

COVID-19 and You

Weekly Health System Update



Date February 8. 2021



www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathering on Treaty 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 territory and the Homeland of the Métis. Recognizing this history is important to our future and our efforts to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. I pay my respects to the traditional caretakers of this land.

Presentations from SHA Leaders

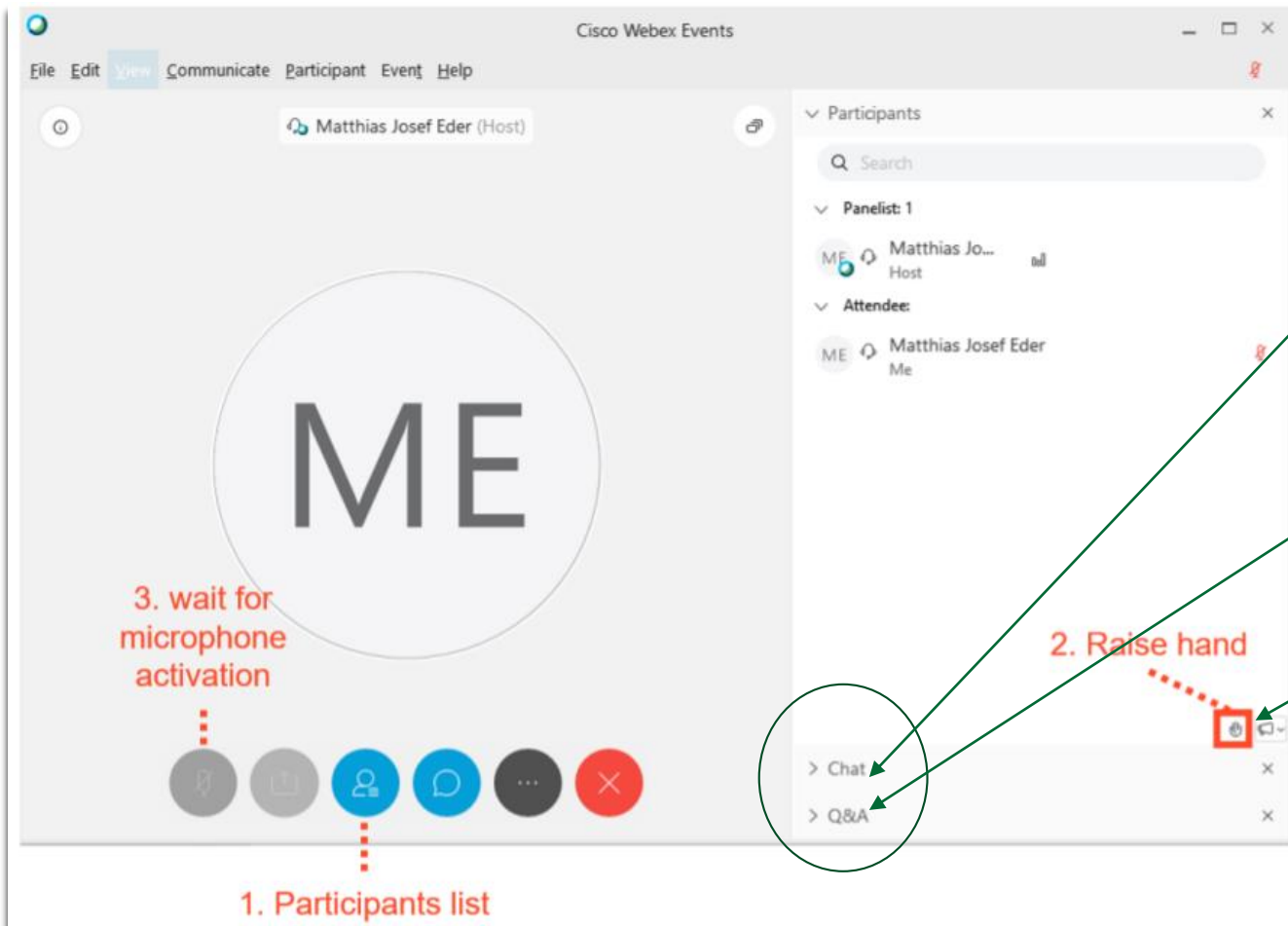
Question and Answer segment:

1. Ask questions by raising your “hand”
2. Type questions in the Q & A section
3. Text questions to 1-306-520-2433

All lines are muted

Moderator will address questions to panelists

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?



Chat only
for dialogue
and
comments

Q&A for
questions

Raise Hand
Icon

OUTLINE

- Opening Remarks
Dr. Kevin Wasko
- Current State: COVID-19 in Saskatchewan
Dr. Julie Kryzanowski
- Offensive/Defensive Strategy Highlights
Derek Miller
- Vaccine Strategy Highlights
Derek Miller
- Panelists: Kim McKechney
- Questions

Dr. Kevin Wasko, MA, MD, CCFP (EM), CCPE Physician Executive - Integrated Rural Health

A Call to Action

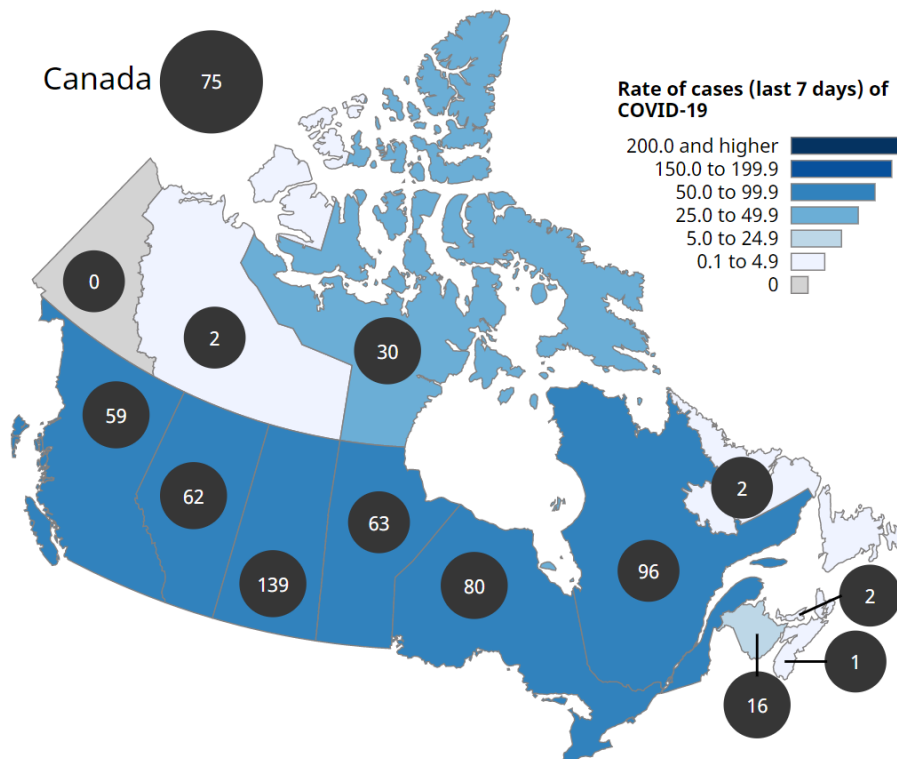
Current State: COVID-19 in Saskatchewan

Dr. Julie Kryzanowski
Senior Medical Health Officer
Saskatchewan Health Authority

