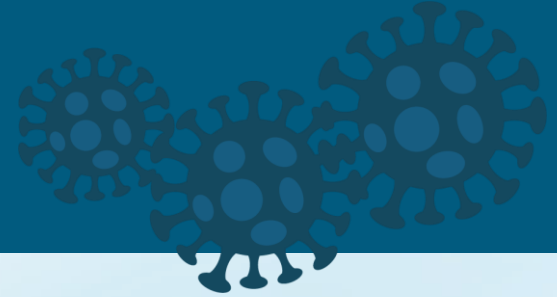


# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *May 26, 2020*



### Updates

#### Importance of Testing:

Testing for COVID-19 is a key pillar to decrease the impact of this disease, particularly as we enter into the relaunch period. Testing enables early detection and effective isolation of cases and supports contact tracing and outbreak control. There are multiple strategies for testing in community e.g. drive-through testing and home visit testing and mobile testing. The most appropriate strategy is best determined by consulting with community nurses and Health Directors. The FNIHB Nursing and CDC team, including MOHs, are working with community health staff to ensure all communities can access testing locally. Testing is private and confidential and personal health information is not disclosed outside of the circle of care. Stigma and privacy concerns are two barriers that leadership can support Health staff in addressing.

#### First Nation Ceremonies:

Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller has made it clear that the Government of Canada will not prohibit First Nations ceremonies in the face of COVID-19, as the banning of such ceremonies in the past has been a dark stain on Canada's history. We recommend working with your knowledge keepers, ceremonial leaders and Elders to continue ceremonial practices in a way that considers the probable continued circulation of the COVID-19 virus in Alberta. Environmental Health Officers and Medical Officers of Health are here to support Nations with suggestions, safety protocols, and public health messaging as the Province of Alberta continues to have public health orders in place related to mass gatherings.

### Question of the Day

**Q:** What supports are there for our members living off reserve?

**A:** In addition to the Indigenous Community Support Fund which earmarked \$15 million in support for Indigenous organizations that provide services to Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and off reserve, the government has committed \$75 million in new funding. This additional funding will support more community-based projects that address the critical needs of Indigenous populations during this crisis, including food security, mental health support services, and sanitation and protective equipment. It could also help with other needs, such as support for Elders, transportation, and educational materials for Indigenous children and youth. More information about this funding will be available soon.

### National Information

[Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

[Use of non-medical cloth masks or face coverings in community settings](#)

**The Hope for Wellness Help Line** is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: [hopeforwellness.ca](https://hopeforwellness.ca)

## Alberta Cases:

as of May 25 3:30 p.m. MST



AB Total Confirmed (May 25 – 19 new cases)	6,879
AB Recovered Cases	5,979
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	40
On-reserve Recovered Cases	28
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,764
Central Zone Confirmed	99
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	524
North Zone Confirmed	235
South Zone Confirmed	1,233
Unknown Confirmed	24
Deaths due to COVID-19	138

More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

## FNHMA launches Covid-19 sharing resource – InfoPoint

The First Nations Health Managers Association ([FNHMA](#)) has launched its newest initiative – InfoPoint, an information sharing initiative developed for First Nations health managers. InfoPoint is a help line where First Nations Health Managers may call if they have questions or are searching for resources around COVID-19. They can be contacted by phone at 1-855-446-2719 or by email at [InfoPoint@fnhma.ca](mailto:InfoPoint@fnhma.ca). More information available [here](#).

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

### Telehealth Session Thursday:

- There will be a Telehealth Session on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 –3:00 PM. Visit the First Nation portal at [www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca) to register. FNIHB staff will be available for questions. Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to [VChelp@FNTN.ca](mailto:VChelp@FNTN.ca)

**There will be no All Chiefs call this week. Minister Miller has committed to meeting with Treaty 6, 7 and 8 separately.** The calendar appointment for the meetings will be sent out shortly.

