COVID-19 TIMELINE

JUNE 2021

335
new cases the week of June 21.

21 The Government of Saskatchewan announces all public health measures will be lifted July 11, even though its own target of 70% vaccination rate to do so has not been met.

30 Premier Scott Moe says there will be no proof of vaccination requirement in Saskatchewan.

> **"We most certainly don't have the ability then to demand that people would show a proof of vaccination for whether or not they would attend any large event."**
>
> Sourced from Global News.

JULY 2021

8 The government holds final public weekly COVID-19 update, declares state of emergency to end.

11 All public health orders are removed; no restrictions in place. On Twitter, Premier Moe encourages everyone to "enjoy a great Saskatchewan summer." Education Sector Response Planning Team is disbanded, as its creation was tied to the public health orders.

AUGUST 2021

16 The STF Executive calls on the government to make vaccines mandatory for all eligible staff and students.

20 The government releases recommendations for schools, leaving all decisions on COVID-19 measures to local school divisions, and by extension schools, despite calls for more strict measures from the Saskatchewan Medical Association and Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians.

23 Minister Duncan defends the government's decision not to require masks, despite doctors' recommendations.

1,577
new cases the week of August 23.

25 Minister Merriman pushes back against restrictions, mandatory vaccines amid rising COVID-19 cases. He states mandating vaccines in any way would be an infringement of personal freedoms.

> **"I don't know why it has to be a government mandate, the individual should make the choice whether they want to be vaccinated or not ... if people don't want to be vaccinated, that's their choice."**
>
> Sourced from CTV Regina.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 5:
- 949 active cases in 0-19 years
- 16.2% positivity rate

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER 6-12:
- 1,217 active cases in 0-19 years
- 15% positivity rate

7 A number of school divisions implement mandatory masking within elementary and high schools.

8 Saskatchewan continues to have one of the lowest vaccination rates in the country, no remaining public health restrictions and climbing hospitalizations. Due to the current situation, doctors plead for changes as shared in a StarPhoenix article.

10 New measures put in place, requiring mandatory isolation for those testing positive for COVID-19. The Saskatchewan Health Authority announces reduction in non-critical and elective services.

3,388
new cases the week of September 13.

Premier Moe reiterates his position against a provincewide vaccine mandate, while developing a system that will help municipal governments and businesses impose their own.

SEPTEMBER 13-19:
- 1,517 active cases in 0-19 years
- 14.1% positivity rate

15 New Public Health Order announced making isolation mandatory for unvaccinated close contacts. Students are exempt for the purposes of attending school, including riding the bus.

New Public Health Order begins to make masking mandatory in indoor places across the province. Proof of vaccination required starting October 1.

- **147 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **78 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

The STF issues a public call for improved measures to protect children from COVID-19.

17 The SHA announces they have hit a critical point in the pandemic and must temporarily slow elective procedures across the province.

Sourced from CTV Regina.

STF local association presidents pass a unanimous motion for an immediate request for reinstatement of the Education Sector RPT.

Business Sector Response Planning Team reinstated.

20 STF formally requests reinstatement of Education Sector RPT. Two weeks later a response confirming receipt of request is received.

SEPTEMBER 20-26:
- 1,665 active cases in 0-19 years
- 14.3% positivity rate

- **198 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **104 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

22 The STF states that isolation exemption for schoolmates of COVID-19-positive students is "illogical."

Sourced from CBC.

- **229 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **117 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

23 Organ donations are suspended due to COVID-19 surge.

26
- **172 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **82 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3:
- 1,527 active cases in 0-19 years
- 15.1% positivity rate

28 Minister Merriman declines pandemic-related support from the federal government.

30 Public Health Order is amended, requiring students who are close contacts due to an exposure at home to isolate; students who are close contacts as a result of all other settings are still exempt.

OCTOBER 2021

3,399
new cases the week of October 4.

4 Positive cases in children and youth have increased 10 fold to 1,562 over 13 weeks, since July 5.

6 Saskatchewan continues to have some of the highest rates of cases and hospitalizations in Canada.

OCTOBER 4-10:
- 1,603 active cases in 0-19 years
- 17.4% positivity rate

8 ICU Dr. Hassan Masri informs the public that 200 surgeries per day have been and continue to be cancelled across Saskatchewan.

Sourced from CBC.

10
- **159 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **70 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

11
- **80 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

14
- **100 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

18 Wastewater tests show a Thanksgiving weekend surge: 109% in Saskatoon; 61% in Prince Albert; and 124% in North Battleford.

Sourced from StarPhoenix.

1,920
new cases the week of October 18.

Government announced six Saskatchewan ICU patients were being sent to Ontario for care.

19 It was revealed that the government asked for COVID-19 assistance from a number of US states before making a formal request to the federal government. The US states denied any support.

Sourced from CBC.

20 Dr. Shahab says 23% of transmission in children and youth is happening in schools.

Sourced from LeaderPost.

21 17 children aged 0-17 hospitalized week of October 11, as stated at SHA Physician Townhall.

Saskatchewan Medical Association addresses the transfer of ICU patients to Ontario; emphasizing the need for reintroducing gathering limits across the province.

Sourced from CBC.

Canadian Medical Association said, "it is time to stop asking nicely" when calling on the government to adopt more preventative measures.

Sourced from CBC.

22 Dr. Shahab says the government needs to expand list of settings where measures apply.

Sourced from CBC.

Federal government announces support from military and red cross

23
- **147 SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE CASES**
- **72 SCHOOLS WITH OUTBREAKS**

25 Moe says, "What we are doing is working" during his State of the Province at the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce lunch event.

Medical health officers of Saskatchewan publicly share letter sent to the health minister asking for additional restrictions,including proof of vaccination for all eligible and no negative test results, all eligible household members of those students not eligible.

Sourced from MHO statement.