



# IPHCC: Strategies and Supports to Increase Vaccine Uptake

Created For: COVID Vaccine Operational  
& Planning Calls Presentation

Last Updated: October 04th, 2022

# About the IPHCC

## VISION

The health and well-being of all Indigenous peoples in *Kanadario* (Ontario) is restored

Health systems provide Indigenous peoples with high quality care, empathy, dignity and respect

## MISSION

We use Indigenous solutions to transform Indigenous health outcomes and decolonize health systems

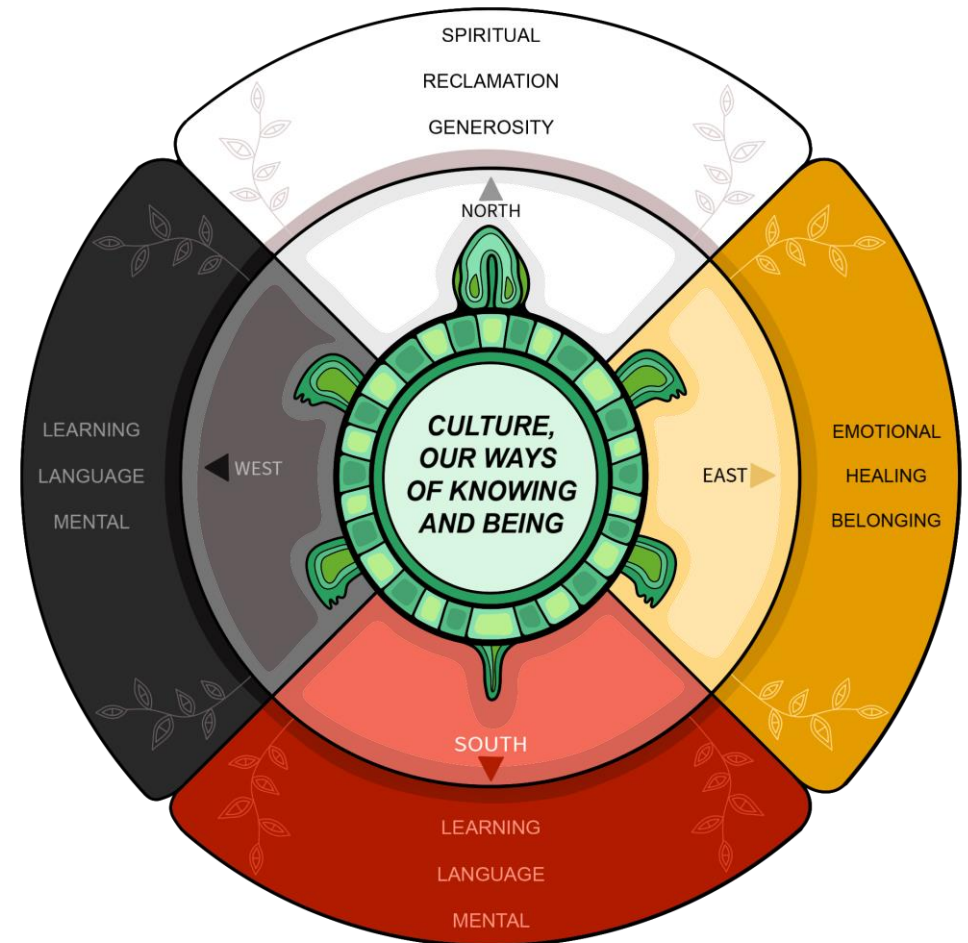




# Indigenous Health in Indigenous Hands

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- Integrated care that is inclusive of the Model of Wholistic Health and Wellbeing
- Speaks to the value and necessity of incorporating Traditional Healing in service delivery, promoting health and wellbeing across all aspects of the self—spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental.
- Culture-as-Healing provides inter-professional, team-based primary healthcare that is grounded in Indigenous traditions and ways of knowing.



# Content Warning:

These stories may contain subjects that may be difficult to hear. Please take care of yourself.

