

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



### Updates

#### COVID-19 Variants:

The Government of Canada has a monitoring program in place with provinces and territories to identify new COVID-19 virus variants in Canada, such as the ones originating in the United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351) and Brazil (P.1). Alberta has confirmed the presence of two of these variants, the U.K and South African variant and have been linked to outbreaks in school's in the Calgary area. The Government's understanding of the variants is growing daily. The understanding is that the three main variants of concern identified so far make the virus more infectious, allowing it to spread more easily. There is also preliminary evidence that some variants have an impact on the efficacy of some vaccines and drugs, but more research is needed to confirm these findings. The Canadian and global medical, public health and research communities are actively evaluating these variants and other significant mutations. More information on COVID variants [here](#). To stop the spread of this virus, we must ensure strict adherence to the public health guidelines that are in place. The Government of Alberta has announced that should a person test positive for a Variant of Concern, and choose to stay in their own home to isolate, **household contacts need to stay at home in quarantine until 14 days have passed from the end of the case's isolation period, which is 10 days**. This means, household contacts that stay at home, need to quarantine for 24 days. **Should an off-reserve member of your Nation be exposed or test positive with a variant, it is recommended that member avoid travel and quarantine where they are in order to avoid any risk of the variant spreading further.** There are isolation supports available and can be found [here](#).

#### Critical Worker Benefit

Last week, the Government of Alberta announced the critical worker benefit for approximately 380,000 public and private-sector workers who are eligible to receive one-time payments of \$1,200 for putting themselves at risk on the job during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible employees working in First Nations communities are eligible to receive the benefit. Employers must apply for the benefit on behalf of their workers. Additional details regarding eligibility and deadlines will be available today (February 17<sup>th</sup>). For questions and concerns, the Province's Critical Worker Benefit program staff are available 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays) at 310-4455 or [cwb@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cwb@gov.ab.ca). These funds are focused on those working in the health care, social services, and education. A full list of who is eligible as well as further details are available [here](#).

### Question of the Day

**Q: Is it safe and recommended those with diabetes take the vaccine?**

**A: Yes, the vaccine is recommended for people with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes and/or heart disease. This is because most people with underlying health conditions are vulnerable to developing a severe illness if they do get coronavirus, and vaccines are the most effective way to prevent that from happening. However, it is always recommended you speak with your doctor or local health practitioner for information and guidance on when you and your family should receive the vaccine.**

### National Info

[Non-medical masks: About](#)

[Non-medical masks: How to put on, remove and clean](#)

[Non-medical masks: Sew and no-sew instructions](#)

[Government of Canada expands restrictions to international travel by land and air](#)

## Alberta Cases:

as of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup> – 263 new cases)	129,338
AB Recovered Cases	122,554
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	5,600
On-reserve Recovered Cases	5,072
On-Reserve Active Cases	469
Calgary Zone Confirmed	49,688
Central Zone Confirmed	9,591
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	52,767
North Zone Confirmed	10,939
South Zone Confirmed	6,236
Unknown Confirmed	117
Deaths due to COVID-19	1,791
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	59

## Reminder: Second Harvest Due Date

**Second Harvest** food security funding application deadline is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the funding is to improve access to healthy food to charities and non-profits supporting people experiencing food insecurity. Indigenous Groups/Organizations are eligible to apply for funding. Please note that you must not be a member of, or applied for emergency funding in 2021 from Food Banks Canada and their affiliates, Community Food Centres Canada, Salvation Army or Breakfast Clubs of Canada. **The deadline to apply is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.** For more information visit <https://secondharvest.ca/emergency-funding-2021/> and if you have funding questions, please email [emergencyfund@secondharvest.ca](mailto:emergencyfund@secondharvest.ca)

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

### Updated AHS FAQ is live:

AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses. Specific resources can be found [here](#).

### Reminder: ISC Weekly COVID Vaccine Update:

ISC will run a vaccine information session every Tuesday from 1-1:30pm. These will be hosted by Dr. Parminder Thiara and Christina Smith. Contact your Community Liaison Team for more info.

### Dr. Chris Sarin receives his first COVID-19 Vaccination

**"I'm very excited to see the end of this pandemic and like other frontline healthcare workers, just can't wait for the day when this vaccine can move out to all the vulnerable groups in the communities." -Dr. Chris Sarin, Alberta Medical Officer of Health. [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and Indigenous peoples here.](#)**

### See the full video on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GCIndigenousHealth/videos/742315759757443/> #MyVaccination #VaccinesWork

# Vaccine Update



## COVID-19 Vaccination Tool Kit for Health Care Providers

The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed a new resource titled the **COVID-19 Vaccination Tool Kit for Health Care Providers**. You can use this tool kit as a quick resource to help your patients and colleagues make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination by sharing credible information and resources with them. Within the tool kit, you will find links to general information about COVID-19, an overview of authorized vaccines, guidance for managing COVID-19 vaccination clinics, an overview of vaccine safety, as well as a number of additional resources such as digital tools, communication materials, and provincial/territorial specific resources. As new information and resources become available, the tool kit will be updated and you will be notified of the updates. Download or view:

[COVID-19 Vaccination Tool Kit for Health Care Providers.](#)

## Safety and side effects of COVID-19 vaccine

Temporary reactions to vaccines are a common and natural response to receiving a vaccine dose. These inflammatory reactions can last between a few hours to a few weeks after administration but do not disrupt daily life. Severe or permanent reactions are **extremely** rare. Once a vaccine is in use, Canada has a strong vaccine safety monitoring system that involves healthcare professionals, vaccine manufacturers, the provinces and territories, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Health Canada, to alert public health authorities of changing trends or unusual adverse events that were not previously reported. Vaccines help get your immune system ready to protect against a disease without making you sick. The risk of complications from getting the real disease is far greater than the risk of side effects from vaccines. For more information visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/safety-concerns-side-effects.html>

## Vaccine Snapshot

\*as of February 16<sup>th</sup>



**4,524** doses of vaccine have been administered in **39** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **3,976** First Nations people have received their first dose



At least **1,953** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living in reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **35** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **251** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.