

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: February 16, 2022



Easing of Public Health Restrictions in Alberta

On February 8, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced the easing of public health restrictions as the province moves towards an endemic approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach is staged and we are currently in stage one. Effective February 9th the Restrictions Exemption Program and capacity limits (except for large venues) were removed. Starting February 14th there will be no masking requirements for children aged 12 and under in any setting, and no masking requirement in any schools for children and youth of all ages. Information on each stage is available [here](#).

\$121.5 M in direct public health funding – Income Assistance support

Alberta Region was allotted just over \$14 M of the additional \$121.5 million in funding for COVID-19. These funds will provide assistance to individuals and families in receipt of Income Assistance on-reserve by providing additional COVID-19 funding to address the increase in essential living expenses and keep community members safe. In discussions with ISC, First Nation communities and organizations may identify alternative options deemed to be of greater benefit for Income Assistance clients. The same formula for previous COVID-19 IA top-ups was utilized in the Alberta region. For further information contact morgan.reid2@sac-isc.gc.ca.

Supporting Indigenous Women's and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Organizations to further address gender-based violence

There is a call for proposals from Women and Gender Equality Canada to increase the capacity of Indigenous and 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations in Canada to provide gender-based violence prevention services and supports to address the disproportionate rates of violence in these communities. The deadline to submit an application is March 10, 2022. To learn more, please click [here](#).

REMINDER: Call-for-Proposals to support Indigenous participation in the Implementation of UNDRIP

Further details can be found [here](#) and questions can be sent to Declaration@justice.gc.ca

Question of the Day

Q: How have international border measures changed?

A: Tuesday, the Government of Canada announced a series of adjustments to the current border measures, representing the beginning of a phased easing of travel restrictions.

- Beginning February 28th, travellers arriving to Canada from any country, who qualify as [fully vaccinated](#), will be randomly selected for arrival testing.
- Travellers selected will also no longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.
- Travellers will now have the option of using a COVID-19 rapid antigen test result
- The Government of Canada will adjust its Travel Health Notice from a Level 3 to a Level 2. This means that the Government will no longer recommend that Canadians avoid travel for non-essential purposes.

More details [here](#).

Alberta Cases: as of Feb 14th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Feb 13 - 635 new cases)	517,650
AB Recovered Cases	492,171
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	18,548
On-reserve Recovered Cases	17,851
On-Reserve Active Cases	805
Calgary Zone Confirmed	208,912
Central Zone Confirmed	51,567
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	165,415
North Zone Confirmed	57,138
South Zone Confirmed	32,783
Unknown Confirmed	997
Deaths due to COVID-19	3,776
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	161
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	144,722

National Information

On January 26th, the Government of Canada announced the withdrawal of its judicial review application before the Federal Court regarding the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) order on funding for capital assets, 2021 CHRT 41. Canada will move forward with funding for the purchase and construction of capital assets (e.g. buildings) to support the delivery of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and Jordan's Principle services. To learn more, click [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Medical Officer of Health COVID-19 Bulletin from February 10 available [here](#).

Rewind! Windspeaker Mental Wellness Town Hall programs can be found at the following links:

- [Let's Talk Self-Care](#)
- [Racism in Healthcare](#)

Vaccine Radio Townhall Recording

From February 2 with Chief Roger Marten, Dr. Lana Potts, Dr. James Makokis and Shailley Peacock, Youth Advocate from Enoch Cree Nation. Listen [here](#).

New Resource: ISC – [AB Guidance for Masks – February 2022](#)

Update 11 - [ISC COVID-19 Communications Resources](#)

My Vaxx Journey Campaign aims to honour the voices of Indigenous Youth in Canada through the sharing of videos that speak to their own vaccine journeys. Each video entrant that meets giveaway criteria will be eligible to receive a pair of Retro Air Jordan 4s. Giveaway requirements, rules, consent, and Terms and Conditions are available at [myvaxxjourney.ca](#)

Vaccine Update



Vaccine Snapshot

*as of February 13, 2022

Update to Alberta Vaccine Recommendations

Effective February 15, 2022, Alberta will be allowing additional doses for the following age groups with certain health conditions that may put them at higher risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth aged 12 to 17 year old are eligible for a third dose, provided 5 months have passed since their last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adolescents 12 to 17 years of age with eligible underlying health conditions will be able to book a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adolescents 12 to 17 years of age with certain immunocompromising conditions who may have received a three-dose primary series are now eligible for a fourth dose booster.
- Children 5 to 11 years of age with certain immunocompromising conditions will be eligible to book a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as part of a three-dose primary series.

Booking begins February 15, and eligible immunocompromised Albertans 5 to 11 years of age are recommended to schedule their third dose at least 8 weeks following their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Update on Sotrovimab and Paxlovid in First Nations Communities

As of February 14th, at least 11 individuals have been treated with Sotrovimab in First Nations communities. Paxlovid use is increasing across the province, but there is no First Nations specific data available at present. Potentially eligible individuals should call Healthlink to determine how to access treatment. Sotrovimab and Paxlovid are useful in reducing the risk of serious outcomes in some COVID-19 infected patients individuals, however these medications are not a substitute for immunization. We are actively engaged with Alberta Health Services to improve the accessibility of Paxlovid and Sotrovimab on reserve



116,773 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **87.7%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.



At least **96.4%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **15.5%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.