COVID-19 Health System
Readiness Update



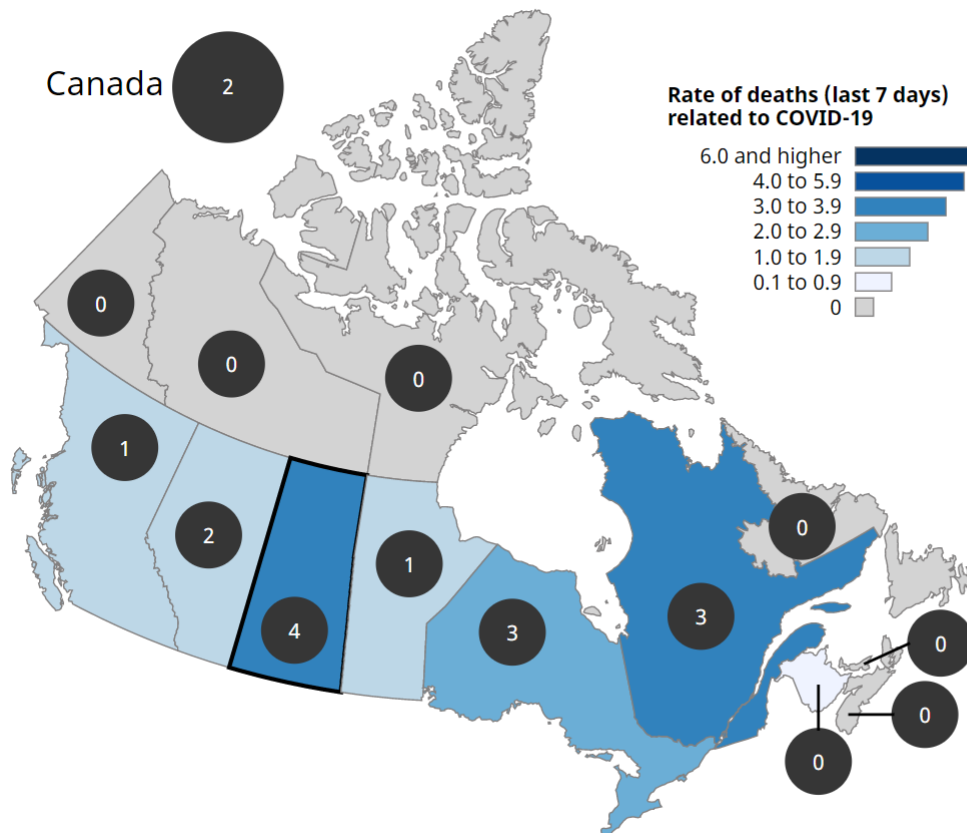
COVID-19 cases, rate per 100,000 (last 7-days), by province/territory, Feb 4 2021



SK continues to have the **highest case rate** in Canada

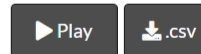
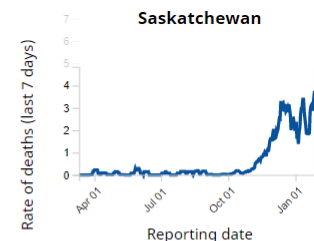
Source: Public Health Agency of Canada <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

COVID-19 deaths, rate per 100,000 (last 7-days), by province/territory, Feb 4 2021



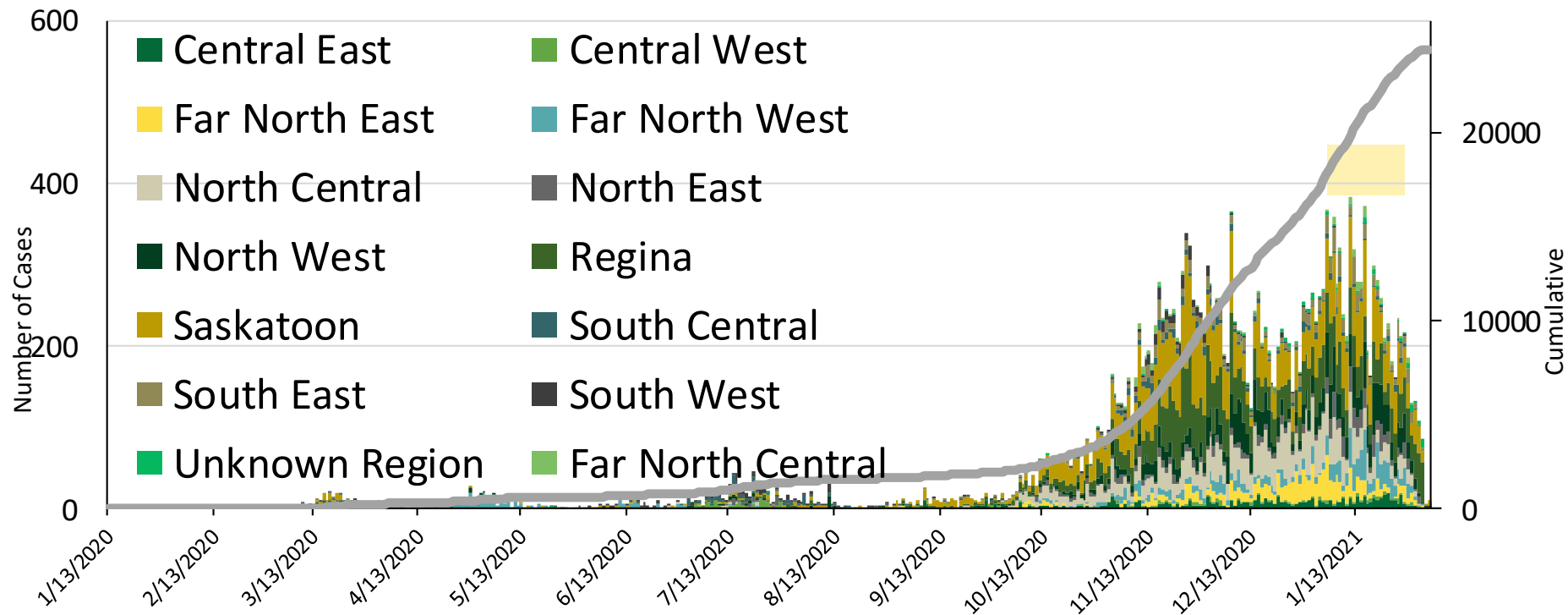
The rate of deaths (last 7 days) of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan was **4 per 100,000 population** as of February 4, 2021.

SK has the **highest death rate** in Canada



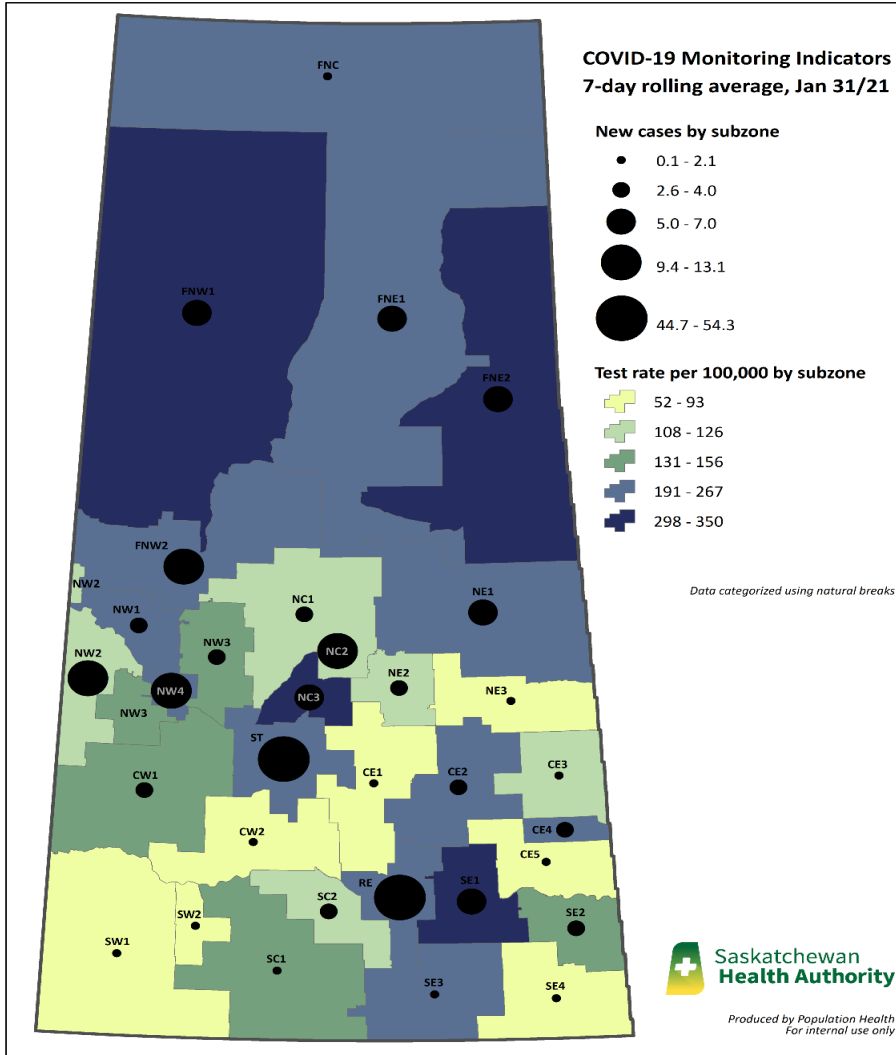
Source: Public Health Agency of Canada <https://health-infobase.ca/nada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

Epidemic curve, SK-COVID-19 pandemic, by zone, Feb 1 2020 – Feb 3 2021 (n = 24,430)