# **Preparedness in First Nations communities related to COVID-19**

**Briefing to AFN CCOH  
May 26, 2020**



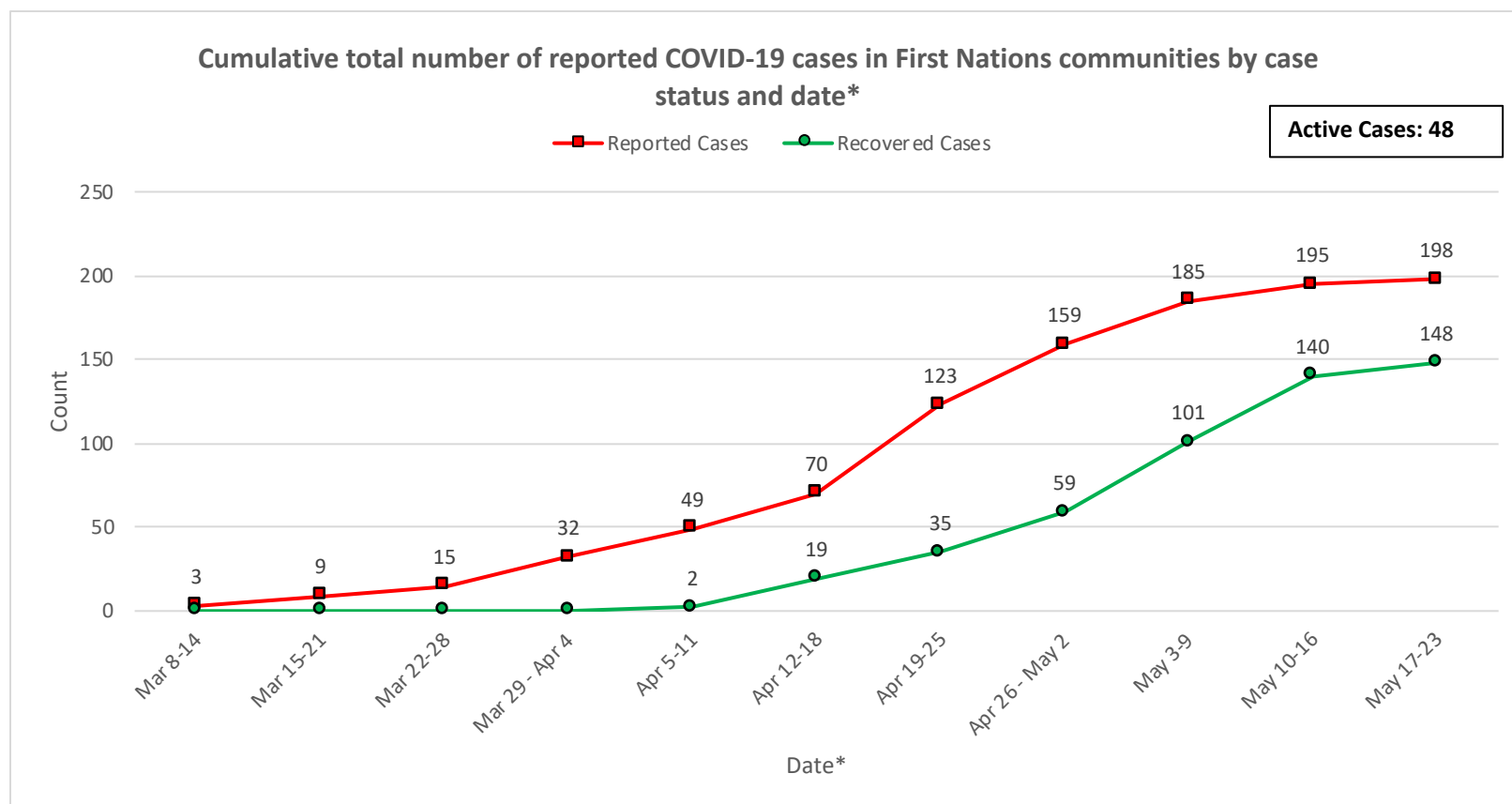
# COVID-19 – Canadian Context

- As of May 25, 2020, 85,103 cases have been confirmed in Canada, with 6,453 deaths. This compares to an estimated 3000 - 4000 influenza-related deaths in Canada each year.