AI Admin IPHCC

# Strategies to Support Indigenous Participation in Ontario's COVID-19 Response

START COURSE

DETAILS ▾

[Course Link](#)

## Strategies to Support Indigenous Participation in Ontario's COVID-19 Response



# ICS Contact Tracing

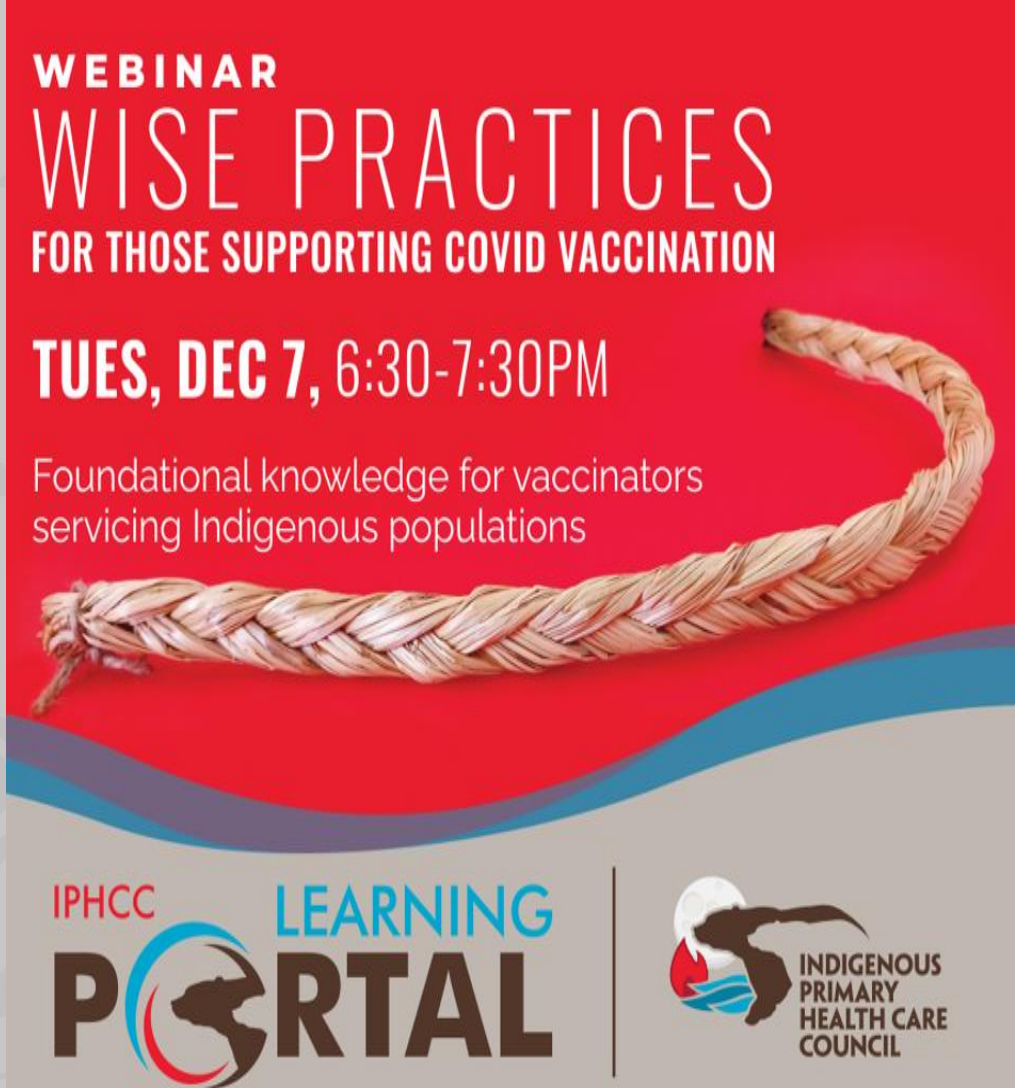
## Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) Learnings

- Developed specific ICS *contact tracing* learnings – **1057** learners from Provincial Workforce have completed module to date.
- Request received to extend training to:
  - **34 PHUs** as part of onboarding education and learning development
  - **StatsCan workforce** – CTI program consists of ~200 contact tracers from Statistics Canada (34 PHUs).
  - [Course Link](#)



