

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: April 28, 2022



Half of Canadians have caught COVID-19

Recent data indicates that almost half of Canadians may have caught COVID-19. The BA.2 variant (a sub-variant of Omicron) continues to be the dominant strain in Alberta and wastewater surveillance data shows signs of rising transmission of COVID-19 in some urban areas. The BA.2 sub-variant is highly transmissible and hospitalizations continue to be very high. While we have seen, in the omicron waves, a higher number of symptomatic infections among individuals who have had two doses, we have seen that vaccinations have been successful in reducing the risks of severe outcomes (i.e. hospitalizations, ICU admissions and death) when compared to those who have not been immunized. **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.**

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.

Current Isolation Requirements in Alberta

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.

Health Canada authorizes Evusheld for the prevention of COVID-19 in immune compromised adults and children

Evusheld is an option for people who are immunocompromised and whose immune system is unable to respond adequately to COVID-19 vaccination as well as for people for whom vaccination is not recommended. In fact, it's the first drug being used to prevent COVID-19 in people 12 years of age or older who weigh at least 40 kg with such conditions. Recipients should not currently be infected with COVID-19 and have not had recent known contact with someone infected with COVID-19. Roll-out details are still to be determined. More details on how and where Evusheld will be available in Alberta will be shared when we know more. In the mean time, click [here](#) to learn more about Evusheld.

Question of the day

Q:How are wastewater data and hospitalization numbers being used to track COVID-19 cases?

Wastewater data gives us information on the presence of COVID-19 in specific geographic locations. Looking at this data can tell us which communities are current hotspots, if cases have peaked or if there are very few cases. For locations that have been monitored for a longer period of time, the data also allows us to compare the amount of spread from one wave to another. Looking at wastewater data can inform decisions about whether or not to travel or to hold or attend large events.

Another valuable indicator of the level of COVID in the province is the number of hospitalizations. However, one must keep in mind that an increase in hospitalizations will occur after an increase in cases is well underway, because it is a lagging indicator. Hospitalizations also help us to understand the frequency of severe outcomes.

Alberta Cases: as of April 27th , 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (March 28 - 578 new cases)	565,052
AB Deaths due to COVID-19	4,252
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	20,029
On-reserve Recovered Cases	19,633
On-Reserve Active Cases	212
On-reserve deaths due to COVID-19	180
Calgary Zone Total Confirmed Cases	227,595
Central Zone Total Confirmed Cases	57,634
Edmonton Zone Total Confirmed Cases	181,061
North Zone Total Confirmed Cases	61,781
South Zone Total Confirmed Cases	36,761
Unknown Confirmed	220
Omicron Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	100,963

Funding Opportunity

Deadline Extended to May 9th – Water and Wastewater Operators Call for Proposals

This call for proposals may provide recipients with up to \$500,000 in funding to support new or expanded capacity building initiatives for enhancing retention, recruitment and availability of water and wastewater operators working on reserve. Proposals delivered or offered by First Nations communities, First Nations organization or in partnership with First Nations peoples will be prioritized. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Alberta Snapshot



More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Useful Links

Communication resources for community health and safety – Digital toolkit – April update

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

[New social media posts on respecting personal choice](#)

[New radio script on respecting personal choice](#)

[Poster: Facts about COVID-19 vaccines for kids](#)

[Video: Common sides effects children might experience after getting the COVID-19 vaccines](#)

[Fact sheet: Vaccinating children against COVID-19](#)

[Poster: Boost Your Immunity](#)

[Video: Ask a Scientist: Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility?](#)

[Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines: It's important to get a booster dose as soon as you're eligible](#)

[Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines: The vaccines are recommended for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding.](#)

Additional Updates

Avian Influenza detected in Alberta

Recently, [Alberta poultry farms have tested positive](#) for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which was previously detected in migratory waterfowl, backyard flocks and commercial poultry flocks in the eastern United States, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and in a wild bird in Vancouver. Avian influenza, commonly known as "bird flu", is a contagious viral infection that can affect several species of food producing birds, pet birds and wild birds. The severity of the illness is dependent on the strain of the virus. Strains which are more infectious, such as the H5N1 strain, can be fatal to poultry and, on rare occasions, can cause disease in humans. Anyone who finds a sick or dead wild bird is encouraged to please contact the [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative \(CWHC\)](#). The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#) responds to incidents of avian influenza in domestic birds to prevent further spread and to stamp out the disease.

For additional information related to wild birds:

[Wild birds and avian influenza](#) – includes information for hunters and food safety guidelines when handling game bird meat. (Public Health Agency of Canada)

[Avian influenza in wild birds](#) (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

[Keep your birds safe](#) (Canada Food Inspection Agency)

Update on Indigenous Community Support Funding (ICSF) from ISC

There is funding 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.



Vaccine Snapshot

*as of April 25, 2022



122,854 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46 Nations (bands)** in Alberta.



At least **89.8%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.



At least **95.3%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **18.7%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

Further Updates



Reminder: CHRT 41 and the CHRT Agreement-in-Principle

Proposals for Child & Family Services and Jordan's Principle related capital projects under CHRT 41 are now being accepted. *The First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle CHRT-41 Capital Delivery Guide* will assist your Nations in the planning for potential capital projects needed to support the delivery of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle. If you are wanting to develop a CHRT 41 proposal, or want a copy of *The First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle CHRT-41 Capital Delivery Guide*, please feel free to speak with the ISC Alberta First Nations Child and Family Services Team at ab_sac_sef_capital-ab_isc_cfs_capital@sac-isc.gc.ca to answer any questions you may have or support the development of a proposal.

For assistance through Jordan's Principle, please contact abjpcprt41-abjptcdp41@sac-isc.gc.ca. More information can be found at [Funding for capital assets: Jordan's Principle and First Nations child and family services \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/en/funding-for-capital-assets-jordan-principle-and-first-nations-child-and-family-services). As a reminder, On December 31, 2021, the Parties to the CHRT, and the Government of Canada signed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), providing a roadmap for negotiations towards a final settlement agreement to be finalized later this year for the reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. Additional information on immediate funding measures such as Prevention funding from Indigenous Services Canada for First Nations and Delegated First Nations Agencies will be distributed shortly.

National Immunization Awareness Week

Immunization Canada invites you to participate in National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW) 2022, which runs from April 23 -30th. It is an annual event held in the last week of April in Canada. It highlights and recognizes the importance of immunization and the success and impact it has had in both protecting and saving lives. If your community would like to host an event or a vaccine clinic, please contact the ISC Nursing Surge Team by emailing the CD Emergencies inbox at cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab@sac-isc.gc.ca or by contacting Michelle Liboiron directly at 587-337-9624 / michelle.liboiron@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Canada Summer Jobs 2022 launches

The hiring period for Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) 2022 was launched on April 25th. More than 140,000 quality placements are now available for young people between the ages of 15 and 30. Throughout the summer, young people can find new job opportunities in their communities on jobbank.gc.ca/youth and the [Job Bank mobile app](#).

\$300 million announced for clean energy projects in Indigenous, rural and remote communities

On April 25th it was **announced** that \$300 million in funding towards capacity –building initiatives is available to Indigenous, rural and remote communities under the Strengthened Climate Plan.

Funds will support the launch of clean heat and power projects such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydro and biomass to support communities by creating jobs and generating reliable heat and power for generations to come.

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and communities can submit their applications on the [Clean Energy in Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities website](#)

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](#).