

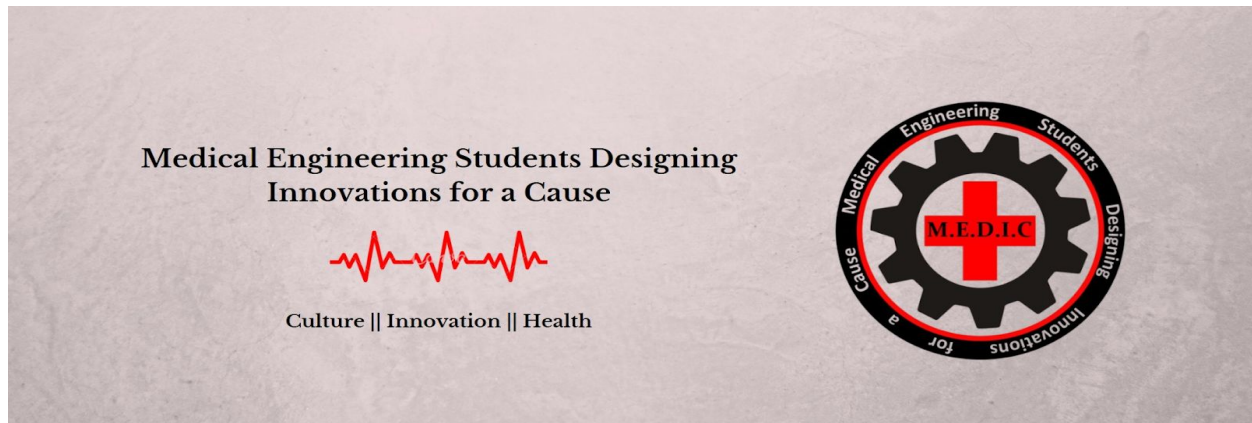


Medical Engineering Students Designing Innovations for a Cause

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COVID-19... in 2021

What's the latest on the pandemic this year?



by [Hunter Lang](#) on February 28, 2021

Welcome to the February issue of our monthly newsletter! This month's issue will be focused primarily on what's been going on with COVID-19 in Canada so far during 2021. Although the US has faced severe impacts from COVID-19 including very high infection/death rates. The country's vaccination rollout during the new year has been significantly efficient and effective from what we've seen so far. So why is Canada's vaccine rollout so much slower in comparison?

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing reading break! Please remember to take care of yourselves, stay home when you can, wash your hands, and respect your local health guidelines!

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



COVID-19 vaccine rollout lag in Canada.

Summary by [Hunter Lang](#) on February 28, 2021

Canada's vaccine rollout has been backlogged due to weeks worth of shipping delays and interferences with Pfizer-BioNTECH and Moderna. The two biotech companies have been the source of 1.4 million COVID-19 vaccine doses since their distributions began in mid-December 2020.

The difference between the US vaccine rollout compared to Canada's is that US pharmacies are already playing a crucial role in the ease and efficiency in vaccine administration, whereas Canada is not yet at that stage and Canadian pharmacies have yet to receive significant numbers of vaccine doses. Canada's vaccine rollout also heavily focuses on 'equity', ensuring that high-risk populations and demographics are able to receive COVID-19 vaccines as a first priority and preventing 'queue-jumping'. The US rollout is not as 'equity'-focused as Canada.

Although Canada's vaccine rollout has been slow and lagging from the intended 'schedule'. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has indicated that Canada's COVID-19 vaccine distribution

and administration should be getting 'back on track' in the coming weeks. Supposedly an approximate of 1.5 million doses will be distributed in the next 3 weeks.

Reference Link:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/us-canada-vaccine-rollout-comparison-1.5922402>



U of M Indigenous COVID-19 app.

Summary by **Hunter Lang** on February 28, 2021

Researchers from the University of Manitoba have recently launched an Indigenous COVID-19 mobile application that is available on both IOS and Android. The app was developed with the goal of collecting concrete data from Indigenous stakeholders which assists local Manitoba community leaders and health directors to effectively aid Indigenous communities during the pandemic.

The collection of raw data is via the method of a questionnaire implemented into the app that emphasizes the impacts felt by COVID-19. Indigenous peoples from remote communities without access to cell towers and internet connection will be provided with the appropriate tools and mobile devices that will allow them to use the app.

What's special about this app is that nobody outside of a given community will have access to the data released by the app questionnaire without that community's permission. The development of the application was part of a larger research initiative called

Kitatipithitamak Mithwayawin, which relatively translates from Cree to “hold ownership and control over the health and well-being of our own” in English. Not only is this app a step forward in providing Indigenous communities with data sovereignty, it also promotes Indigenous health and wellness, and creates a platform for Indigenous voices heard and supported.

Reference link:

<http://www.themanitoban.com/2021/02/u-of-m-researchers-launch-indigenous-covid-19-app/41544/>

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Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and supporting our initiative! Have a great rest of the week and don't forget to tune into next month's issue!

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Located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hə́nqəmíńəmí-speaking xʷməθ kʷəy̓əm people, also known as Vancouver, BC.

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