end of the wave.
- The average weekly hospitalizations for the First Nations population increased by 91% from October 2021 to April 2022 when the closure of provincial testing sites occurred.
- For the same time period, the average weekly ICU admissions for the First Nations population plateaued with an average 4 admissions per week, ranging from 0 to 19 admissions with the highest weekly admissions occurring in January 2022.
- The same trend was seen for average weekly deaths in the First Nations population for the period of October 2021 to April 2022 plateauing at an average of 2 deaths per week, ranging from 0 to 9 deaths a week with the highest also occurring in January.