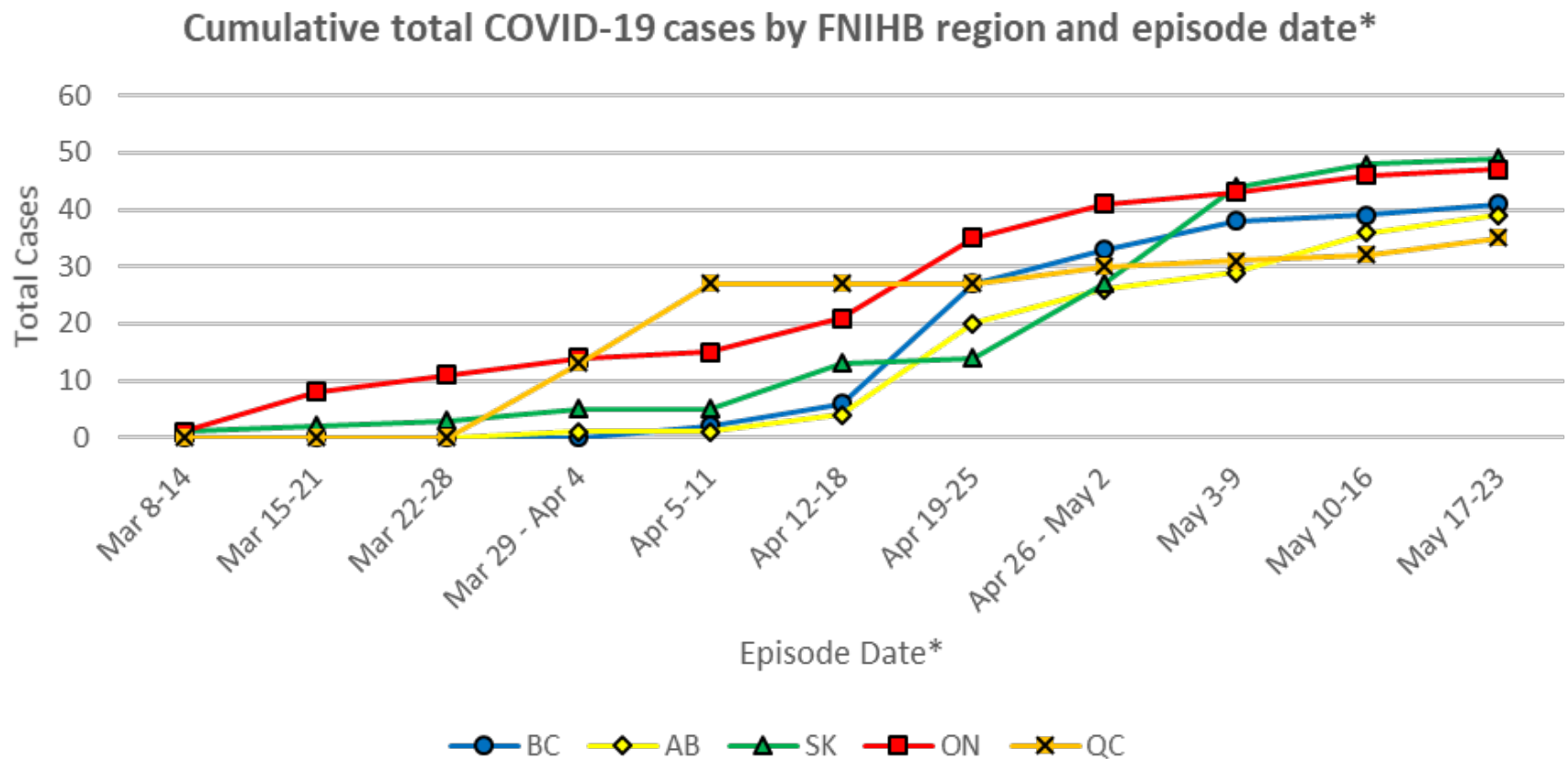
Province/Territory	Tested Positive	FN Community-Associated	Ever Hospitalized	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2517	41	4	1	34
AB	6860	39	5	0	34
SK	632	50	3	1	44
MB	292	0			
ON	25 904	47	6	2	37
QC	47 411	35	2	0	30
NB	121	0			
NS	1 050	0			
NL	260	0			
PEI	27	0			
YT	11	No specific FN breakdown			
NWT	5	No specific FN breakdown			
NU		No specific FN breakdown			

# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...

Total number of reported COVID-19 cases among First Nations Communities in the provinces are: 171 First Nations community test positive cases as of May 25, 2020.

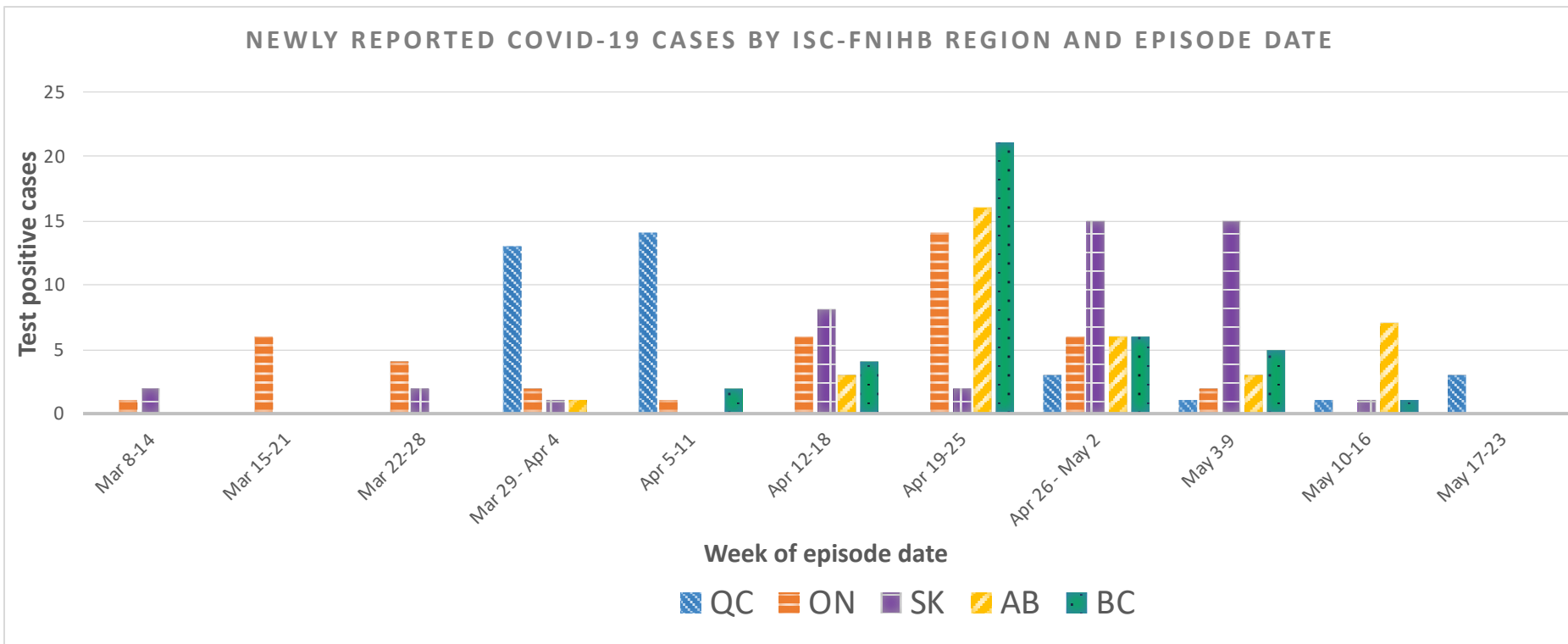


