

ISC Alberta Region Update for Chiefs

May 20, 2022

COVID Information

Preventing spread and serious outcomes

Vaccines are the best line of defense against COVID-19. Since April 12th First Nations, Métis and Inuit people aged 65 and older have been able to receive fourth doses of vaccine. Individuals are encouraged to get any vaccine dose that they are eligible for, whether it be first, second, third or fourth to protect themselves and their communities.

As of May 4th, family physicians and community providers are able to prescribe Paxlovid (a COVID treatment) to those who are eligible, including Indigenous people aged 50 and older, who have 2 doses or less of vaccine and at least one pre-existing condition. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Masking is still required in Alberta Health Services (AHS)-operated and contracted acute care facilities, all continuing care settings, and on municipal and intra-provincial public transit for Albertans aged 13 and older. Masking requirements continue to be recommended in all health centres located in First Nation communities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

If you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, you are required to isolate at home and away from others. For those who have **two or more doses of vaccine**, this is for a **minimum of five days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer**. For those with **one or no doses of vaccine**, the requirement is for **10 days or until symptoms resolve**. If you feel sick, even if you test negative, please stay home and away from others until you are feeling better. This means not going to work, school, or any other activities outside the home.

An update from Indigenous Services Canada on Budget 2022

Public Health Funding Update

ISC has received confirmation from Finance Canada that the \$268 million designated for public health care proposed in Budget 2022 will continue to support COVID public health measures in First Nations communities on reserve. ISC-FNIHB will adopt a triaged, targeted, and needs based approach, which reflects the changing pandemic situation. The region will prioritize requests on a case-by-case basis, and will support requests demonstrating immediate needs including; any new COVID-19 outbreaks, continued vaccination and testing, and addressing urgent medical needs. Any health surge health infrastructure requests continue to require the review and support of CIAD (Headquarters). Funding support will be moving to a shorter term duration (30 days), unless there is demonstrated case for support of a longer duration. Further details on eligibility criteria will be communicated as soon as they are finalized.

Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) Update

Budget 2022 also announced \$190.5M in new funding for the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF). Funding is available nationally for ICSF requests for the April 1–May 21, 2022 timeframe for a maximum period of 60 days. Nations will be asked to ensure that any carry-over of ICSF4 funding has been exhausted, prior to requesting funds for April 1st forward. Priority will be given to eligible activities that support the continuity of existing supports and urgent needs in response to COVID-19. A demonstrable link to COVID-19 must be present. Now that the federal budget for 2022 has been announced, details on any further funding and program implementation is expected in the coming weeks.

ISC Alberta's Covid Funding team will continue to coordinate a joint approach to reviewing and processing requests. For further information, please contact the cd inbox or your identified CLT.

Question of the Day

I've been seeing news stories about a severe acute hepatitis that is showing up in children. What does my community need to know?

At present, we are still learning about what is causing this hepatitis (disease of the liver) in children. We are in the early days of working to gather information. As of today, there have been two possible cases reported in Alberta youth under the age of 16. One individual has been treated, discharged from hospital and is doing well, while the other remains in hospital undergoing treatment.

Alberta has been working closely with federal, provincial and territorial partners to monitor emerging information. Late last week, Alberta shared information with healthcare providers, if they suspect their pediatric patients may have this hepatitis, on what to look for, and how to report. Right now, possible cases include any child with severe liver inflammation for whom a cause is not found. But, there are many causes of hepatitis, and it can take time to investigate to determine if there is a known cause. A case may initially present in one of these possible unknown cause categories, but after further investigation or testing, a cause may be found.

These two possible cases in Alberta do not necessarily mean there is an elevated risk in the community, or that parents should take different steps if their children are sick. If parents have concerns about their child for any reason, they should seek care for them as they typically would.

If these hepatitis cases turn out to be caused by an infection, precautions like regular hand-washing and staying away from anyone who is ill will be helpful.

These precautions are also important to take for other reasons, such as COVID and influenza.

Links and Resources

Communications resources for community health and safety - Digital Toolkit

For ease of use the vaccine toolkit is now available on a new web page called **[Community resources for community health and safety.](#)**

