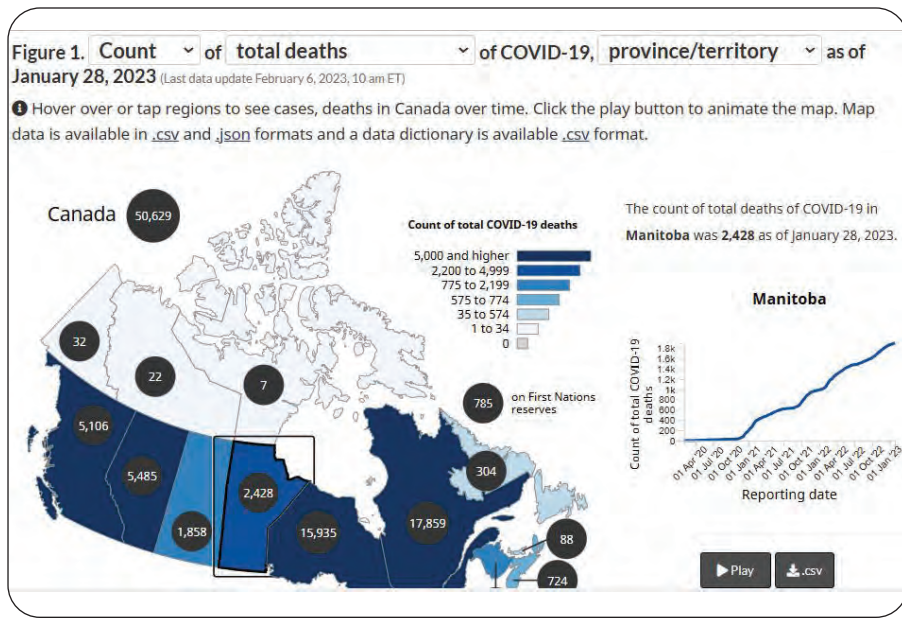


Manitoba's COVID hospitalizations rise significantly



COVID were reported globally over the past 28 days (Jan. 9 -Feb. 5), as well as over 90,000 new deaths from the virus. -The WHO had declared at the end of January that COVID still constitutes a

worldwide public health emergency and that surveillance by countries has dropped off, making it difficult to get a full picture of the virus' evolution.

Community generosity



MNU asks public to vote for health care

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba hospitalizations for COVID significantly increased around the beginning of this month, according to the provincial government's respiratory surveillance report for the period Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 (reporting Week 5).

Fifty-three people were hospitalized, with 10 people needing treatment in the intensive care unit. The previous week's report showed 11 hospitalizations with two people admitted to the ICU.

Eleven more Manitobans died from COVID in Week 5. There were 10 deaths reported the previous week, and 15 deaths reported the week before that.

There were 65 new cases of COVID detected by PCR testing in Week 5, a slight increase from the 62 new cases reported the previous week. Provincial data are an undercount of the real number of infections as the province restricts access to PCR testing and rapid antigen tests aren't tracked.

Wastewater surveillance data for COVID for Winnipeg and Brandon to the end of January show sustained activity.

The provincial government no longer provides in its surveillance reports the names of personal care homes and hospitals experiencing COVID outbreaks.

Manitoba's COVID death toll was 2,428 as of Jan. 28, according to the federal government's COVID webpage, and Canada's death toll now stands at 50,629.

The Week 5 report shows no new cases, hospitalizations and deaths from influenza, but there were 75

new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases reported, down one case from the 76 reported the week before.

Other health news:

-Manitoba Nurses Union launched a new campaign last week that aims to raise public awareness of the "extremely fractured" health-care system and exhort people to vote this year with health-care in mind.

The union's campaign, called out-RAGEous, comes after more than three years of COVID plus other respiratory viruses overwhelming hospitals. Nurses are upset about the failing health system, being unable to provide safe levels of care, working extreme overtime and watching an exodus of their colleagues from the profession.

"At this point we are living in a world that is flooded with apathy and a health care system that cannot even keep its head above water," said the union in a Feb. 6 statement. "If it weren't for agency [nurses] and overtime, this system would have collapsed."

Taking a shot at "smooth-talking politicians" with "empty promises" and "big announcements," the union says the health-care system is broken and exhorts the public to "vote like your life depends on it" in the upcoming provincial election. The issue is not only a nurses' issue, but a Manitoba issue and "sitting back and watching our system crumble is completely unacceptable."

-The World Health Organization's latest epidemiological update says almost 10.5 million new cases of

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On Feb. 6, the Carman Collegiate Robotics Club received a cheque from the Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce for \$1,000 to help with costs for the upcoming Manitoba Robot Games. The Game are being held in Winnipeg on March 18 at Tec Voc High School.

Pictured, front Row, left to right, Clark S., Evan H., Caleb M. Mason, A.; back row, Marshall F., Mr. Jamieson, Sam P., Griffin C., Mackenzie D., Vaughn P., Marni Harrison (President of the Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce)

"Between the hardware, workshop, entrance fees, our costs are over \$900 at this point," said Robotics teacher JP Jameson. "We have raised the money we need to get the team off the ground thanks to the generosity of the Chamber and the businesses that pitched in."

Team co-captain Lana (not pictured) said, "After our first presentation to the Chamber of Commerce, the response from interested people in the community was awesome." Co-captain Sam added, "When the Chamber of Commerce gave us the cheque, I felt happy and excited. Now we can attend the Manitoba Robot Games."

Thank you to the sponsors that have made a contribution through the Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce: TRS Truck Shop, Remax Valleyview Realty - Trish Middleton, Richardson Pioneer, Webmarkers, Syl's, Valley Fiber, Royal LePage Legacy Realty, Carman Golf and Curling Club, Peace Lily Therapeutics, Higher Ground Consulting, Walinga and PFK Law Office.