

ISC Alberta Region Update for Chiefs

July 15, 2022

Papal Visit

Indigenous Services Canada support

His Holiness Pope Francis is preparing to visit Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022, to advance reconciliation between the Roman Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples. This visit is being organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in consultation with Indigenous partners.

The Government of Canada is providing support to First Nation, Inuit, and Métis, urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations and communities for community-led initiatives related to the July 2022 papal visit and the legacy of residential schools—such as healing activities, events, ceremonies and travel for Survivors.

More **information on the Government of Canada's support** for Indigenous governments, communities and organizations during the papal visit can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/papalvisit> or by contacting your local First Nations & Inuit Health Branch Regional Office regional office (or First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia).

For more information on the papal visit, including the itinerary and registration for in-person events in Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut, visit <https://www.papalvisit.ca>.

COVID Information

Variants of concern in Alberta

A seventh wave has been declared in Ontario by its Chief Medical Officer of Health. There have been stories in the media speculating on whether Alberta has entered a seventh wave, fueled by the BA.5 variant.

In Alberta, Alberta Health is actively monitoring variants of concern through laboratory PCR testing and wastewater surveillance. BA.5 is now the dominant strain in Alberta and is the same strain that is responsible for rapid increase in COVID cases in Ontario. Currently there is no evidence that BA.5 or BA.4 cause more severe disease in those infected compared to earlier Omicron sub-lineages such as BA.2. However, BA.5 and BA.4 appear to transmit more readily due to their ability to evade a person's immunity gained from immunization or prior infection. To reduce your risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19, it is important to receive as many COVID-19 vaccines including booster doses that you qualify for as soon as possible. Alberta Health has not yet provided details on the next round of boosters, however they may come as early as August and they will be critical as we move into the Fall.

Alberta updates COVID-19 PCR testing program

There are no changes to testing in First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. However, beginning July 18, several eligibility and operational changes to the PCR testing program off reserve will come into effect. Tests to inform clinical treatment will need a referral from a medical professional and some testing locations will change. Alberta will continue to provide PCR COVID-19 testing for Albertans most at risk of severe illness and who live or work in high-risk settings. Eligible Albertans who live or work in high-risk settings can continue to self-refer through the AHS assessment tool. This includes:

- People with symptoms who live or work in isolated and remote First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities.
- Health-care and continuing care workers and workers in specific high-transmission risk settings such as correctional facilities and shelters.

Individuals living or working in isolated and remote First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities will continue to access testing in their community. To learn more, please click [here](#).

COVID and Health Information continued

Rapid tests available from Alberta Health

Alberta Health is making a summer offering of COVID-19 rapid tests to communities.

To make a request, please email Alberta Health at rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca with the amount of tests required. Orders will be processed and shipped as they are received. Reporting on usage to Alberta Health is not required.

Even if they aren't needed this summer, communities can still request rapid tests from Alberta Health at rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca at a later time and, rapid tests remain available [via pharmacies](#) for at-home testing.

Monkeypox in Alberta

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with Monkeypox virus. The virus is related to the smallpox virus, but typically causes less serious disease. Starting in May 2022, monkeypox cases are being identified in countries where it is not typically found. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has now [confirmed cases in Canada](#), including Alberta, but the risk to the general public is considered low.

- For information on the number of cases in Alberta, as well as other jurisdictions in Canada, please visit: [Monkeypox: Outbreak update - Canada.ca](#)
- To see the latest information from the province of Alberta on Monkeypox, including symptoms, prevention and treatment, please visit: [Monkeypox virus | Alberta.ca](#)
- To listen to the July 7, 2022 telehealth session, Monkeypox in Alberta, please click [here](#).

Blue Green Algae

As the summer (and heat) progresses we are likely to see Blue Green Algae advisories being issued. When this happens, advisories are forwarded directly to the respective communities by their Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHOs). For more information, please visit [Blue Green Algae Health Advisories | Alberta Health Services](#).

Question of the Day

I've had COVID-19 and my symptoms aren't going away. Are there any resources that I can use to help me manage?

If you have had COVID-19 and have symptoms that last longer than four weeks, there are options to help you manage your symptoms. Here are some of the most common self-management resources.