# Wise Practices Webinar

- The IPHCC presented a Wise Practices for Vaccinators Webinar on March 23rd as well as December 7, 2021, in collaboration with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA)
- Purpose:
  - Discuss the colonial history of health care in Indigenous communities, and the implications for vaccination perceptions and practices.
  - Reflect on the inherent power dynamics within the health care system and how they shape health care experiences of Indigenous clients, families, and communities.
  - Identify wise practices and strategies for working in a culturally safe and respectful way when providing COVID vaccinations to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people whether within a First Nation community or through a mainstream health care organization.
- [Wise Practices Webinar Dec 7, 2021 Recording Link](#)



**WEBINAR**  
**WISE PRACTICES**  
**FOR THOSE SUPPORTING COVID VACCINATION**

**TUES, DEC 7, 6:30-7:30PM**

Foundational knowledge for vaccinators  
servicing Indigenous populations

IPHCC **LEARNING PORTAL**

**INDIGENOUS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE COUNCIL**



# Key Takeaways

- It is critical to understand the colonial history of this land and the ways in which the health care system was involved.
- Power dynamics exist within the health system. As a COVID vaccinator, it is important to be mindful of these dynamics to ensure that you are building trust with your client and creating a safe vaccination experience.
- There are many considerations and wise practices for both HCPs and organizations to support the provision of culturally safe vaccine experiences for Indigenous people.





# TRANSLATION: COVID RESOURCES

- Partnership with the Centre for Wise Practices at Women's College Hospital
- Document addresses vaccine hesitancy in parents/caregivers with the goal of increasing vaccination in the 5-11 population
- Translated into 6 Indigenous languages including:
  - Swampy Cree, Mohawk, Ojibway, OjiCree, Inuktitut and Michif
- Dissemination:
  - IPHCC and WCH social media channels with a reach of over 3000 followers
  - IPHCC members
  - IPHCC and WCH websites

## Maad'ookiing Mshkiki | Sharing Medicine

First Nations, Inuit & Métis Perspectives & Knowledge Sharing on COVID-19 Vaccines

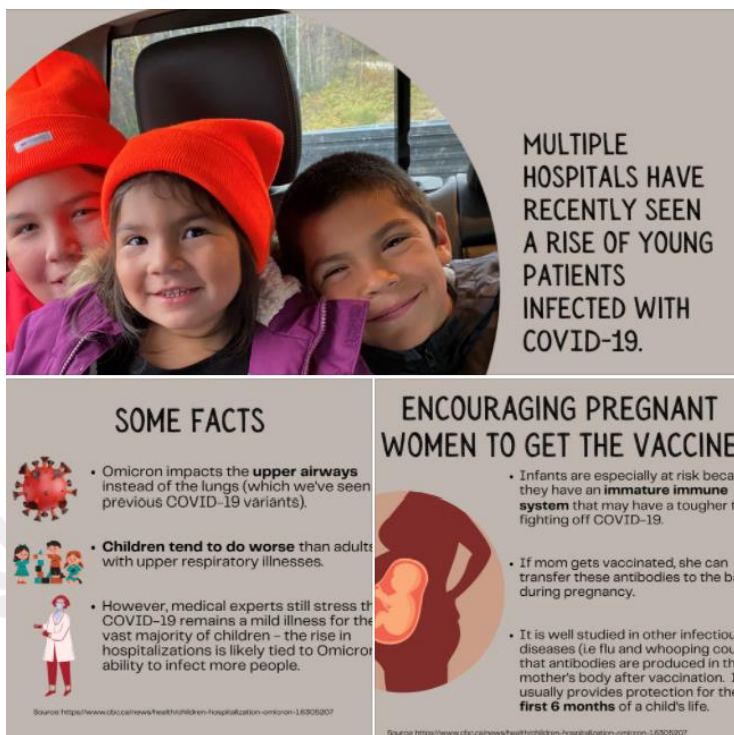


Anishnawbe Health Toronto



# Social Media Campaigns

- Purpose: to provide up-to-date and timely information on COVID-19; and increase awareness on prioritization of Indigenous peoples for the COVID-19 vaccine and cultural considerations for vaccine administration.
- The team ensured the facts and statistics included were up-to-date and evidence-based.



