

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## Funding Available to support victims of intimate partner violence involved in the family justice system

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, David Lametti, announced the launch of a [call for proposals](#) for projects that assist victims of intimate partner violence to access and navigate the family justice system, and that improve justice system responses to this type of violence. This funding will be provided through the [Justice Partnership and Innovation Program](#). This call for proposals is open to Canadian not-for-profit organizations, Provincial or Territorial Governments Legal Clinics, Judges' and Lawyers' Associations, Canadian educational institutions, Family Justice Organizations, Family Dispute Resolution Associations, Indigenous Organizations, Bands, Tribal Councils, and Governments, and individuals. For projects that are local or regional in scope, the funding amount available per fiscal year is up to \$500,000. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## New Travel Requirements for those flying to the United States

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> US President Joe Biden announced that the US is making it mandatory next week for Canadians and other foreign visitors who arrive by air to get a COVID-19 test no more than one day before their departure, regardless of their vaccination status. This will not apply to those crossing the Canada-US land border. This information is subject to change. Click [here](#) for more details.

## Updated Travel Restrictions in Canada

In response to the emergence of the Omicron variant, on November 26<sup>th</sup> the Government of Canada announced new travel restrictions. Until January 31, 2022 enhanced border measures for all travelers who have been in the Southern Africa region- including South Africa, Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Namibia-within the last 14 days before arriving in Canada. This information is subject to change. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Question of the Day

**Q: What do we know about the Omicron variant?**

**A:** The Omicron variant was first identified in South Africa. Early evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of transmission and reinfection with this variant, so people who have been previously infected with COVID-19 could be re-infected more easily.

There is no evidence of increased disease severity yet. However, evidence is still emerging and we will learn more about this variant in the weeks to come. For more information, please visit: [COVID-19 variants of concern | Alberta.ca](#)

As monitoring continues, it is expected that other cases of this variant will be found in Canada and other countries. Canadians are reminded that vaccination, in combination with public health and individual protective measures, is working to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants in our communities.

As of December 6<sup>th</sup>, there are currently 11 cases of the Omicron variant in Alberta.

## Alberta Cases: as of Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> –240 new cases)	337,420
AB Recovered Cases	330,047
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	14,310
On-reserve Recovered Cases	14,026
On-Reserve Active Cases	137
Calgary Zone Confirmed	124,538
Central Zone Confirmed	38,341
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	104,623
North Zone Confirmed	46,552
South Zone Confirmed	23,324
Unknown Confirmed	41
Deaths due to COVID-19	3,268
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	146
Active Variants of Concern	3,376

## National Information

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)

[COVID-19 resources: social media](#)

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

**Telehealth Update:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> update featuring vaccination efforts and COVID-19 response to date. Dr. Stephen Freedman, a pediatric emergency physician and leading expert on the impacts of COVID-19 in children also presented. Click [here](#).

**Medical Officer of Health – Bulletin to First Nations in Alberta: December 2, 2021:** Click [here](#).

**Statement from the Council of Chief Medical Officers: [COVID-19 Vaccination in Children 5-11 years of age](#)**

**Mental Wellness Virtual Townhall – December 1<sup>st</sup>:** [Click here](#).

# Vaccine Update



## REMINDER: Booster Shots are available in Alberta

As a reminder, [Alberta is offering booster shots](#) for all eligible FN individuals who are 18+ in alignment with NACI recommendations, providing it has been 6 months since their second dose. Click [here](#) to learn more about NACI's guidance on booster COVID-19 doses.

## Sotrovimab Treatment in Alberta

Sotrovimab is a new drug that is a monoclonal antibody treatment COVID-19 for treating individuals with mild to moderate symptoms. For maximum effectiveness it must be administered by intravenous infusion within five days of symptom onset. It is used to prevent mild to moderate symptoms getting worse in people who have a high risk of needing to go to the hospital for COVID-19. As of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, AHS states that those eligible for this treatment are:

- Unvaccinated and 55 and older OR unvaccinated and 18 and older with a pre-existing health condition OR
- Immunocompromised, due to having received an organ transplant, OR having received an oncology treatment of chemotherapy OR immunosuppressive treatment since December 2020.

Those who are eligible can call Health Link at 1-844-343-0971 and leave a message. More information on Sotrovimab can be found in the [Sotrovimab Patient Information Sheet](#), [FAQs for Patients/Public](#) or the [Alberta Health Website](#).

## COVID-19 in Wildlife

On November 29, 2021, the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (CFIA) confirmed the first detections of COVID-19 in three free-ranging white-tailed deer sampled between November 6 to 8, 2021, in the Estrie region of Quebec. Similar to findings in the United States, the deer showed no evidence of clinical signs of disease, and were all apparently healthy. As this is the first detection of COVID-19 in wildlife in Canada, information on the impacts and spread of the virus in wild deer populations is currently limited. Federal, provincial and territorial partners continue to monitor and assess the potential implications of the virus on Canadian wildlife. [Wildlife health and SARS-CoV-2: Handling Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID-19 - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

[Hunting, fishing and trapping during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

## Vaccine Snapshot

\*as of December 6<sup>th</sup>



**104,470** doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **84.2%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose**.



**100%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



**94%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **69.4%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses of the vaccine**.

# Pediatric Vaccine Tools and information



## Why vaccination is important

COVID-19 is having a greater impact on children and youth than earlier in the pandemic. This is likely because many have returned to in-person school and activities. Although children and youth are **less likely** to get really sick from COVID-19, they can still:

- get sick from COVID-19 including being hospitalized and experience severe outcomes
- be infected and not have any symptoms
- spread COVID-19 to others
- experience longer-term effects if they do get infected
- get a rare but serious complication called multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) (This is a condition that can occur several weeks after COVID-19 involving inflammation in the body. It can affect the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or gastrointestinal organs. Symptoms may include fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea and skin rash. The majority of children and adolescents in Canada who have had this condition have fully recovered with treatment.)

Children and youth with certain underlying medical conditions may have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines help the body fight off the virus. Like adults, children and youth are well protected against severe illness 14 days after their second dose. Those who have already had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated to protect themselves from getting it again. To learn more, click [here](#).

## AHS Pediatric Vaccine Website – Tools and Comfort

Alberta Health Services has created a website with resources for parents and activities for kids to ensure that parents are armed with accurate, credible information to help them make the best choice around COVID-19 immunization. Click [here](#) to visit the site and access a video game for kids, short video clips featuring doctors speaking about COVID-19 vaccines for children, details on how to make a comfort plan, and frequently asked questions.

## Links to Resources

### Help Take Down COVID-zilla - a video game

Children and youth defend their health and the health of those around them by understanding the importance of protecting themselves against the COVID-19 beast. Click [here](#) to play.

**Should I get my child vaccinated? – a video** featuring Danièle Behn Smith, Metis and French Canadian Deputy Provincial Health Officer of Indigenous Health in BC.

**Colouring Pages – Jesse's Story** – Jesse the bear is a bit nervous about their vaccine and becomes a COVID-19 vaccine superhero.

- [Colour Jesse's story](#)
- [Vaccine Superhero Badge](#)

### All About Me – A Tool for Children and Adults

Needle fear and needle pain are common reasons why people of all ages avoid getting vaccines. These booklets, one for adults and one for children, are designed to gather information about patients to help them have a positive vaccine experience and helps the person administering their vaccine understand what will make them feel safe, happy and healthy. Click [here](#) to download the booklets.