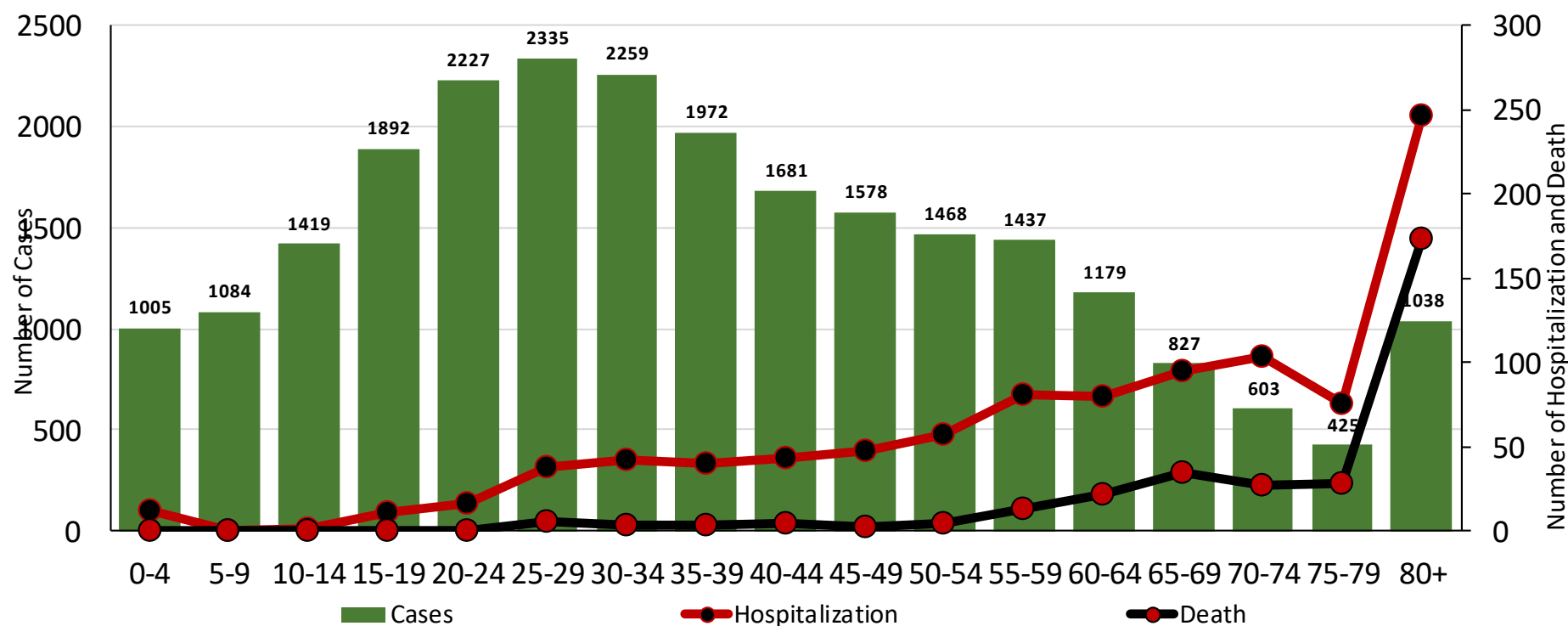


Source: Panorama, IOM

New cases and test rates, 7-day rolling average, per 100,000, by subzone, Jan 31 2021



COVID-19 cases (n = 24,430), hospitalizations (n = 989) and deaths (n = 322) by age group



Source: RRPL-IOM Data Extract

Monitoring indicator summary, Jan 18 to 31, 2021

Indicator	Jan 18 – 31, 2021 compared to previous	Jan 11 – 24, 2021 compared to previous	Jan 4 – 17, 2021 compared to previous	Dec 28, 2020 – Jan 10, 2021 compared to previous
Rate of new cases	↓	→	↑	↑
Number of active cases	↓	↓	↑	↑
Laboratory tests per 100,000	↓	↑	↑	↑
% test positivity	↓	↓	↓	↑
Effective reproductive rate	→	→	→	↑
Epidemic doubling time	→	↓	→	↑
COVID deaths*†	↑	↓	↓	↑
Hospitalization*†	↑	↓	↓	↓
Total cases unknown/pending exposure*	↓	↑	↑	↑
Total active contacts	↑	↑	↑	↑
Number active cases in schools*	↑	↓	↑	↑
Number of active outbreaks*	↑	↑	↑	↑
COVID-like illness** in EDs*	↑‡	↑	N/A	N/A

- R(t) and EDT hold steady
- Testing positivity decreasing
- Hospital admissions, deaths, active contacts, school cases, and active outbreak showing **concerning trend**

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Weekly Integrated Epi Report



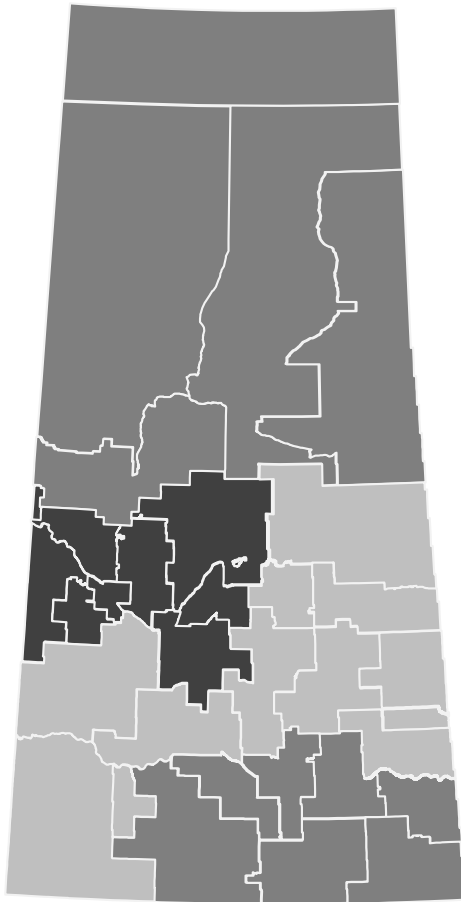
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Assessed Risk of Epidemic Transmission, by Zone, Jan 20 – Feb 2, 2021

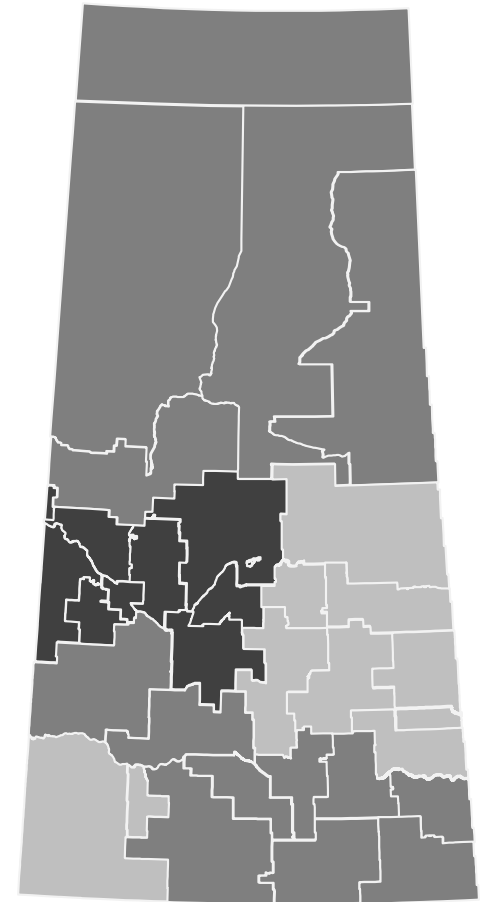
← Previous week

Current week →

Colour *	Threshold level for Epidemic Spread
	"The New Normal"
	COVID transmission is controlled, but there is a risk of community transmission.
	High risk that COVID transmission is not controlled.
	High likelihood that COVID transmission is not controlled.