MULTIPLE HOSPITALS HAVE RECENTLY SEEN A RISE OF YOUNG PATIENTS INFECTED WITH COVID-19.

### SOME FACTS

- Omicron impacts the **upper airways** instead of the lungs (which we've seen previous COVID-19 variants).
- **Children tend to do worse** than adults with upper respiratory illnesses.
- However, medical experts still stress that COVID-19 remains a mild illness for the vast majority of children – the rise in hospitalizations is likely tied to Omicron's ability to infect more people.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/children-hospitalization-omicron-1.6305207>

### ENCOURAGING PREGNANT WOMEN TO GET THE VACCINE

- Infants are especially at risk because they have an **immature immune system** that may have a tougher time fighting off COVID-19.
- If mom gets vaccinated, she can transfer these antibodies to the baby during pregnancy.
- It is well studied in other infectious diseases (ie flu and whooping cough) that antibodies are produced in the mother's body after vaccination. It usually provides protection for the **first 6 months** of a child's life.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/children-hospitalization-omicron-1.6305207>


## PREGNANT WOMEN ARE BEING PRIORITIZED AND ENCOURAGED TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE & BOOSTERS.

Getting the COVID vaccine while you're pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to conceive is safe.

Studies suggest the antibodies your body develops following vaccination will pass to your baby, which may reduce the risk of severe outcomes with COVID and its variants.

- Vaccine clinics in primary care and acute care should prioritize appointments for pregnant women.
- The benefits of getting vaccinated to prevent potential complications in pregnancy far outweigh the risks. The vaccine protects you from COVID-19 & reduces the risk of severe illness and complications related to COVID-19.

## WHEN TO QUARANTINE



IF YOU ARE VACCINATED	IF YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED
<p>Do <b>NOT</b> need to quarantine unless they have symptoms.</p> <p>Get tested 3–6 days after your exposure (even if you don't have symptoms).</p> <p>Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure (or until your test result is negative).</p>	<p>Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.</p> <p>Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms.</p> <p>If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk.</p>

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>



# EXAMPLE FACT SHEETS

## Why Get a 3rd Dose?

- COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19
- Vaccine effectiveness may decrease with time
- Current COVID-19 vaccines may be less effective against highly transmissible variants (i.e. Omicron variant)
- The booster dose is recommended for more durable protection from COVID-19 infection

## Who is Eligible?

Eligible 3 months (84 days) after 2nd dose:

- Age 18+ (born 2003 or earlier)
- People who are immunocompromised
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Adults (18+)
- Health Care Workers
- Designated Caregivers in congregate settings

\* If you have already booked your appointment at an interval of six months (168 days) you can re-book for an earlier date at the updated 3 month interval.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> DOSES

## Which Vaccine Can I Get?

Regardless of which vaccine was used for your first two doses you may receive:

**PFIZER-BIONTECH COMIRNATY**  
OR  
**MODERNA SPIKEVAX**

## How to Book a 3rd Dose?

- COVID-19 Vaccination Portal
- Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre
- Local Public Health Unit
- Indigenously Vaccination Clinics
- Select Pharmacies
- Primary Care Settings

\* Hospital-based health care workers are encouraged to get vaccinated through their hospital's vaccination program.

### SOURCES

<https://www.ontario.ca/en/health/101700/ntaric-egayyng-leader-eligibility-to-new-articles>  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-services/articles/2021/07/21-covid-19-vaccine-eligibility.html>  
<https://www.healthycanada.ca/en/your-program/public-health-services/what-we-do/covid-19-vaccine-3rd-dose-recommendation.pdf>  
<https://www.healthycanada.ca/en/your-program/public-health-services/what-we-do/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility.html>



The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## MYOCARDITIS

Myocarditis and pericarditis involve inflammation of the heart muscle (myocardium) or the tissue surrounding the heart (pericardium), respectively.

