



Saugeen First Nation (SFN)
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SAUGEEN FIRST NATION – FAQs REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTERED AFTER ITS BEST BEFORE DATE

The following list of questions and answers are intended to provide SFN community members with more information on the recent letter from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

Why is the best before or expiry date important?

- Vaccine can lose its strength if it's given after its best before or expiry date
- This may make it less effective in protecting you from the COVID-19 virus
- The manufacturer of the vaccine has confirmed that the stability of the vaccine you received has been compromised
- The province's vaccine storage and handling experts have confirmed that the dose is considered invalid, and you will need to be re-immunized

Are there harmful effects from getting vaccine after its best before or expiry date?

- There are no harmful effects of getting vaccine after its best before or expiry date
- Like other medications, it may not be as strong or as effective
- With re-immunization, you may experience side effects that you might have after any immunization
- However, these side effects are far, far less than the risks of getting COVID-19
- I do understand this situation may cause you frustration and stress ... I hope by answering your questions, I can help with that

How will this affect my proof of vaccination status?

- Unfortunately, you are not considered fully vaccinated at this time
- We are working with community health personnel to get you re-vaccinated as quickly as possible

How does this affect the public health measures that I follow?

- This has little impact on the public health measures you need to follow
- Even fully vaccinated individuals should continue to follow the recommended public health measures which include:
 - Limit close contact to members of your immediate household
 - Maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from anyone you do not live with
 - Wear a face covering/mask ... even outdoors if you are not able to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from anyone you do not live with
 - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
 - Monitor yourself for symptoms and get tested if you develop symptoms
 - Stay home and isolate if you have symptoms
 - Cover your cough or sneeze
 - Follow provincial gathering limits
 - Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces

Should I visit my vulnerable relatives?

- Even fully vaccinated individuals need to follow public health measures to best protect those who are the most vulnerable ... such as children under 12 years of age, elders, those who have problems with their immune system or other medical issues
- Please take full precautions when visiting ... including masking and physical distancing
- Do NOT visit if you have symptoms

How will I be contacted about what my next steps are and by who?

- You will receive a letter by email/mail from Indigenous Services Canada when additional vaccine is available at the health centre

If I need to be re-vaccinated, who will be responsible for giving it to me?

- Nurses in the community will give you the vaccine

Will the vaccine be easy to get?

- There will be clinics in community when the vaccine is available

What has been done to prevent this from happening again?

- Revision of vaccination protocols to include double verification of best before and expiry dates on vaccines
- Revision of nursing education to stress the particular requirements of COVID-19 vaccine
- Revision of the COVID 19 medical directive

Why did it take one week to find out about this?

- We had to confirm the facts and determine what actually happened
- We were waiting on direction from the vaccine manufacturer
- We also had to coordinate with the Grey Bruce public health unit which is where we get the vaccine from
- We did immediately reach out to the health director, band manager, COVID-19 safety lead in community and the Chief

Has this happened before?

- We are aware of a similar situation in the USA reported in the media where vaccine was given to hundreds of people that was past its best before date
- There was no known health risk, but it was recommended that those affected be re-immunized

What happens if I got my second dose elsewhere but my first dose was past its best before date?

- The first dose is considered invalid, and you would need to be re-vaccinated with another dose

Finally, regarding the information that was recently provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), we are asking all of our SFN community members who are affected to please direct all questions you may have, via these 2 primary contacts:

Katrina Phillips (Community Health Nurse)
(519-372-6816
sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca

Deborah Jonathon (ISC Nurse Manager)
OR (226) 387-4217
sac.covid-19fnihbontario.isc@canada.ca

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Shari Glenn, Director of Primary Health Care, FNIHB Ontario Region at 613-608-9087 [shari.glenn@canada.ca] or Dr. Jo Ann Majerovich, Medical Officer, Health Protection Unit, FNIHB Ontario Region at 613-796-4673 [joann.majerovich@canada.ca].

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