



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

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

As of Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 am, the Manitoba First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response Coordination Team (PRTC) advised that:

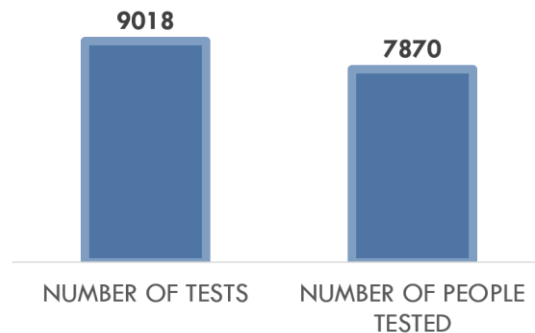
Since our last report on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the total number of First Nations COVID-19 cases **remains at 16 cases. The number of active cases remains at 0.**

### 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 July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the number of First Nations COVID-19 tests has risen by 480, for a total of 9018 tests conducted for First Nations across Manitoba since the pandemic began. For First Nations the average test number per person tested is 1.14, which is higher than the overall testing rate in Manitoba, at 1.10 tests/person tested.



**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, 59% overall. This mirrors the provincial testing trends where there are also more women who are being tested at 57%.
- A total of 7870 First Nations people have been tested to date. Of those, 54% of tests were completed for First Nations who live on reserve and 46% of tests were completed for First Nations who live in urban or rural areas.
- Among status First Nations, 207 people were flagged as experiencing homelessness, representing 2.63% 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.

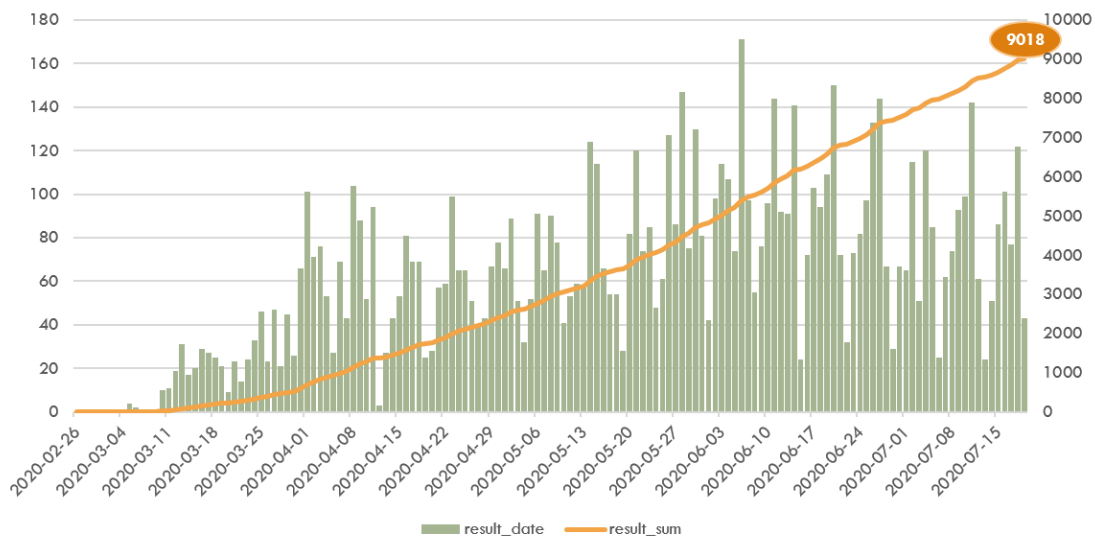


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of First Nations testing in Manitoba.

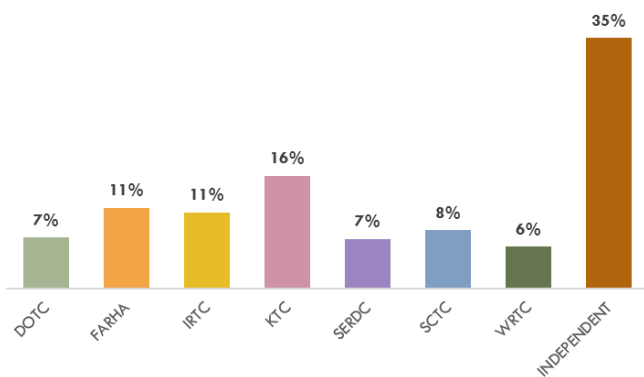


Figure 3. Number of people tested for COVID-19 by Tribal Council region of home community.

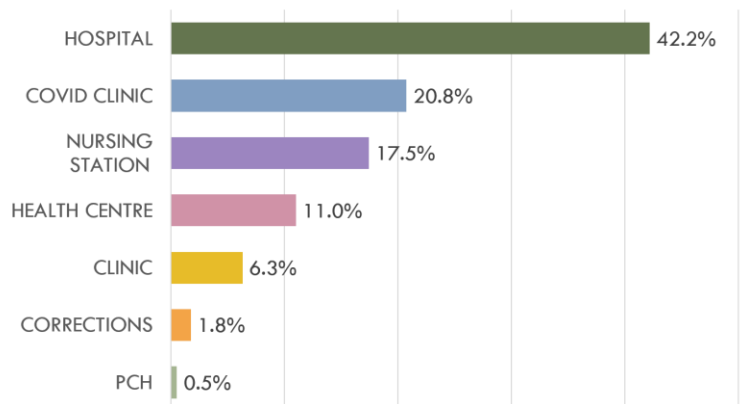


Figure 4. Test sampling by type of site.

## First Nation Contacts

- 56 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.

**The draft plan of Phase 4 of Manitoba's Restoring Services was released this week and is proposed to take effect on July 25<sup>th</sup>. This includes proposed changes to gathering sizes, opening venues like casinos and theaters, and removing self-isolation orders for travelers from all of Canada. The Government of Manitoba is currently accepting public feedback through a survey. The details of the plan and the survey can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-four.html>. We encourage First Nations citizens to participate in the survey.**

In the past week Manitoba has seen rising case numbers. We remind everyone that we need to continue to be vigilant about following effective public health measures to reduce and slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes:

- **Following physical distancing measures and staying 2m/ 6ft away from people who are outside of your household;**
- **Practicing frequent hand hygiene;**
- **Cleaning/ disinfecting commonly touched surfaces;**
- **Wearing non-medical masks when you are in places where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. crowded stores or when using public/ community transportation services);**
- **Following gathering size orders;**
- **Staying home if you have ANY symptoms that could be from COVID-19, even if the symptoms are mild;**
- **Getting tested if you have symptoms that last more than 24 hours.**

The full details of Phase 3 are available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-three.html>. The PRCT 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>. PRCT also finalized and published a document called, "**Public Health Considerations During COVID-19 for Sundance Leaders**", which provides information about the current knowledge, guidance and public health orders related to COVID-19 for Sundance Leaders to use as they make decisions and plans about if or how to proceed with their ceremonies. You can access this document online at [https://d5d8ad59-8391-4802-9f0a-f5f5d600d7e9.filesusr.com/ugd/38252a\\_de8caedd52c5409e9607394c383c7929.pdf?index=true](https://d5d8ad59-8391-4802-9f0a-f5f5d600d7e9.filesusr.com/ugd/38252a_de8caedd52c5409e9607394c383c7929.pdf?index=true). These documents 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)