

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: February 2, 2022



## \$125 M in direct public health funding for First Nations Communities

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Minister Patty Hajdu announced \$125 M in direct funding for First Nations in response to the need for quicker access to financial resources to prepare and implement additional public health measures, as well as to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks. The allotment for First Nations communities in Alberta is approximately \$15,440,000. The transfer of funding across the country has already started via the Community Support Fund methodology. Please contact your Community Liaison Team for more information. Click [here](#) to read the complete news release.

## Acquiring Rapid Antigen Test Kits

Please note that the purchase of rapid antigen test kits is not an eligible expense under the public health funding noted above. The test kits are provided for free by the Public Health Agency of Canada via the Province of Alberta to ensure that test kits meet quality control standards, avoid predatory pricing and that kits can be distributed equitably among First Nation communities.

### Rapid Testing at Home

Yesterday the province announced that First Nations communities will be receiving additional home rapid test kits. First Nations communities requiring additional at-home test kits should continue to email [rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca) and shipments will be processed as stock becomes available.

### Rapid Testing program for Employers and Service Providers

Employers and service providers can apply to the province to receive free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests for use in their organization's COVID-19 screening program. This program is open to any public, private or not-for profit employer or service provider. For more information, and to apply for the rapid testing program for employers and service providers, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/rapid-testing-program-for-employers-and-service-providers.aspx>

## Healthy Communities – Grants Open

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for community projects related to an active living and/or healthy eating project in 2022. The deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Question of the Day

### Q: What is the availability of Paxlovid?

**A:** The first shipments of Paxlovid will be available to Albertans starting January 31<sup>st</sup>. Initial supply will be limited, so eligibility will be limited to those who will benefit the most. This medication can cause side effects, so it will be available only by prescription after an assessment by a clinician.

Albertans who meet the [eligibility criteria](#) can call Health Link at 1-844-343-0971.

Click [here](#) for more details.

### Paxlovid will be available in limited quantities

**PAXLOVID is not a replacement for vaccine.** For more information click [here](#).

## Alberta Cases: as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (Jan. 31 - 1,980 new cases)</b>	<b>495,953</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>457,052</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>17,556</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>16,132</b>
<b>On-Reserve Active Cases</b>	<b>1,268</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>200,666</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>49,082</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>159,403</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>54,879</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>30,901</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>1,022</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>3,579</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta</b>	<b>141,053</b>

## National Information

**Withdrawal of judicial review of CHRT order on capital assets funding** On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Ministers Patty Hajdu, Marc Miller and David Lametti announced Canada's 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 January 27 available [here](#).

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

- [Mental Wellness from an Indigenous Perspective](#)
- [Coping with Grief and Loss](#)
- [Checking in with Indigenous Youth](#)

### Mark your calendars: Upcoming Vaccine Radio Townhall

Wednesday, February 2 at Noon –on Windspeaker Radio—with Chief Roger Marten, Dr. Lana Potts, and Enoch Health Director, Colleen MacDonald

**Resource: Help Reduce the Spread** – available in multiple languages including Dene and Cree. Click [here](#).

# Vaccine Update



## Vaccine Snapshot

\*as of January 30, 2022



**114,835** doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **87.4%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.



At least **73.0%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **14.6%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

## The Importance of immunizing children and youth

COVID-19 is having a greater impact on children and youth than earlier in the pandemic, likely because many have returned to in-person school and activities.

Although children and youth are **less likely** to become severely ill from COVID-19, they can still:

- get sick from COVID-19
- 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)

In Canada, immunization has saved more lives than any other health intervention. When a majority of the people in a community are immunized against a disease, it greatly reduces the chances of that disease spreading in the community, protecting people such as infants who are too young to be immunized and those who are not able to get immunized due to medical reasons.

## REMINDER: February 2<sup>nd</sup> Teleconference with Dr. Deena Hinshaw; Paul Wynnyk, Trish Merrithew-Mercredi and Dr. Verna Yiu

Chiefs and Health Directors are invited to this special teleconference that will provide information on the Omicron response in Alberta and provide an opportunity to ask questions about next steps. Participants are encouraged to forward their questions for Dr. Hinshaw in advance, by emailing or texting Allen Willier at [willierallen@gmail.com](mailto:willierallen@gmail.com) or 780-446-8969.