Week Jan 20 – 26, 2021



Week Jan 27 – Feb 2, 2021

Current situation

- Currently, SK has the **highest rate of COVID-19 cases** in the country
 - Daily case counts reflective of testing and rates vary across SK
 - Risk assessment requires **multiple indicators**, leading **and** lagging
- High likelihood of uncontrolled community transmission **increasing**
- Highest case rates in Canada; hospitalizations and deaths **increasing**
- Epidemic doubling time **not increasing** and $R(t)$ **not decreasing**
- Test positivity is **high** and testing rates **low**
 - Testing capacity available, so people shouldn't hesitate to get tested!
- Three cases of **variant of concern** detected in SK

COVID VARIANTS

**Three cases of the UK COVID-19 variant (B.1.1.7)
have been detected in Saskatchewan**

Variant	B.1.1.7	B.1.351	P.1
Country 1 st detected	UK	South Africa	Brazil
Transmission Risk	Increased	Increased	Likely
Increases Severity of Covid	Potential	No evidence	No evidence
Immunity	No evidence	Potential	Potential
SK Diagnostics	No effect	No effect	No effect
Detected in Canada	Yes	Yes	No

Underlines the continued need to adhere to all COVID
safety precautions and Public Health Orders

COVID VARIANT

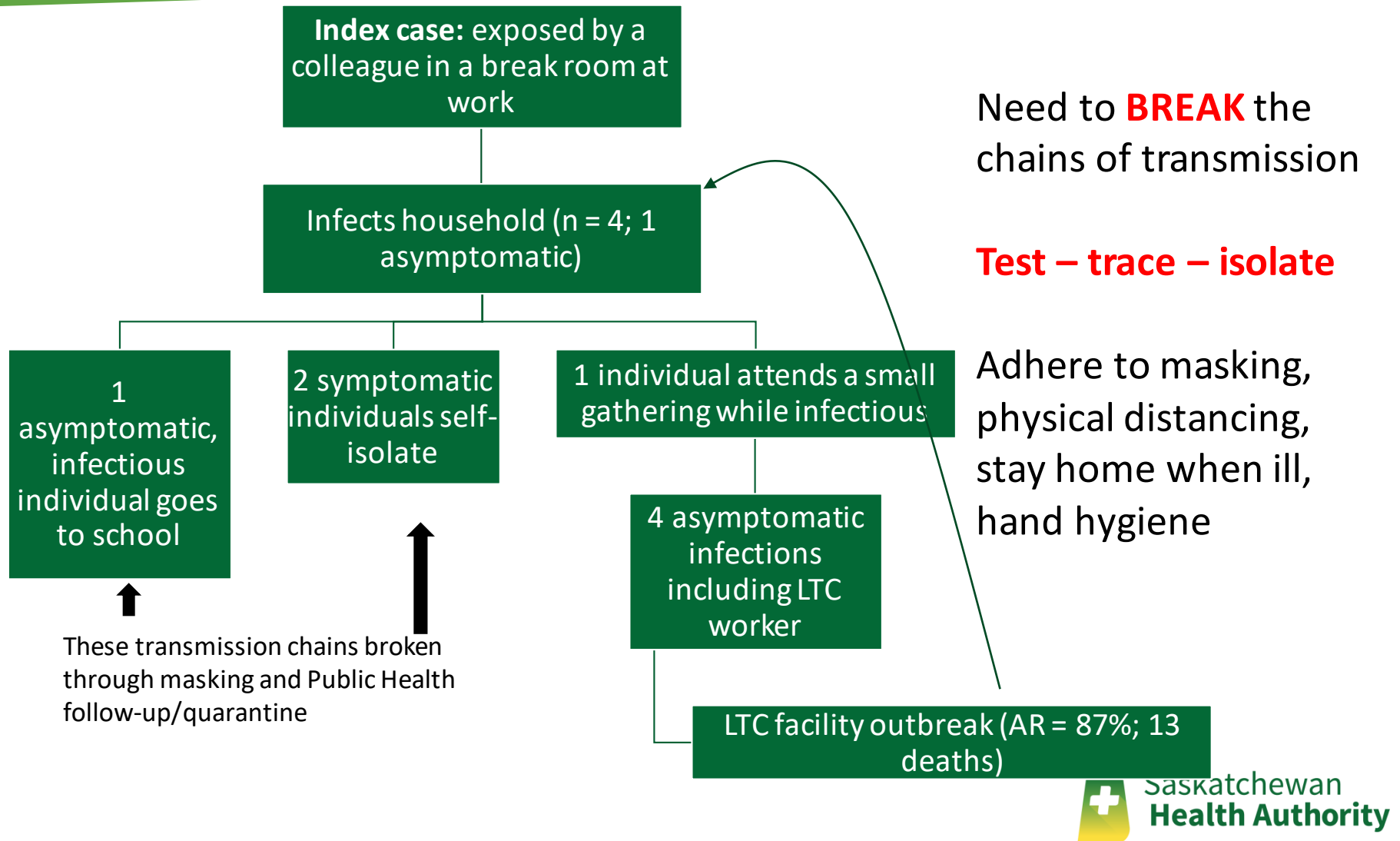
In response to the risk posed by these COVID variants, Canada has put in place new travel restrictions and measures, including:

- International arrivals will be required:
 - To take a PCR test for COVID-19 upon landing in Canada
 - To quarantine at hotel for three days while they wait for the test result

All* travellers returning to Saskatchewan from international destinations – including the United States – are subject to a provincial mandatory 14-day self-isolation order. Violation of the order may result in a \$2,000 fine.

*Specific health care workers, workers who maintain the supply chain, rail, airline or other working crews are exempt if they are required to work to maintain essential services and are supervised by Infection Prevention and Control Officers or Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace.

Why do we have such high rates of community transmission?



Key Public Health messages this week

Current Public Health Order extended to February 19th

- Simple Public Health measures **WORK**, but we are facing:
 - Population pandemic fatigue
 - **Opportunities for spread** (gatherings, travel) that present imminent risk
 - Super-bowl, Valentines Day, winter break
- Need to maximize effectiveness of every intervention:
 - Ensure ability to test – trace – isolate
 - Strengthen messages delivered by trusted leaders and back up with action
 - Address root causes of vaccine hesitancy and mistrust
 - Target anti-masking sentiments and events that promote non-adherence
 - **Enforcement support** is needed

Thank you

- Dr. Val Mann
- Patty Beck
- Judith Wright
- Lara Murphy
- Brian Quinn
- Josh Marko
- Stephanie Konrad
- Leanne McLean
- Dr. Jessica Minion
- Dr. Amanda Lang
- Dr. Amanda VanSteelandt
- Kristi Langhorst
- Mel Brockman
- Drs. Osgood/Basrar
- Femi Oluwole
- Lesley Behl
- Tracy Creighton
- Rolf Puchtinger
- Dr. Bijay Adhikari
- Dr. Molly Trecker
- Sab Gupta
- Meredith Faires
- Helen Bangura
- Lisa Haubrich
- Kelsey Boldt
- Dr. Maureen Anderson



Indigenous
Services Canada

Public Health physician leadership: Drs. Tania Diener, Johnmark Opondo, Julie Kryzanowski, Denise Werker, Saqib Shahab; HUGE THANKS to all **Medical Health Officers and local Public Health teams** in Saskatchewan

Offensive Strategy Highlights

Derek Miller

SHA Emergency Operations Centre
- Commander

COVID-19 Health System
Readiness Update



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

PURPOSE

SHA will adapt and expand to meet the projected COVID-19 patient demand, while continuing to deliver essential services to non-COVID-19 patients and delivering vaccine to the people of Saskatchewan.



Offensive Strategy

Key goal: contain, delay and mitigate the virus and promote population health

Key pillars of the strategy:

- Testing
- Contact tracing
- Protecting vulnerable populations

* Today's focus on testing, but we can bring back more information on the other two pillars to future Town Halls

Offensive Strategy

COVID-19 Testing

Testing is part of the Saskatchewan Health Authority's strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19 and is made available to anyone wishing to be tested. You do not need to travel internationally or have symptoms to be tested.

Even mild symptoms can be a sign of COVID-19. It's important to know so you can take precautions to protect those around you. If you're feeling unwell, get tested.

COVID-19



What You Need to Know About Getting Tested for COVID-19

If your results are **POSITIVE**, Public Health will contact you within 48 hours. Follow all directions they give you. Their directions override any other information you may have been told from other sources.

If you are getting tested because you were identified as a close contact OR because you have any symptoms, you must immediately self isolate at home – Saskatchewan Public Health Order

Do any of the following apply to you? If yes, follow the direction below.

- ☐ **You are symptomatic:** To prevent spread of any illness, you must self-isolate until your symptoms have been gone for 48 hours. Follow the self isolation rules below.
- ☐ **You have been told by Public Health that you're a close contact:**
You must self-isolate until you've been cleared by Public Health and must follow the self-isolation rules below.
- ☐ **You are returning from travel outside of Canada:** You must self-isolate for 14 days after returning to Canada and follow the Government of Canada Travel Guidelines (<https://travel.gc.ca>)

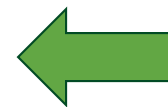
Self-Isolation means you need to **STAY HOME** and:

- **DO NOT** go to work or school.
- **DO NOT** go to public areas, including places of worship, stores, shopping malls and restaurants.
- **DO NOT** have visitors to your home.
- **RESCHEDULE** all appointments for a later date. Let them know you are on self-isolation.
- **DO NOT** use buses, public transit, or any other ride sharing where you would be in contact with others.
- **ASK** family and friends to drop off food and essentials or use delivery services for errands such as grocery shopping.
- **CALL** 811 and request to be retested if symptoms begin, worsen, or last more than 7 days.

Did You Know?

The SHA has developed a “What You Need to Know About Getting Tested for COVID-19” information sheet.