### THE BENEFITS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINES CONTINUE TO OUTWEIGH THEIR RISKS.

### Symptoms can include:

- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- THE FEELING OF A RAPID OR ABNORMAL HEART RHYTHM
- CHEST PAIN

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW EXPERIENCES THESE SYMPTOMS, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY.**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0803-covid-19-vaccine-myocarditis-pericarditis.html>

## Myocarditis / Pericarditis and COVID-19 Vaccines

On June 30, 2021, Health Canada updated the product monographs for the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) to include very rare reports of myocarditis and pericarditis after vaccination.

Cases have been reported more frequently in adolescents and younger adults under 30 years of age, more often in males than in females, and more frequently after a second dose. The majority of cases have been mild and individuals have recovered quickly and completely.

### Updated Recommendations

NACI continues to strongly recommend two doses of the mRNA vaccine to all eligible individuals without contraindications, including those 12 years of age and older.

In light of these changes, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has implemented the following changes and recommendations:

- Informed consent for people receiving an mRNA vaccine should include the very rare risk of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following immunization.
- As a precaution, those who have experienced myocarditis and/or pericarditis previously should wait to get their second dose until more information is available.

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-services/articles/2021/07/21-covid-19-vaccine-myocarditis-pericarditis.html>

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## INDIGENOUS PRIORITIZATION FOR VACCINATION

In Phase I of the vaccine rollout, key populations were identified as priority groups to receive the vaccine first. Similarly, with third, or booster doses, specific groups have been prioritized. This is based on varying factors, such as risk for severe illness and death, as well as risk of transmission for those living and working in conditions that increase the chance getting or spreading COVID.

### Why a Priority Group?

### Indigenous Peoples

- Have higher rates of underlying medical conditions known to increase risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Experience greater mortality rates than overall Canadian population (when adjusting for population structure differences).

### Indigenous Communities

- Many live in multi-generational households, in which overcrowding leads to greater transmission of COVID.
- Many remote and isolate communities experience limited access to health care services, resulting in insufficient capacity to respond to severe COVID-19 impacts. As a result, the risk for severe outcomes including death and societal disruption is greater.
- Many communities were disproportionately impacted by past pandemics (i.e., 2009 H1N1).
- Many communities require special consideration of issues related to equity, feasibility, and acceptability.

### Indigenous Communities and Indigenous Peoples were Identified as One of the Priority Groups\*

Limited information was provided to the public as to why Indigenous communities and peoples were identified as a priority group, this has led to:

- Vaccine hesitancy in Indigenous people (based on historical experiences)
- Indigenous peoples facing ongoing racism

\* <https://www.ontario.ca/en/health-services/articles/2021/07/21-covid-19-vaccine-myocarditis-pericarditis.html>