# ISC Epidemiological Information



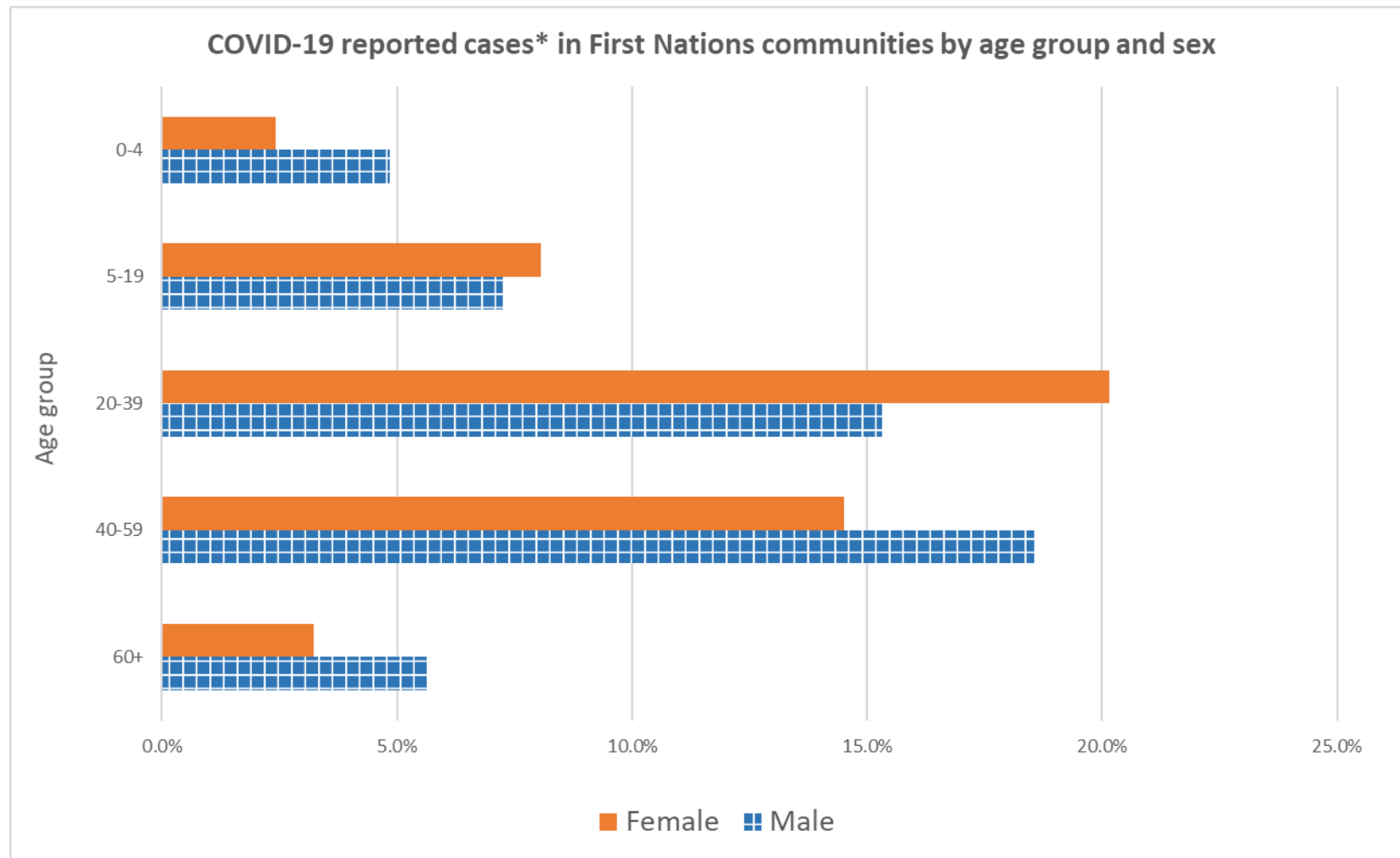
\*Episode date corresponds to the earliest date reported according to the following order: Symptom Onset Date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Result Date, Date Reported to FNIHB

# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...



