



## **First Nations Identification for the Purpose of Booking AstraZeneca/ Covishield Vaccination**

### **Background**

In Manitoba, there was strong First Nations leadership in determining the need for collection of First Nations-specific COVID-19 information. This has provided evidence for and enabled First Nations specific responses. There are currently 2 active processes where people are provided the opportunity to self-identify as First Nations.

### **First Nations Self-Identification During Case Investigations**

First Nations identity is collected during the case investigation process once someone has tested positive for COVID-19. The following questions were developed in collaboration with the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM). Use of the data generated based on this identification collection is governed by an Information Sharing Agreement between FNHSSM and the Government of Manitoba.

### ***Script Questions:***

1. Do you identify yourself as First Nation?
2. Are you Status First Nation or Non-Status First Nation?

*Answer is recorded in PHIMS based on this self-identification.*

### **First Nations Self-Identification for Vaccine Booking Through Call Centre**

The position of the First Nations members of the task force with the support of the organizations they represent, is that self-identification as First Nations is the preferred method of identification without requiring a Status/ Treaty card as proof. The members of the First Nations Vaccine Task Force worked with the Manitoba Vaccine Task Force members to develop a process for First Nations people to identify themselves for the purposes of accessing the vaccine. This is necessary so that the appropriate age eligibility criteria can be applied for First Nations people, which is 20 years younger than the general population. These bookings are done through the same Call Centre number. A smaller team within the Call Centre has received extra training on asking these questions in a respectful, culturally safe way.

***Script Questions:***

1. Do you/ the person you're booking for self-identify as First Nations?
2. Do you/ the person you're booking for have a Treaty/ Status Card Number?
3. Do you/ the person you're booking for have a physical copy or photo of the Treaty/ Status Card that could be brought to the clinic? An expired card is also acceptable.

**For Physicians Offices/ Pharmacies**

For the AstraZeneca/ Covishield vaccine First Nations people aged 30 and over who have a health condition on the priority list are eligible. Some physicians or pharmacists may be aware of the First Nations identity of patients through previous interactions or if a Status Card Number has been provided for the purposes of Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) coverage.

In other situations where the identity of the potentially eligible person is not known, the physician or pharmacist may need to provide the person the opportunity to self-identify, or a person may call in and identify themselves as First Nations and inquire about the vaccine.

***If you need to inquire about First Nations identity, please use the following question:***

1. Do you/ the person you're booking for self-identify as First Nations?

If the person responds yes, then please apply the appropriate age eligibility (30 years and over) in assessing the eligibility for the vaccine.

***If someone call and self-identifies as a First Nations person and inquires about the vaccine:***

Please apply the appropriate age eligibility (30 years and over) in assessing the eligibility for the vaccine. The same priority list of health conditions applies for First Nations people.

***You do not need to verify or ask the patient to provide documentation or otherwise prove their First Nations identity.***

If you are concerned about inquiring about a person's identity, you may find reviewing the training materials that were developed for the purposes of collecting Racial/ Ethnic/ Indigenous identifiers helpful. The training materials include a video and script. Within the script are frequently asked questions with answers that may be useful for your learning. The training materials are available at this link: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/public-health-resources>.