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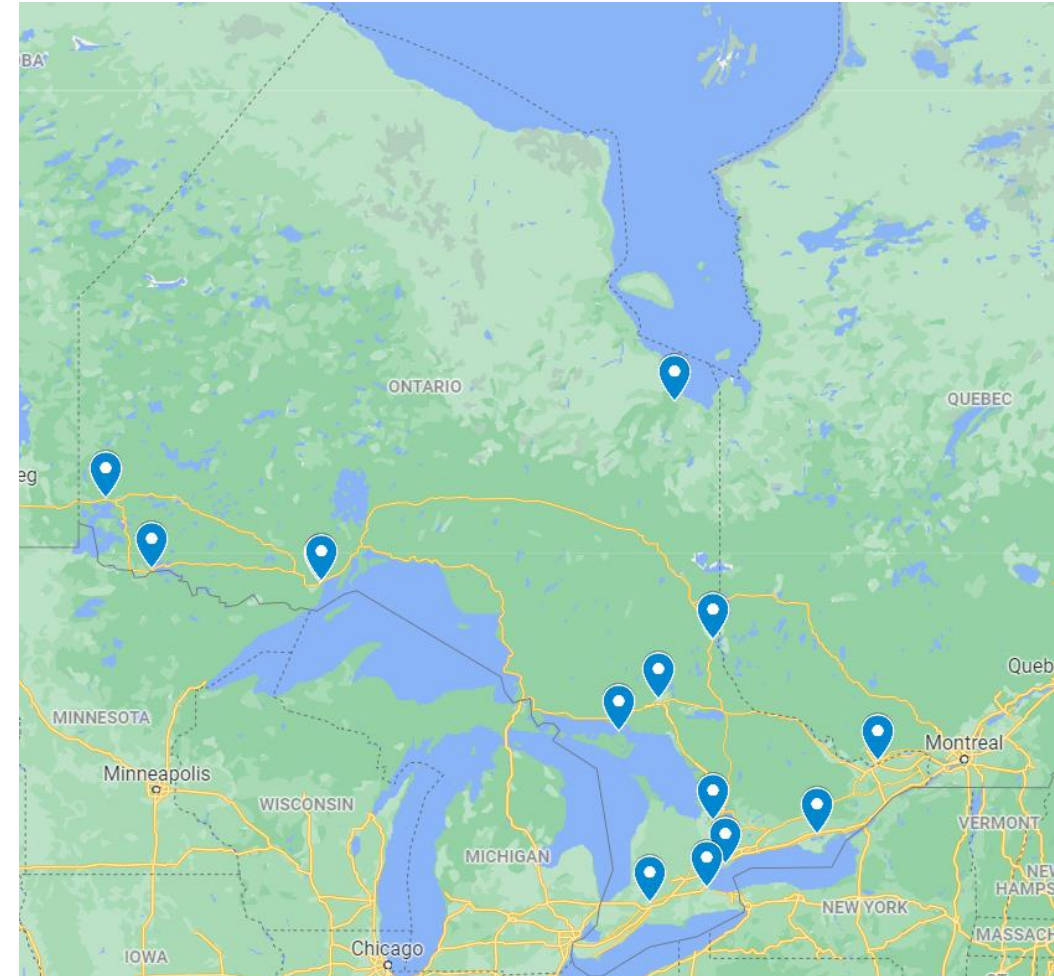
# MOBILE HEALTH UNITS

## Identified Purposes:

- Primary Care Community Based Clinics
- COVID testing and assessment
- Mental Health Counselling
- Traditional Healing and Cultural Supports

## Mobile Unit Guiding Document in development

- Will contain important information regarding the purchasing, storing and retrofitting of mobile health units



Map of Ontario with pinpoints showing where IPHCC membership mobile health units are located



# MOBILE HEALTH UNIT IMAGES (SKHC)



# Video Projects in Development

- Myth vs. Fact videos with IPHCC member site's health care providers (HCPs)
- Mobile Health Units (COVID-19 vaccination, Primary Care, etc.)
- Sharing COVID-19 vaccination decision-making journeys with youth, elders, parents for their children, vaccination during pregnancy, etc.
- Building vaccine confidence: "I chose to get my booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine because..."
- IPHCC Member site Clinic tour (Anishnawbe Mushkiki and Mino M'shki-ki)
- COVID-19 and food security





# COVID Myth Vs. Fact Video



# Indigenous Influencers Collaborations

IPHCC is partnering with Indigenous influencers to create vaccine confidence increasing TikTok videos for 2022-23

## Sean Morriseau (@nativepoolboy)

- Indigenous creator from Fort William First Nation
- 70k+TikTok Followers
- Graduate of National Screen Institute TikTok Accelerator for Indigenous Creators
- Contracted to create 2 TikTok videos sharing his vaccination decision-making journey, and increase vaccine confidence for the Booster Dose







## Indigenous Artwork and Photo Bank

(Artwork displayed developed by Lisa Boivin)





# "Living and Moving Forward with COVID-19" Toolkit Development

- **Components:**
  - **FAQ Sheet MHA**
    - Mental health and wellness resources and frequently asked questions
    - Culturally diverse and safe MHA resources being sourced
  - **Mental Health Resources**
  - **Safer Cleaning Infographic** (Displayed)
  - **Best Practices Video**
    - How to live life safely now that public health restrictions have relaxed





Meegwetch  
Miigwech  
Maarsii  
Nakurmiik  
Nia:wen!