Protect others by knowing your status. Get tested.



Find it [here](#)

Offensive Strategy

COVID Testing

- The SHA has the capacity for 4000+ tests per day
- Approximately 50 test sites around Saskatchewan
- Test sites organized 40 mobile opportunities for testing in January.
- Plans are in place for 12 mobile testing in the first two weeks of February
- We are seeing changes across the province in test site hours and increasing opportunities for on demand/walk up testing at testing and assessment centres as teams assess their current workloads.
- Drive through test site wait times are now published on social media channels for the public.

○ Saskatchewan

COVID-19 Tests

Daily New Tests

2,780

February 03, 2021

↑ 806

Daily Change

[Learn more >](#)

Total Tests

515,292

February 03, 2021

↑ 2,780

Daily Change

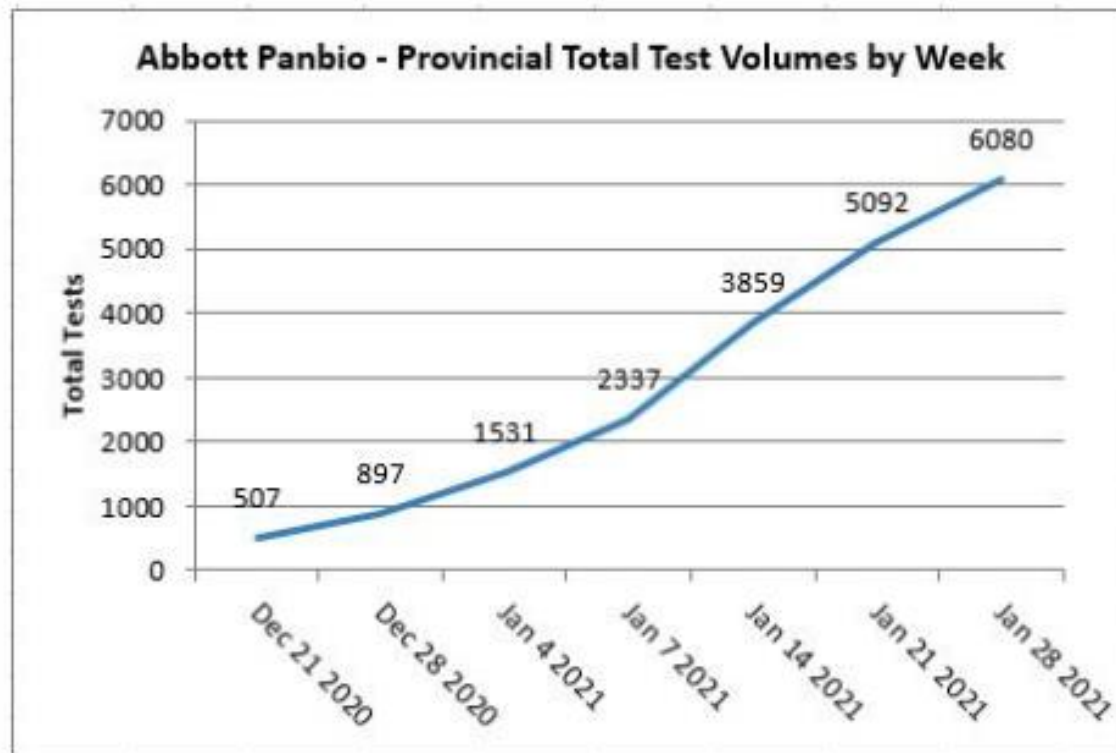
[Learn more >](#)

Offensive Strategy

Point of Care Testing

Abbott Panbio (antigen test)

- 75 long term care homes are training on the Abbott Panbio (up from 50) ✓
 - 23 out of 75 homes have begun testing
 - 22 new homes are engaged in training

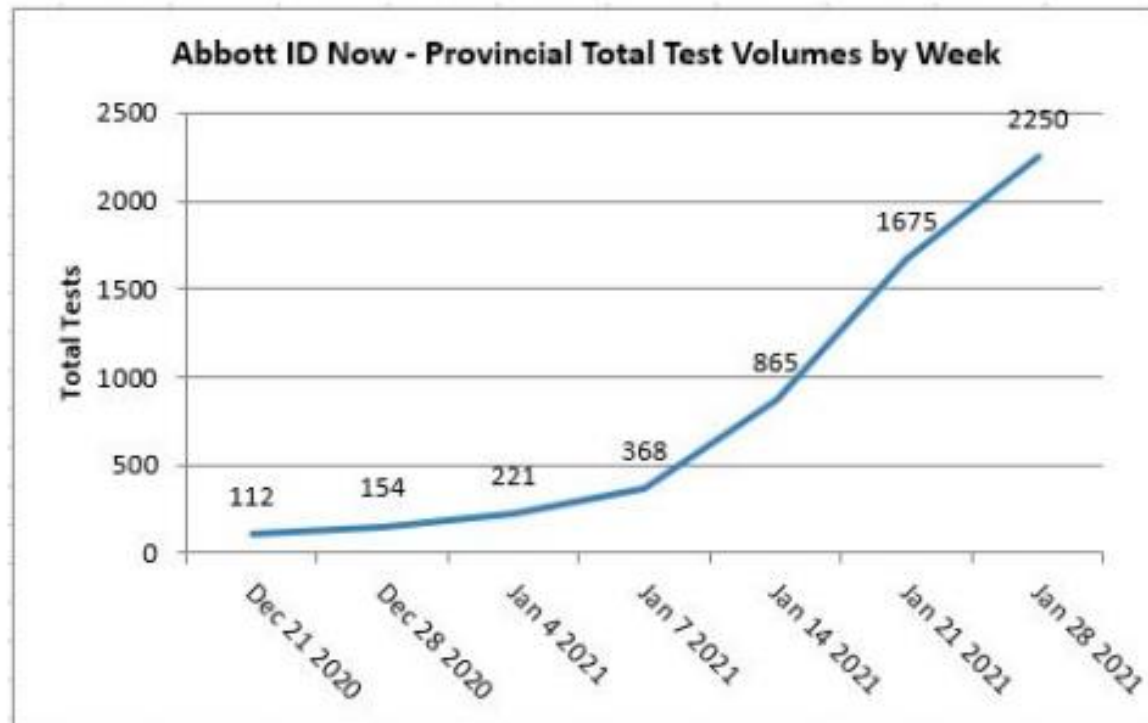


Offensive Strategy

Point of Care Testing

Abbott ID Now (PCR-polymerase chain reaction) test.

- 74 of 74 units have been deployed to acute care locations across the province ✓
(up from 47 last week!)
 - 24 of those locations have begun testing



Offensive Strategy

Did you know?

One of the easiest ways to view your COVID-19 test results is through MySaskHealthRecord

- Visit eHealthSask.ca and click on the blue "MySaskHealthRecord" button in the middle of the page to sign up.
- MySaskHealthRecord is a safe and secure way to see your personal health information and is available to Saskatchewan residents 18 years and older.
- Parents and guardians with children under the age of 12 can also see test results through MySaskHealthRecord.
- Results for children aged between 12 and 17 are not available via MySaskHealthRecord.
- If you are unable to see your results through MySaskHealthRecord and you have a family doctor or live in a community with an urgent care/walk-in clinic, you can book a phone appointment with a doctor to discuss your results. Please book your appointment 5 to 7 days after your test to allow time for results to be available.

Defensive Strategy Highlights

COVID-19 Health System
Readiness Update



Defensive Strategy

Key Goal: Adapt/expand to meet projected COVID demand while maintaining essential services for non-COVID patients

