

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *February 24th, 2021*



Updates

Expanding Alberta's COVID-19 vaccine rollout:

On February 19th, the Provincial government announced more than 1.79 million Albertans will receive the COVID-19 vaccine this spring under Phase 2 of Alberta's vaccine distribution strategy. Depending on supply, this will begin in April and will focus on a staged approach and once completed, will have vaccinated anyone aged 50 to 74 years, anyone with high-risk underlying health conditions, First Nations and Métis people aged 35 and older, residents and staff in congregate living settings, and eligible caregivers. The first stage will include First Nations people aged 50 to 64, on and off reserve with those aged 35 to 49 receiving doses in the fourth stage. More information is available [here](#).

Suspicious unsolicited offers of COVID-19 vaccine for sale:

The RCMP is aware that [unsolicited offers of COVID-19 vaccine](#) for sale may have been made to First Nations, municipal and provincial governments, and to various federal departments. These offers are deemed to be suspicious. The emails may actually be attempted frauds, offers to sell stolen vaccine, or efforts by malicious actors to test or breach security, including false claims of 'horrific side effects, including death' from vaccines and that "many health experts are speaking out about the dangers of the vaccines but are being silenced." These offers may be convincing and appear to come from individuals or companies, claiming to have large quantities of doses available, and that the offer is a time-sensitive/limited offer – to provoke a sense of urgency. The offers may be for COVID-19 vaccines that are already or are not yet approved for use in Canada. Should you receive any of these unsolicited offers of COVID-19 vaccine for sale or similar suspicious emails, please inform the Security and Emergency Services Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada at aadnc.hqsecurity.aandc@canada.ca.

Question of the Day

Q: Is only one dose of a vaccine effective against COVID-19?

A: While some preliminary studies internationally have shown that the vaccines reduced hospitalization by up to 94 per cent after a single dose, this figure was not as high with the Moderna vaccine and there was no indication as to how long the vaccine protection will last. Research continues, but the health community continues to state that two doses of vaccines should be taken to both increase the effectiveness of the vaccine and the length of protection.

National Info

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

[COVID-19 vaccine safety in Canada](#)

[Moderna COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know](#)

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Racialized Communities](#)

[Dr. Evan Adams explains COVID-19 and the vaccine](#)

[Dr. Adams explains the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of February 24th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Feb. 23rd – 267 new cases)	131,603
AB Recovered Cases	125,234
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	5,944
On-reserve Recovered Cases	5,385
On-Reserve Active Cases	498
Calgary Zone Confirmed	50,500
Central Zone Confirmed	9,958
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	53,240
North Zone Confirmed	11,415
South Zone Confirmed	6,392
Unknown Confirmed	98
Deaths due to COVID-19	1,853
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	61

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

Through the Community Foundations of Canada, the Healthy Communities Initiative supports communities as they create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. The round one application portal opened on February 9. Applications must be submitted by **March 9, 2021, at 6:00 PM MST**. Review committees will start meeting to make decisions from March 10, 2021 onwards and all applicants will receive results by April 30, 2021. The minimum funding amount for projects is \$5,000 and the maximum funding amount is \$250,000 for each project. For details on eligibility and what can be funded click [here](#).

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.

Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic:

Providing same day care to rural and urban indigenous people residing in Alberta via secure video or phone service. Call **1.888.342.4822** to book your appointment.

Hours: Mon -Fri 8:30am-4:30pm, Sat -Sun 12:30pm - 4:30pm or Visit the website aivcc.ca for more information.

Vaccine Update



Zombies, Infertility and Other Vaccine Myths:

Despite what many of you have been told, the zombie apocalypse will not happen once we all get inoculated with any form of COVID-19 vaccine. Fatigue may be a potential side effect, but not a zombie-like fatigue. All jokes aside, there is much misinformation swirling around out there about potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines. Google doctors and social media gurus are warning us of everything from infertility, to vaccines altering our DNA, to the government using vaccines as a way to implant microchips into all of us.

Rest assured, none of these are true. All vaccines that are distributed in Canada go through a very stringent and thorough review process by Health Canada. This includes all COVID-19 candidates, such as the Pfizer and Moderna varieties.

“These vaccines were rushed through! They’re not safe!”

This is another common misconception. Through an interim order signed by the Minister of Health on March 18, 2020, Health Canada officials were permitted to expedite their review of all COVID-19 vaccines. That does not mean corners were cut nor does it mean that a thorough review was sacrificed to allow for a rushed approval and distribution of vaccines across Canada. Before any vaccine reaches the arms of Canadians, Health Canada officials review them to confirm they meet all requirements of the *Food and Drugs Act* and all associated regulations. Researchers are also required to assess and weigh all risks and benefits of each vaccine individually, to ensure Canadians are receiving products that are safe, effective and of the highest possible quality and standard.

That being said, the risk of possible side effects are a reality with all forms of vaccination – and COVID-19 vaccinations are no exception. Soreness around the injection site. A mild fever. Short-term fatigue. These are all common effects with any vaccine, including your annual flu shot, and should not dissuade anyone from being inoculated. To avoid any potential allergic reactions, it’s always a good idea to speak with whoever is administering the shot about any allergies you have. They will have information about the ingredients contained within the vaccine and will be able to advise you on whether or not to get the shot. Lastly, there are number of reliable websites you can go to for accurate vaccine information:

[WHO Myth Busters](#)

[Polygraph.info COVID-19 Disinformation News and Analysis](#)

[FactCheck.org Guide to Coronavirus Coverage](#)

[Politifact Coronavirus Fact Check](#)

[Poynter.org Coronavirus Facts and Misinformation](#)

[Google Coronavirus Fact Check Explorer](#)

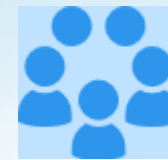
Viruses such as COVID-19 can be fatal; misinformation about vaccines can make them that much more dangerous. Let’s trust the science. Vaccines have been and will always be our best defense. - **Dr. Ibrahim Khan of ISC Saskatchewan Region**

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of February 23rd



6,651 doses of vaccine have been administered in **43** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **6,216** First Nations people have receive their first dose



At least **2,583** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **87** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have receive two doses of the vaccine.



At least **367** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.