Self-Management Resources

- AHS site [“Getting Healthy after COVID-19: Resources for Patients”](#)
 - List of resources
 - Patient videos
- Patient self-management resources
 - Available on [MyHealth.Alberta.ca](#)
 - Translated into 11 languages
- Health Link (811) and Addiction & Mental Health Help
- Frequently Asked Questions (translated)
- Alberta Healthy Living Programs' webinar series for patients
- Together4Health



SCAN ME

Phone Numbers

- 911 for severe or emergent symptoms
- 811 (Health Link) to assess your symptoms and determine if you need to be seen urgently
- Rehab Advice Line 1-833-379-0563 for post COVID recovery help for symptoms that last longer than four weeks
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642

For more information and additional resources, please go to the Alberta Health Services patient website:

[COVID-19 Getting Healthy After COVID-19: Resources for Patients](#)

If you have any questions, please speak to your healthcare provider.

Links and Resources

Recording of June 9, 2022 COVID-19 MOH Update Telehealth Session – Click [here](#)

Recovering from COVID-19 Resources

- **Poster - If You Have Had COVID-19: Long COVID**
- **Long COVID FAQs for Patients**
- **COVID-19 Getting Healthy After COVID-19**

Wastewater Monitoring

If you would like to observe current trends in wastewater data, please click [here](#). To view wastewater data from the University of Calgary, click [here](#).

Communication resources for community health and safety – Digital toolkit – Update

For ease of use, the vaccine toolkit is now available on a web page called:

Communication resources for community health and safety.

We want to draw your attention to the following new resources:

- **Infographic on post COVID-19 condition**
- **Social media posts on post COVID-19 condition**
- **Link to updated information on travel (Transport Canada)**
- **Link to updated infographic on facts about COVID-19 vaccines (Public Health Agency of Canada)**
- **Link to a toolkit for health care providers (Public Health Agency of Canada)**
- **Updated infographic on public events and activities (previously named “Spring is here”)**

Important Dates - ISC Programs

First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (FNECP) – Call for Proposals for 2023-24

The Environmental Public Health Division of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at Indigenous Services Canada has officially launched the **First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (FNECP) Call for Proposals for the 2023-24 fiscal year**. FNECP's annual Call for Proposals aims to support First Nations working in collaboration with scientists to identify, investigate and characterize environmental hazards with potential for human health impacts. The program supports community-based monitoring, research, risk communication and knowledge integration.

Should your community and/or organization have an interest in conducting community-based environmental health research that investigates environmental contaminants linked to human health in your traditional territories, please connect with us at fnecp-plcepn@sac-isc.gc.ca, or visit the FNECP webpage: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1583779185601/1583779243216> to learn more.

The FNECP submission deadline for proposals is **October 21, 2022**.

Call for Applications: Climate Change and Health Adaptation 2023-24

The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP) for First Nations South of 60°N at Indigenous Services Canada is launching a Call for Applications for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This funding is available for First Nation communities south of 60°N for community designed and driven projects focused on adapting to the health impacts of climate change. Please read the **Funding Application Guide** for more information about funding eligibility.

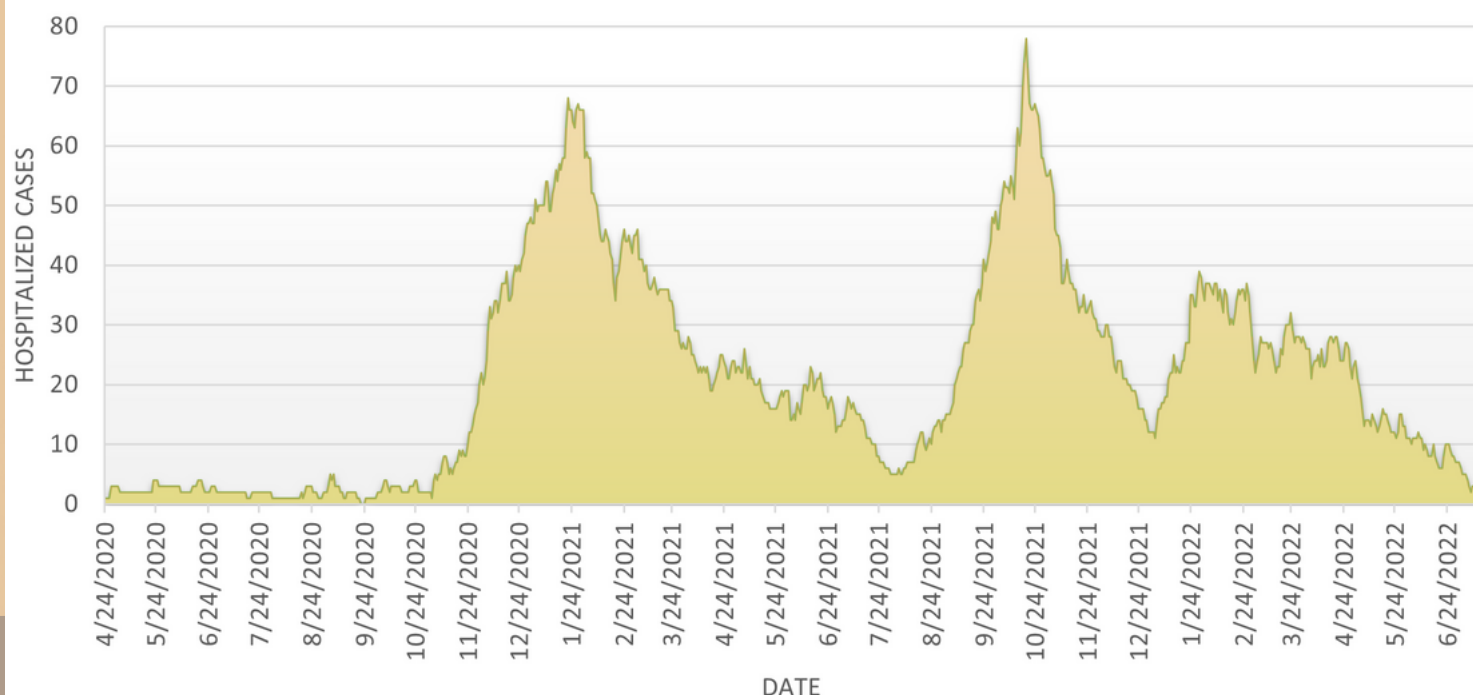
Similar to last year, you will be asked to submit an abstract, and if your abstract is selected you will then be invited to submit a full proposal at a later date. The deadline for submitting abstracts to the CCHAP team is **September 23, 2022**.