\*Episode date corresponds to the earliest date reported according to the following order: Symptom Onset Date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Result Date, Date Reported to FNIHB

# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...





# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...

## COVID-19 Test Positive Cases by Gender, Age and Hospitalization Status

	Hospitalized	Non-Hospitalized
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	32%	29%
Male	32%	28%
Not reported	36%	43%
<b>Age</b>		
0-4	0%	4%
5-19	0%	10%
20-39	9%	20%
40-59	27%	16%
60+	27%	5%
Not reported	36%	45%

# National Communications

## Update since May 19<sup>th</sup> Briefing:

- May 20: Epidemiological Curve information was posted, and updated on May 22. This will be updated every Friday for First Nations on-reserve data
- May 21: Minister Miller and Dr. Wong participated in PHAC press conference
- May 21: Minister Miller participated in Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – COVID-19 Conversation on May 21, with Grand Chief Arlen Dumas
- May 21: Minister meeting with AFN Executives and ITK Board Number of positive cases
- PPE information posted Monday – Friday
- New information on examples of how COVID-19 supports can help Indigenous individuals - <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298>

# **National Communications** cont...

## **Social Media:**

- Ongoing social media promotion of COVID-19 related information including:
- Epidemiological Curve social media posts issued on May 22
- Promotion of FNHMA Virtual Forum
- Information on PHAC guidance on masks
- Sharing of Wikwemkong Unceded Territory's social media on Blue Med structures

## **COVID-19 Email:**

- May 19: Indigenous specific resources on COVID-19 to share within your communities and on social media

# Funding for Urban Indigenous Populations

- On March 18, 2020, the Government of Canada announced \$305 million for a new, distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. The Fund included \$15 million for Indigenous organizations and communities providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres and/or First Nations living off reserve.
- Indigenous Services Canada launched a Request for Proposal process for the \$15M. Over 500 proposals were received, of which approximately 400 were eligible. In total, 94 projects received funding through this initial round.
- On May 21, 2020, the Government announced an additional \$75M to support critical needs (i.e. PPE, food security, cleaning supplies) of Indigenous peoples living in urban centres or off-reserve.

# COVID-19 Community Guide

- New revised Community Guide being prepared to support communities in navigating how to access supports announced by the Government of Canada for COVID-19.
- Revised Guide to include new information since version with announcements made in March.
- Document in final stages of preparation and expected to be ready for distribution via the ISC Departmental COVID-19 email distribution list very soon.
- Draft to be shared with AFN CCOH for feedback.

# Personal Protective Equipment Orders

- Since the PPE request process launched February 14, 2020 – summary of requests received to access the ISC-FNIHB stockpiles are below.
- Current assessment of requests – 24 hours / request to storage facility to retrieve and package / shipment to community 2 – 7 days.
- Note – The FNIHB emergency stockpile is for the provision of health care on reserve (including for home and community care workers and family care givers).

Overview of PPE request status as of May 25, 2020				
Region	Requests Received	Being Processed at MTE	Shipped	Delivered
Atlantic	105	0	4	101
Quebec	88	2	31	55
Ontario	201	1	16	184
Manitoba	193	2	24	167
Saskatchewan	72	0	0	72
NITHA	60	0	0	60
Alberta	90	0	0	90
BCFNHA	325*	0	0	325*
Yukon	1	0	0	1
National	35	0	5	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>765</b>

- For FNHA PPE Requests - 5 requests are from ISC, and 320 are from the Province of BC. Table totals show total shipments deployed via the ISC stockpile.
- National PPE requests – ad hoc PPE requests for orgs not able to access PT stockpiles

# For more information contact:

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