Wastewater Monitoring

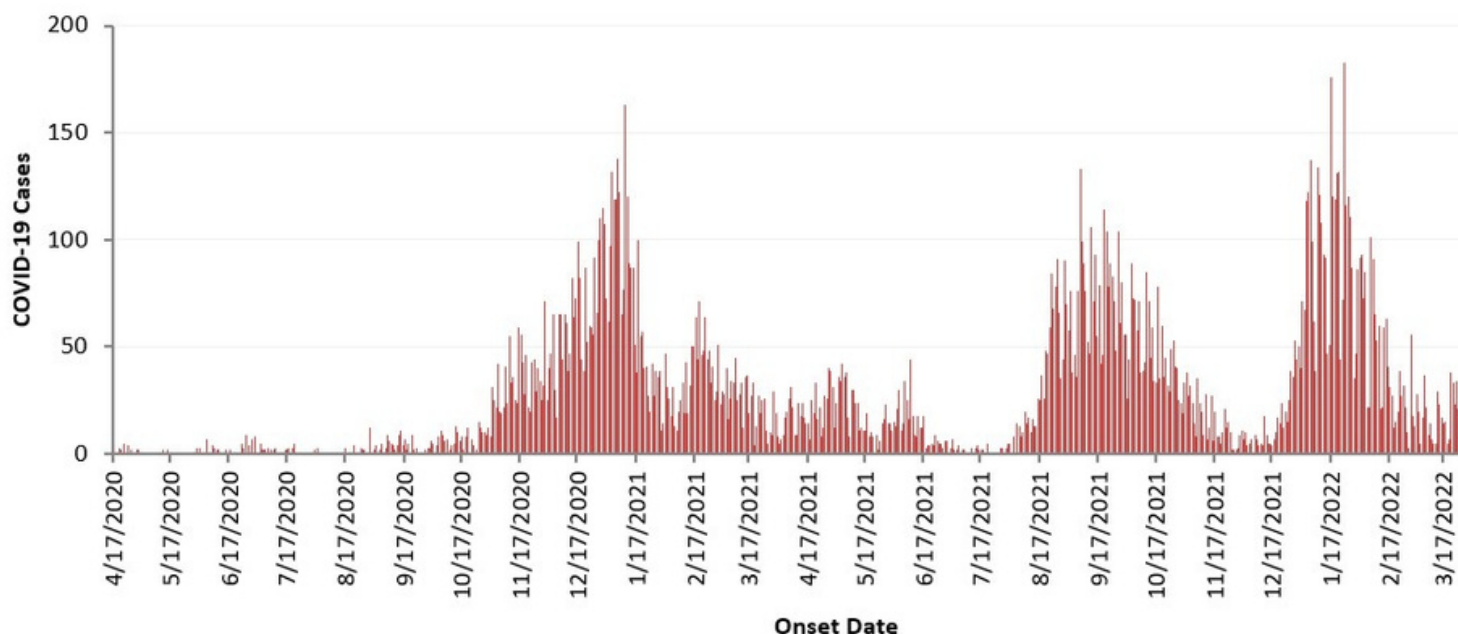
If you like to observe current trends in wastewater data, please click **[here.](#)**

Travel Requirements - Know before you go

While many COVID-19 measures have been relaxed within our communities, there are still requirements in place for travel within Canada and outside of Canada. For the most current information, please click **[here.](#)**

COVID-19 Epidemiological Data

Confirmed* COVID-19 Cases by Day of Onset of Symptoms in First Nations Communities in Alberta, May 17, 2022



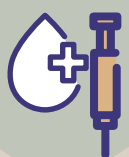
*Excludes cases confirmed at home using take-home COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test Devices

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in First Nations Communities in Alberta, May 17, 2022

| Treaty Area | Total Cases | Hospitalizations Ever (includes incidental hospitalizations) | ICU* (includes incidental ICU admissions) | Currently in Hospital (includes incidental hospitalization) | Deaths (includes incidental deaths) |
|-------------|-------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Total | 20,158 | 1,029 | 246 | 14 | 184 |
| Treaty 6 | 9,101 | 421 | 95 | 4 | 73 |
| Treaty 7 | 5,671 | 328 | 89 | 5 | 70 |
| Treaty 8 | 5,386 | 280 | 62 | 5 | 41 |
| Alberta | 578,291 | 26,186 | 42 | 1,165 | 4,452 |

*Each ICU admission is also included in the total number of hospitalizations

VACCINE SNAPSHOT



123,087 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.

At least **54.0%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

At least **6.3%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **four doses** of the vaccine.

At least **18.9%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

At least **87.9%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.

Additional Updates

Government of Canada

Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) is a two-year, \$500 million national infrastructure program at Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) to revitalize communities across Canada. Not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other public institutions, and Indigenous communities can apply for funding for projects that aim to:

- revitalize downtown cores and main streets
- reinvent outdoor spaces
- create green infrastructure
- increase the accessibility of community spaces

Indigenous applicants to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) may request additional time to submit applications, taking into account that the CCRF is a time-limited initiative ending March 31, 2023. For more information, Indigenous applicants are asked to contact their respective Regional Development Agency as early as possible prior to July 23, 2021. Click [here](#) to learn more.

10 Projects Approved under the Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund

Many Canadians struggle with mental health issues, but certain people in Canada face disproportionate challenges when it comes to mental health because of racism, discrimination, socio-economic status or social exclusion. During Mental Health Week, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, announced an investment of \$12.2 million for **10 projects** across Canada to promote mental health and wellbeing in our communities. It also supports the development and implementation of culturally focused mental health programs for the mental health of refugees and new Canadians, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, 2SLGBTQI+ and youth and families.

Funding announced to address health and social inequities in Alberta

Health inequities are the systematic, unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes. Health inequities have long existed in Canada, but have been even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic disproportionately affected the mental and physical wellbeing of many groups in society, including Indigenous peoples, Black and racialized communities, as well as people from lower income households, children, youth, and seniors. On May 12th, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced an investment of more than \$635,000 through the new [Intersectoral Action Fund \(ISAF\)](#) for three Alberta-based organizations to address the complex public health challenges that affect people's health and wellbeing and how health is experienced by certain groups of people. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Government of Alberta

Alberta is investing in higher learning in northeastern Alberta

As part of the Alberta at Work initiative, the targeted enrolment expansion program invests in new seats in high-demand programs. In northeastern Alberta, an investment in seven programs will support more than 400 new seats over three years at three post-secondary institutions: Keyano College, Lakeland College, and Portage College. The programs include health care aide training, practical nursing and animal health technology. Click [here](#) to learn more.