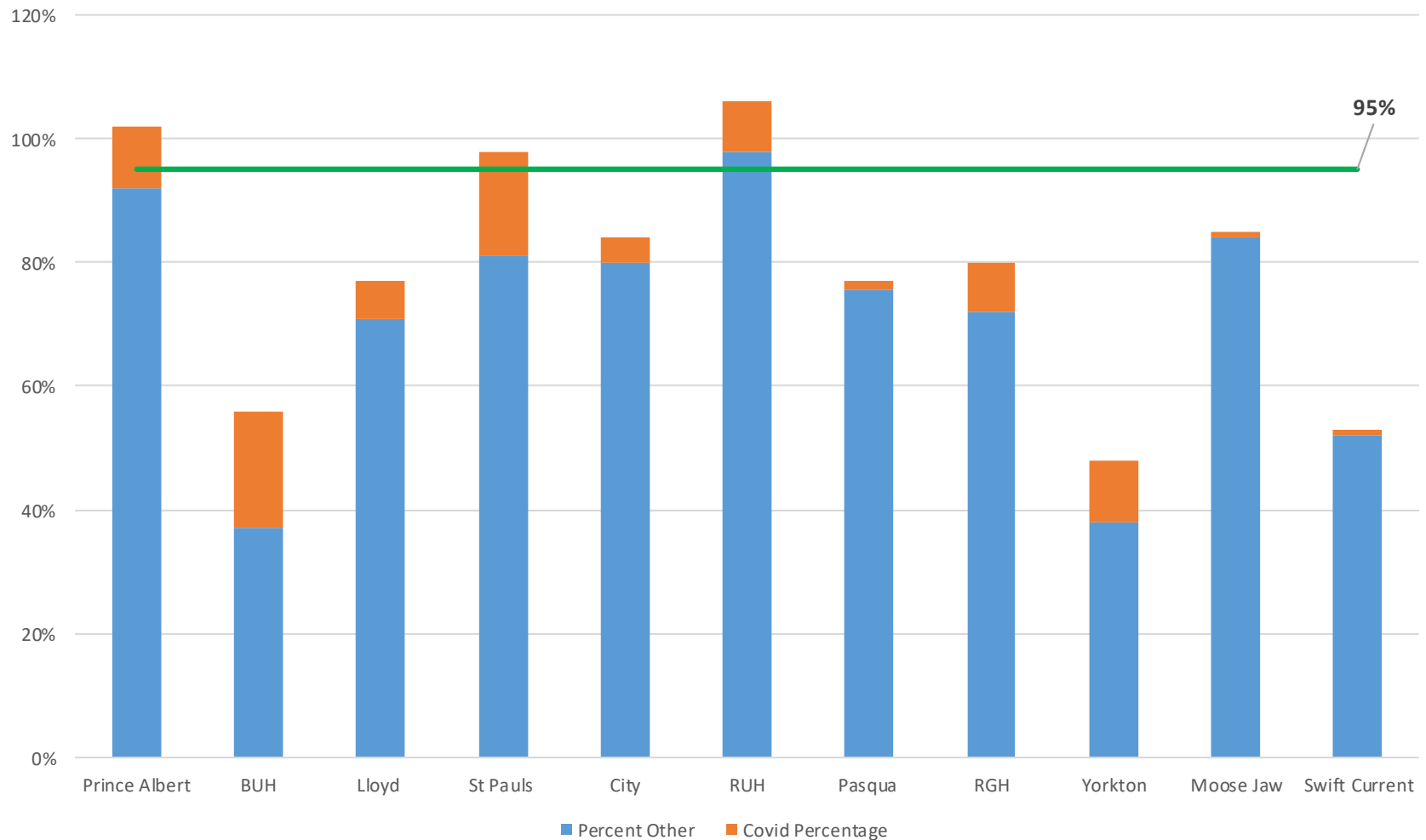
Key Strategies:

- Surge acute capacity when needed while finding the balance to care for COVID and non-COVID patients across the system.
- Mitigate and manage outbreaks.
- Maintain the right balance in services across the health system as COVID pressures change.

Defensive Strategy – Hospital Capacity

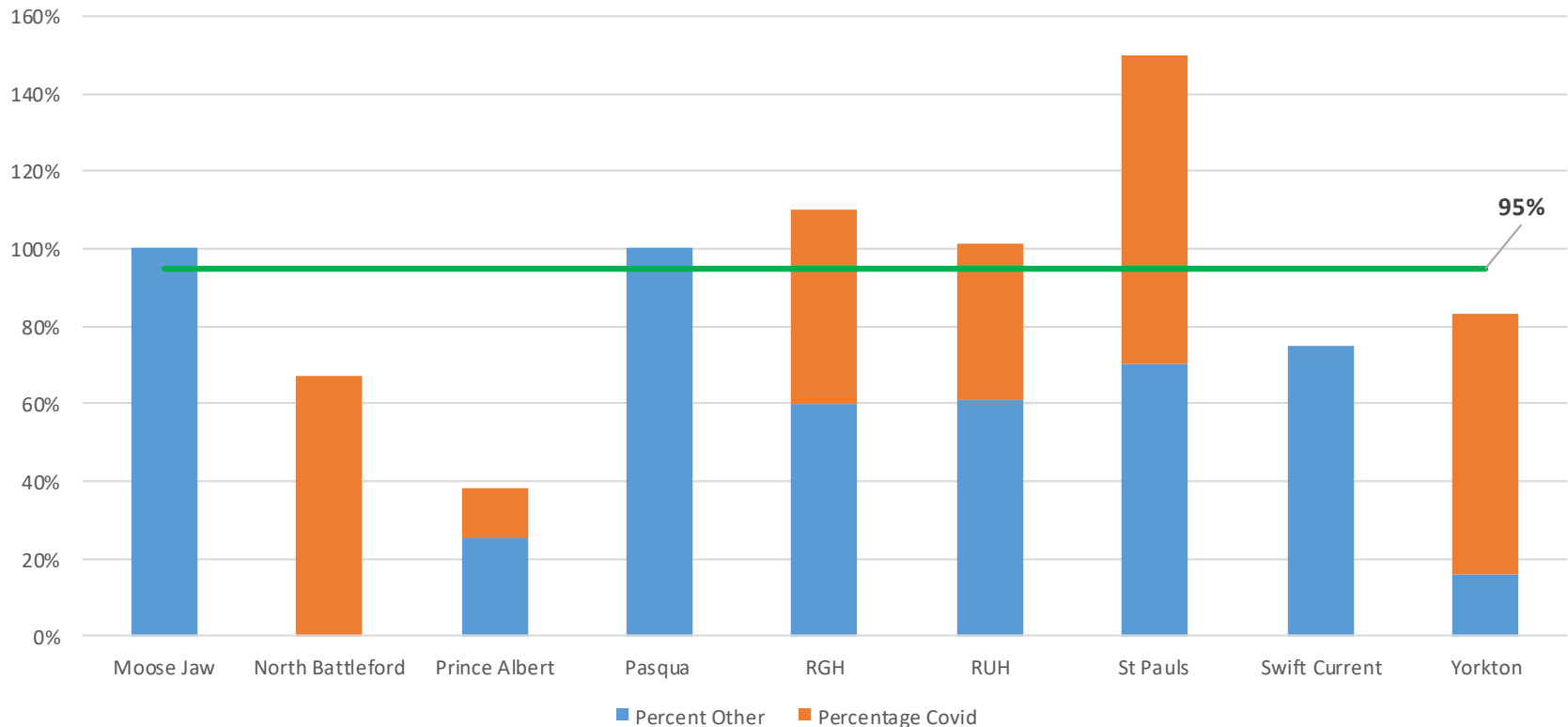
Capacity by SHA Facility (Feb. 4, 2021)

(All adults, including maternal)



Defensive Strategy – ICU Capacity

**Capacity by SHA ICU
Feb. 4, 2021**



Impact of COVID-19
40% regular ICU capacity taken up by a single illness

Defensive Strategy

- In order to leverage the benefits of being one single provincial health system, healthcare teams across the province are working together to ensure that the right patient receives the right care in the right location.
- Patients who no longer require specialized care, but still require ongoing care, are being asked to transfer to a hospital outside of Saskatoon or Regina that can safely meet their needs as close to home as possible.
- All transfer locations will be chosen based on their capacity to provide the staff and programming required to care for each transfer patient's specific needs in a warm and welcoming environment that is safe, provides quality care, and is as close to home, or as close to the patient's family support person, as possible.
- These transfers will allow our tertiary centres in Saskatoon and Regina to continue providing specialized care (e.g., ICU care, critical care, surgery) to patients most in need of this care. The capacity of these centres to continue providing specialized care is paramount as the number of COVID-19 cases surge.

Defensive Strategy – Did You Know?

- The Saskatchewan Health Authority will pay for the transportation costs of patients who transfer from a specialized hospital in Saskatoon or Regina to another hospital that is able to continue meeting their needs. Transportation costs to return home will also be covered.
- The patient's healthcare team will assist in identifying the safest form of transportation; for example, a private vehicle with a family member, taxi or ground ambulance.



Vaccine Strategy

Derek Miller

SHA Emergency Operations Centre
- Commander

COVID-19 Health System
Readiness Update





COVID-19

Immunization Campaign Update



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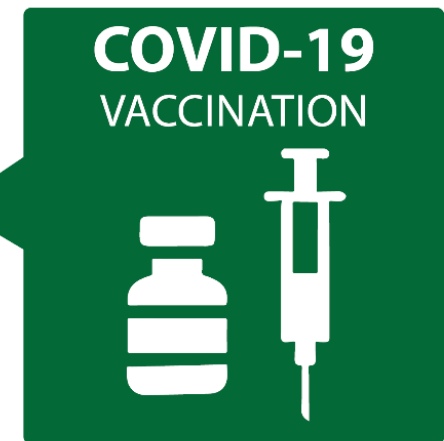
Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

1. Goals of the Immunization Campaign
2. Success to date
3. Faster, Smarter, Safe
4. Activities this week, next steps and key messages

Speed matters. Every day counts to save lives and reduce the overall impact of COVID-19.

