

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: April 28th, 2021



Updates

Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program:

With many communities ready to turn the page on COVID-19 and look to recovery, a new infrastructure initiative may be of interest. Infrastructure Canada is currently accepting applications for retrofits and new building projects for community buildings. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis for projects under \$3 million and until July 6, 2021 for projects from \$3 million to \$25 million. The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program aims to build more community buildings and improve existing ones – in particular in areas with populations experiencing higher needs – while also making the buildings more energy efficient, lower carbon, more resilient, and higher performing. This five-year \$1.5 billion program will support green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly-accessible community buildings that serve high-needs, underserved communities across Canada.

The GICB program supports the first pillar of the [Strengthened Climate Plan](#) by making it easier for Canadians to improve the places in which they live and gather, including by cutting pollution (e.g. reducing GHG emissions, increasing energy efficiency, building resiliency to climate change and encouraging new builds to net zero standards), making life more affordable and supporting thousands of good jobs. \$150 million has been set aside for Indigenous applicants undertaking projects that will serve Indigenous populations and communities. For more details please see the [Infrastructure Canada website](#).

Relaxing restrictions on continuing care visits:

Starting May 10, updated public health measures will come into effect for continuing care facilities in Alberta. Where possible, and provided the majority of residents agree, indoor social visits with up to four visitors will be able to resume again, as long as they are from the same household and distancing, masking and other health measures remain in place. Outdoor social visits in these facilities can expand to up to 10 people, including the resident. This is double the current limit of five and brings the limit in line with the current outdoor limit for the rest of the province. Residents may name up to four designated family/support persons for unrestricted access, and visitors will continue to be able to visit when residents are approaching the end of their lives or suffer a change in health status. This relaxing of the public health measures is not mandatory. You will make the decisions that make the most sense for your Nations and align with the health and safety priorities in your community. Full details available [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: What can we expect at and after our vaccination?

A: PHAC has developed a website to help individuals prepare for and explain the vaccination experience. From planning which strategies you'll use during vaccination to limit discomfort or pain to techniques during the injection such as relaxing your arm, deep breathing, distracting yourself by reading or listening to music to aftercare such as applying a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area you received the injection, exercising your arm and drinking plenty of fluids this site offers detailed information to help keep you fully aware what to expect. It also touches on the temporary and common side effects of vaccinations such as soreness, swelling at injection site and flu-like symptoms. All the information can be found [here](#).

National Info

New PHAC Publications, also available in certain Indigenous languages:

[Going out safely during COVID-19](#)

[Reduce the spread of COVID-19: Wash your hands infographic](#)

[Vaccine development and approval in Canada](#)

[The facts about COVID-19 vaccines \(E/F only\)](#)

Alberta Cases:

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

AB Total Confirmed (Apr.26 th – 1,539 new cases)	184,840
AB Recovered Cases	162,052
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	7,691
On-reserve Recovered Cases	7,350
On-Reserve Active Cases	264
Calgary Zone Confirmed	73,339
Central Zone Confirmed	15,390
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	66,680
North Zone Confirmed	19,267
South Zone Confirmed	10,070
Unknown Confirmed	94
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,067
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	77
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	26,863

Indigenous Vaccine Videos

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has developed the following Indigenous vaccine videos. The AHS social media team is currently scheduling these and they will be rolled out over the next couple of days (spread out for maximum impact).

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness - 1](#)

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness – 2](#)

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness – 3](#)

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness – 4](#)

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness - 5](#)

[COVID19 Indigenous Wellness - 6](#)

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant:

As of 23 Apr, the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program has been reopened for a new payment to businesses affected by the Apr 2021 public health orders. Eligible organizations can now apply for this additional COVID relief funding. Eligible organizations will receive a payment of up to \$10,000. Full details [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Emerging Issues Webinar:

The Public Health Agency of Canada, Thrombosis Canada and the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) present a webinar to inform health care providers on the treatment and reporting of Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT). You can find the webinar [here](#).

Telehealth Session April TODAY:

Virtual Services for Addictions and Mental Health: Best practices and lessons learned, on **Wednesday April 28 from 10 – 11:30 am**.

To connect to the session:

- via Zoom, go to <https://fnfn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 978 2566 0854 and Passcode: 929221
- from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 978 2566 0854 and Passcode: 929221
- from a videoconference-enabled room, go to www.fnfn.ca to register

Vaccine Update



Use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine:

Although not used on-reserve, of note for your urban or off-reserve members: The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has updated its [recommendations on the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine](#). NACI concluded that the benefits of this vaccine continue to outweigh the potential risks. This adverse event is being referred to as Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) and is estimated to occur in one in every 100,000 to one in every 250,000 people vaccinated with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. The recommendations have been updated based on an assessment of the risk of VITT, COVID-19 exposure risk and the benefits of the vaccine in preventing serious COVID-19 disease for various age groups. NACI has lowered the age threshold for the AstraZeneca vaccine and has provided jurisdictions with considerations that will help us determine how to achieve the greatest benefits from the use of this vaccine. There are no clear risk factors for VITT; it occurs across a range of ages. However, age is a key factor in the risk of serious complications of COVID-19.

Pfizer Vaccinations for Youth:

16 and 17 year olds with underlying health conditions are already eligible to receive Pfizer vaccine and FNIHB is working with their communities on securing doses for this group. Additionally, Alberta announced that beginning this week, Albertans born between and including 2006 and 2009 who have underlying health conditions can book their appointment for the Pfizer vaccine. NACI stated that “a complete vaccine series with a Pfizer-BioNTech may be offered to individuals 12-15 years of age who are at very high risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19 (e.g., due to a pre-existing medical condition known to be associated with increased risk of hospitalization or mortality) or are at increased risk of exposure (e.g., due to living in a congregate care facility), if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual, and if informed consent with the individual and the parent or guardian includes discussion about the insufficiency of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in this population.” This is applicable to First Nations as well. Parents and Guardians who wish to immunize the youth in their charge should discuss with a health professional. ISC FNIHB is communicating with all your Nations soon to identify youth who may qualify for these Pfizer doses.

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of April 27th



30,526 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **21,557** First Nations people have receive their first dose.



At least **3,525** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living in reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **2,943** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **8,969** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.