

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *December 23, 2020*

Updates

Disclosure of Personal Health Information :

The collection, use and disclosure of personal health information is governed under Alberta's Health Information Act. This Act identifies the very specific parameters under which health information can be shared and with whom. Unless otherwise identified in the Act, **community health nurses only share personally identifiable health information with other health providers providing direct care to the specific client.** This is referred to as the "circle of care" and only those in it should have access to personal health information. All information related to an individual who is or was infected with a communicable disease shall be treated as **private and confidential**, and no information shall be published, released or disclosed without the consent of the individual or as authorized/required by law.

The FNIHB-AB Medical Officers of Health recognize the need for First Nations leadership to have access to information on COVID-19 activity in their community and are committed to sharing appropriate information. Information includes:

- Notification of First Nations leadership when COVID-19 has first been detected in the community and when there are significant changes such as an outbreak or a sudden increase in case numbers;
- Supporting local health staff with providing regular updates that includes aggregate information on cases and contacts;
- Supporting ways to connect band services such as isolation needs for impacted households;
- And, working with law enforcement to address concerns about recalcitrant individuals.

Mental Wellness:

We acknowledge the significant impact COVID-19 has had on all those working to support communities during this time. A First Nations telehealth session dedicated to mental health will be held on January 20, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm (MST). A reminder that Individuals and front-line workers can access mental health and substance use support, resources, and counselling during COVID-19 through [Wellness Together Canada](#). Additional Mental Health Supports:

- The Hope for Wellness Helpline is available 24/7 offering counselling and crisis intervention. Call toll-free at 1-855-242-3310 or connect to the online chat at hopeforwellness.ca.
- The Kids Help Phone is available 24/7 offering counselling and information to youth on how to access community support services. Call toll-free at 1-800-668-6868.
- The Alberta Mental Health Help Line is available 24/7 to provide information about mental health services, as well as referrals to other agencies if needed. Call toll-free at 1-877-303-2642.
- Family Violence Resources: <https://www.alberta.ca/family-violence-prevention-resources.aspx>

Question of the Day

Q: How can we support those struggling with addiction during this time?

A: Data shows that COVID-19 continues to have a serious impact on those struggling with substance use. The provincial government has developed the [Alberta substance use surveillance system](#) to help better understand the addiction challenges in Alberta and make informed, strategic decisions about how best to support individuals needing to enter recovery. Albertans struggling with addiction can contact the Addiction Helpline at 1-866-332-2322 for support, information and referral to services. The toll-free, confidential helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

National Info

[COVID-19 vaccine and Indigenous peoples](#)

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of December 22nd, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Dec. 21st – 1021 new cases)	92,480
AB Recovered Cases	73,298
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	2,180
On-reserve Recovered Cases	1591
On-Reserve Active Cases	573
Calgary Zone Confirmed	35,698
Central Zone Confirmed	5,566
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	39,690
North Zone Confirmed	6,159
South Zone Confirmed	4,813
Unknown Confirmed	264
Deaths due to COVID-19	871
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	16

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Registry

To protect Canadians' jobs and support businesses throughout the pandemic, the Government of Canada introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). As part of the government's ongoing commitment to transparency, today the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launched the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Registry](#). This web page allows Canadians to identify which employers are using the wage subsidy to support jobs. The wage subsidy can only be claimed for employee remuneration by eligible organizations that have experienced a drop in revenue. The wage subsidy eligibility criteria are built into the application process and subject to verification by the CRA. In order to support Canadian workers and businesses through the second wave of the pandemic, the maximum subsidy rate has increased to 75 per cent until March 13, 2021, for those organizations most severely impacted by the pandemic.

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Rapid testing expands to include vulnerable Albertans:

As of December 18th, rapid point-of-care testing will begin at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities in the Edmonton Zone using dedicated mobile testing centres. Mobile testing centres are expected to be ready to deploy in Calgary Zone starting this week. More information available [here](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Indigenous communities :

Developed by ISC, [this page](#) provides health and financial support information for Indigenous communities.

Canada.ca/coronavirus:

Find information on how to apply for financial or economic support from the Government of Canada [here](#).

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccine approvals in Canada, please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines.html>