



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21st, 2021

The AMC encouraged by COVID-19 second doses for First Nations beginning next week

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba – The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) issues this statement in response to today's announcement of COVID-19 second dose availability.

This morning, Dr. Marcia Anderson, First Nations Pandemic Response Coordination Team and Dr. Joss Reimer, medical lead, Vaccine Immunization Task Force announced that those First Nation citizens who received a first dose at least 21 or 28 days ago are now eligible to make second dose appointments starting on May 24, 2021.

AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas stated, “this is excellent and much needed positive news for all First Nations in Manitoba. This pandemic has been challenging, especially for First Nations citizens, both on and off of reserve. I cannot underestimate how strongly I encourage all citizens to book their next appointment and get fully vaccinated. I am proud of and encouraged by First Nations uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine thus far. There is a sense of community in how we work as a team. This is something all citizens should be proud of. Getting the vaccine is not only protecting yourself, but it is an act that honouring your loved ones.”

“I know we are all tired of being apart. We are tired of missing our traditional gatherings such as pow-wows, feasts and sundances. We are tired of missing out on seeing our friends and families each day. So, for anyone who is still hesitant about getting vaccinated, I encourage you to get vaccinated so we can all be together again. If you have questions, please reach out to get the information you require to feel informed about the COVID-19 vaccination. The AMC’s app and our website are daily updated with accurate and informed information. I encourage everyone to also visit the AMC official Facebook page and view our COVID-19 Facebook live updates for further information.”

Beginning Monday, May 24 at 11:45 a.m., First Nations citizens who have received their first dose of the vaccine can call toll-free 1-844-626-8222 (1-844-MAN-VACC) to book appointments at super sites, pop-up clinics or urban clinics. Daily hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. People can also book online at <https://protectmb.ca>.

“When I went for my first dose of the COVID-19, what I did not expect was the overwhelming sense of relief after receiving it. I look forward to booking my second vaccine immediately, and doing my part to protect our citizens,” concluded Grand Chief Dumas.

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For more information, please contact:

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About the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

The AMC was formed in 1988 by the Chiefs in Manitoba to advocate on issues that commonly affect First Nations in Manitoba. AMC is an authorized representative of 62 of the 63 First Nations in Manitoba with a total of more than 151,000 First Nation citizens in the province, accounting for approximately 12 percent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho / Ininew (Cree), Anishininew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.