Please submit all questions and final abstracts to our general inbox: sac.cchap-pccas.isc@sac-isc.gc.ca. For more information on the program please visit: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1536238477403/1536780059794> For more information on previously funded projects or to download the application documents, please visit: www.climatetelling.info

The CCHAP team is available any time for questions or clarity on eligibility, what can be funded, and for review of draft abstracts. Please reach out through the CCHAP general inbox and a program officers will be in touch with you.

COVID-19 Epidemiological Data

Number of Current COVID-19 Cases from First Nations Communities in Hospital



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in First Nations Communities in Alberta, July 13, 2022

Treaty Area	Total Cases	Hospitalizations Ever (includes incidental hospitalizations)	ICU* (includes incidental ICU admissions)	Currently in Hospital (includes incidental hospitalization)	Deaths
Total (First Nations Communities)	20,350	1,052	249	1	176
Treaty 6	9,170	429	97	1	70
Treaty 7	5,753	337	90	0	64
Treaty 8	5,427	286	62	0	42
Alberta^	591,083	27,914	4,134	552	4,632

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

^Data are up-to-date as of end of day July 11, 2022

VACCINE SNAPSHOT



124,770 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.

At least **54.8%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

At least **8.5%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **four doses** of the vaccine.

At least **19.6%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

At least **88.6%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.

Additional Updates

Government of Canada

Final settlement agreement on compensation signed for First Nations children and families

On July 4, Canada, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and the plaintiffs in the Moushoom and Trout class actions announced that a final settlement agreement has been signed, regarding compensation for First Nations children and families harmed by discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. The agreement ensures fair compensation for survivors and their families who suffered because of the discriminatory underfunding of services. The next step is to bring the final settlement agreement to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal asking for the Tribunal's confirmation that the settlement satisfies its orders on compensation. The final settlement agreement will then be brought to the Federal Court of Canada for approval. If approved, the process to implement the settlement will begin. To read more, click [here](#).

Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA)

IPETCA was endorsed on June 23 and is the first trade arrangement of its kind to recognize and support Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs on a global scale. It helps to ensure that Indigenous Peoples in Canada have access to all the benefits and opportunities that flow from international trade and investment. To learn more, click [here](#).

Government of Alberta

Capital grants for Indigenous community-owned businesses

As of June 30, Indigenous community-owned businesses can apply for capital grants through the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF). Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$500,000 in capital funding for ventures that improve socio-economic outcomes for their communities. Eligible projects should be close to starting operations or breaking ground within the fiscal year following funding. To learn more, please click [here](#).

Applications Open – Civil Society Fund

All sectors and sizes of organizations can now apply for grants up to \$500,000 through the third round of the Civil Society Fund to help address challenges Albertans are facing in the wake of the pandemic, including homelessness, unemployment, domestic violence and sexual violence. Funding is intended to help civil society transform how community organizations function, innovate and work together to address pressing social challenges. Eligible applicants include registered non-profit organizations (including post-secondary institutions), First Nations and Metis Settlements. Click [here](#), for further information.