FASTER.
SMARTER.
SAFE.



Immunization Campaign Goals

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- Minimize serious illness & death
- Protect those most vulnerable
- Protect health care capacity
- Minimize spread
- Protect critical infrastructure



Phase One Priority Populations

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Category

Long term care/personal care home residents and staff

Select health care workers

Ages 80+ years

Ages 70-79

Remote/North vulnerable populations

****General Population will receive vaccination beginning Spring 2021****

Currently planned Federal allocations for Phase One leave us **approximately 50% short** of fully immunizing the high priority populations approved by the COVID-19 Immunization Oversight Committee and as recommended by clinical and ethical experts

SHA COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Area	Distribution	Administered	% Administered	
Regina	8157	9487	120%	
Saskatoon	11205	12660	113%	
North Central	6160	6470	105%	
Far Northwest	3140	1396	44%	
Far Northeast	3380	1972	58%	
Northwest	3900	3819	98%	
Northeast	2740	1444	53%	
Southeast	7877	5974	98%%	
<u>Provincial Totals</u>			Provincial Daily Change	
Saskatchewan	48499	46220	95%	1135

Provincial totals include AHA data

Saskatchewan Information at February 6 at 8 p.m.

Vaccine Delivery

- Allocations received Week of February 1
- Pfizer 5850 doses, Moderna 6000 doses - distributed
 - Saskatoon (including FN allocation)
 - Integrated Rural - Moosomin and Kipling and area, Kindersley and area (including FN allocation)
 - Integrated North – broad deliveries across integrated north communities and areas (including La Ronge, Shellbrook, Prince Albert, Wakaw, Lloydminster, North Battleford and multiple FN communities)



Vaccine Delivery

- 95% of Allocated Doses Administered to date
- Teams ensuring readiness for deliveries – Week of February 8
- Week of February 8 we are expecting 1950 doses of Pfizer vaccine to be allocated to communities in the North East part of the province.



Faster – *Speed Matters!*

- An **‘all-hands-on-deck’** approach is driving our success.
 - 1st dose complete for long term care homes in 40+ communities
 - 1st dose completion progressing well for personal care homes.
 - 1st dose complete for 20 First Nations, with 35 more in progress.
- Saskatchewan has administered 95% of available supplies.
- Tremendous support from physicians stepping forward to volunteer their time to vaccinate others and have accepted the shot for themselves.



Upcoming Activities/Allocations

Slide

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- We continue to sequence allocations based on identified priority populations for phase one as well as areas of the province at greatest risk;
- Recent reductions in allocations from both vendors have required us to adapt where vaccines are going next.
- In all cases we will be reaching out directly to individuals who are eligible.
- We expect an announcement this week from the provincial government on next steps, so please watch for details.

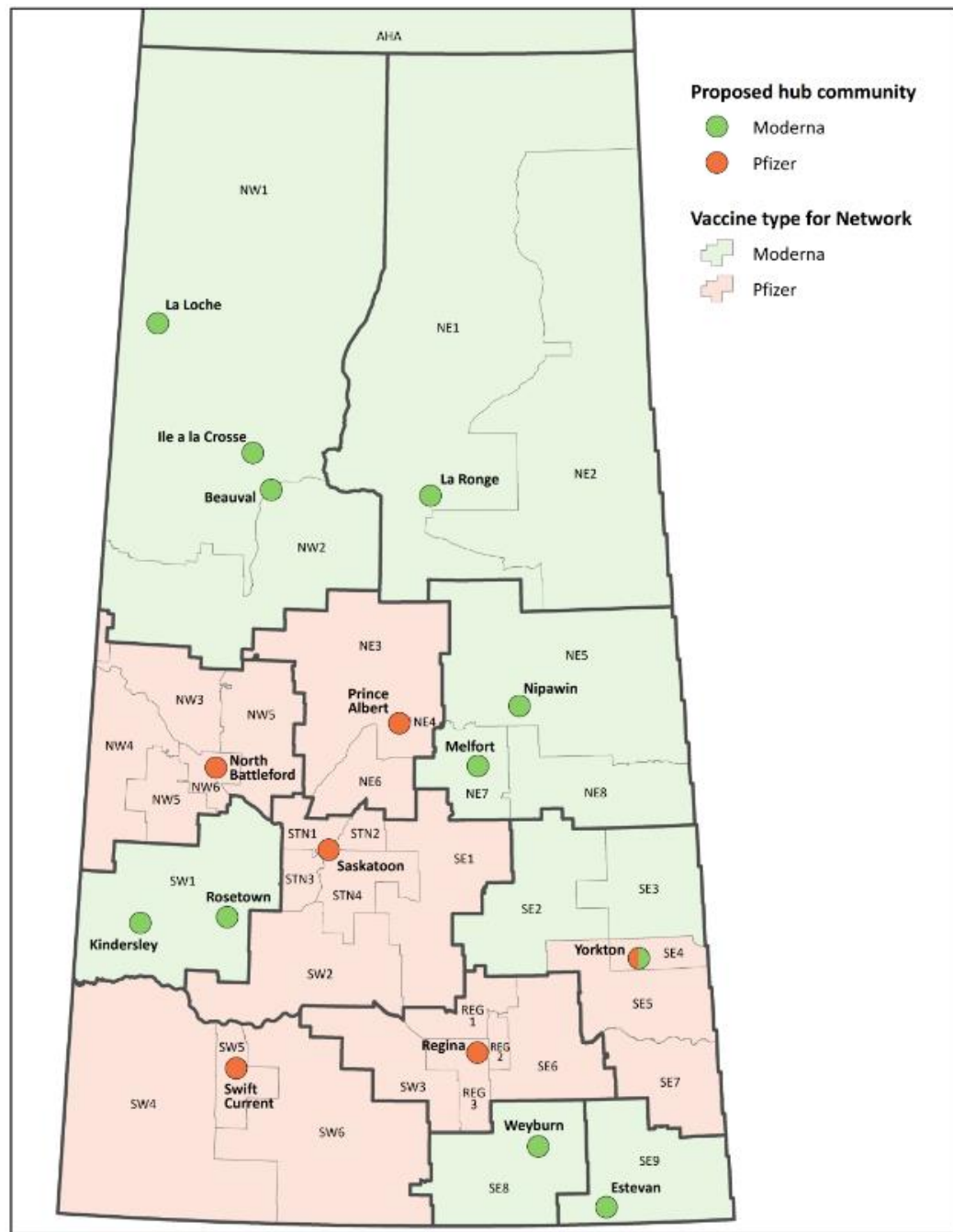
**In all cases, we
will REACH OUT
TO YOU.**



Smarter

Learning matters!

- ✓ Hub model enabling us to plan ahead and deliver faster
- ✓ Plans must remain flexible and adaptable to unpredictable allocations, new learnings, etc.
- ✓ Teams across the province currently developing plans for delivery of vaccine in phase two
- ✓ Key aim to strengthen stakeholder engagement and communications, while looking at innovative solutions to vaccinate close to home.

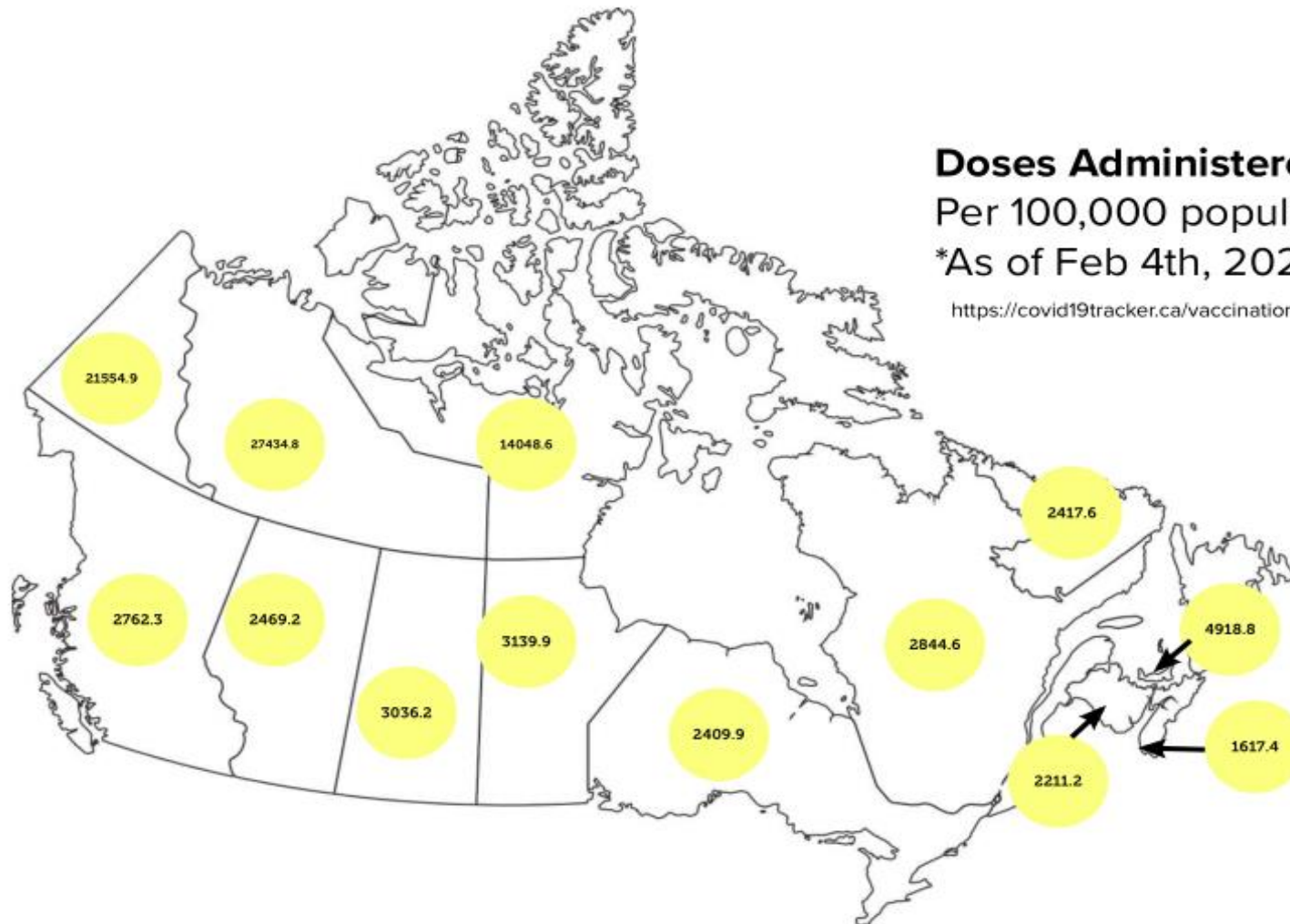


Hub Model for Vaccine delivery

You asked for more info on what a “Hub” is?

- Approximately 20 hubs have been designated based on the type of vaccine: Pfizer/BioNTech is primarily designated for urban locations, Moderna is primarily designated for rural locations.
- All vaccines are delivered to hubs as they are received. Local teams will transport vaccine from hubs to administration sites in surrounding communities.
- Immunizations start within 24 hours of receipt of vaccine in an area.

Vaccine Administration per 100,000 Population



Doses Administered
Per 100,000 population
*As of Feb 4th, 2021

<https://covid19tracker.ca/vaccinationtracker.html>

Safety matters: High uptake requires strong communications to ensure the public knows the vaccine is safe.



The COVID-19 Vaccine is:

- Safe – Health Canada approved
- Effective – 90%+ reduction in symptomatic infection
- Simple – like getting a flu shot

The World Health Organization:

- Estimates that vaccines save 2-3 million lives in a normal year
- Lists vaccine hesitancy as one of the top 10 global health risks



Celebrating Good News

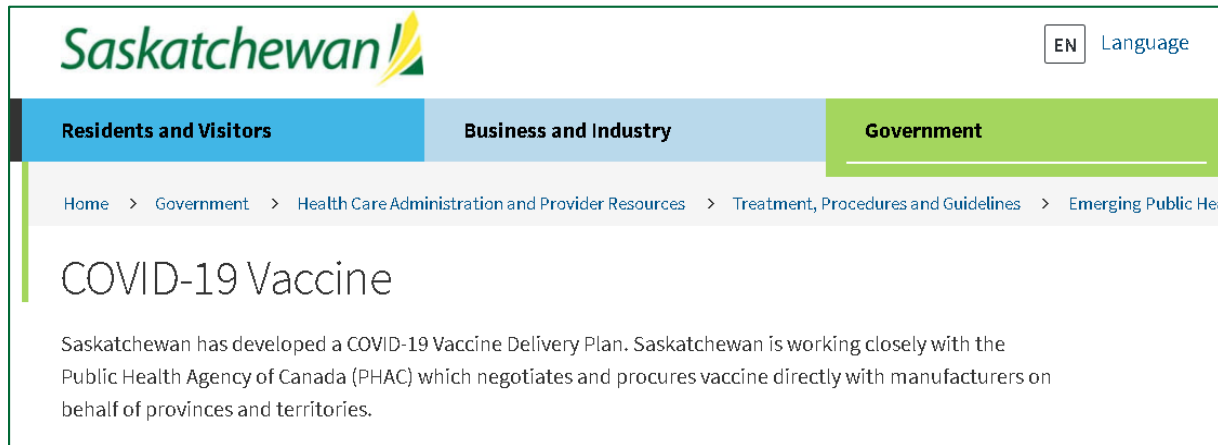
Since the campaign began, more than 42,000+ doses of vaccine have been administered in Saskatchewan; this effort is literally saving lives.



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saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Updates and Information



Saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine

- Information on the phases and rollout plans
- Fact sheets, Commons Questions and Answers
- Provincial table that shows 1st and second doses administered across the province.
- Once clinics have opened to the general public, instructions on how to book into them will be found here.

SHA Stakeholder Newsletter

- Distributed weekly via email
- Includes 5-minute updates with links to tools and resources

Town Hall Sessions for External Stakeholders held every Monday

Operational meetings (e.g. Unions with Labour Relations) as needed.

General Inquiries: COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca

Key Messages – Faster. Smarter. Safe.

Key Messages:

- Safety of our patients, residents and health care workers is our #1 priority
- Speed matters. That is why we need to continually get faster and smarter.
- We will continue to prioritize those most vulnerable populations to receive the supplies we have.
- Immunization is a ***good news story***. Numerous stories of success, co-operation and support across the province.



LTC Resident Jimmy Favel receives his COVID-19 vaccination with his granddaughter Brittany who is an RN in Ile-a-la Crosse Long Term Care

COVID-19

Immunization Campaign Update
January 28, 2021



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www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Key Takeaways

Derek Miller

SHA Emergency Operations Centre
- Commander

COVID-19 Health System
Readiness Update



Key Takeaways

- The **risk of COVID-19 transmission** throughout the province remains high.
- Last week Saskatchewan had the most COVID-19 deaths ever
- The UK COVID-19 variant (B.1.1.7) has been detected in two residents in the Regina zone and one in Saskatoon.
- Modeling projects there will be a **marked increase in transmissibility** over the next few months due to this variant
- It's vital the SK residents **continue to adhere to public health orders** to not waste the heroic efforts and sacrifices we've all made over the past year

Key Takeaways

- We continue with our **offensive and defensive strategies** to help detect COVID-19 activity and protect SK residents from increased spread.
 - This includes our over **500,000 COVID-19 tests** that have been processed to date
- Since COVID-19 immunization has begun in SK, **34,000 doses of vaccine have been administered**
- We will continue to **prioritize our most vulnerable populations** for immunization and sequence our allocation of vaccine based on those priorities
- It is important for the public to be assured that the **vaccine is safe**

QUESTIONS

1. Ask questions by raising your “hand”
2. Type questions in the Q & A
3. Text questions to 1-306-520-2433

Direct follow up questions to: anne.lindemann@saskhealthauthority.ca

Next Town Hall Session

Next Town hall Monday Feb 22, 2021

*Monday Feb 15, 2021 Town Hall Cancelled due to Stat Holiday

SHA Local Contact Information

Northeast: **Donna Cook** donna.cook@saskhealthauthority.ca

Northwest: **Talia Pfefferle** talia.pfefferle@saskhealthauthority.ca

Rural: **Kristin Grunert** kristin.grunert@saskhealthauthority.ca

Regina: **Allison Kotrla** allison.kotrla@saskhealthauthority.ca

Saskatoon: **Brent Rioux** brent.rioux@saskhealthauthority.ca

Provincial Team:


Felecia Watson felecia.watson@saskhealthauthority.ca

Cathy Cole cathy.cole@saskhealthauthority.ca

Graham Fast graham.fast@saskhealthauthority.ca

Survey

<https://redcap.rqhealth.ca/apps/surveys/?s=TJ3FA4FF99>



COVID-19 and You

Weekly Health System Update



**Saskatchewan
Health Authority**

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

Slide 60