

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *January 13, 2021*

### Updates

#### Update to Protocols and Schools:

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Province announced that the [current public health measures](#) will remain in place until at least January 21, 2021. Health officials actively continue to evaluate the situation and will adjust measures if required. Businesses, organizations and service providers will be given at least 1 week notice prior to changes to the current health measures that may affect them. One change, however, is that as of this past Monday, schools have returned to in-person classes across Alberta. For schools on First Nations, your Nation's governance and education teams will decide what protocols make sense for your community, be it in-person, online or a combination. As a reminder, The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has developed COVID-19 [back-to-school guidance](#) directed to administrators of both public and private schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and local public health authorities. Also, Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHOs) are available to support your return-to-school plans. EPHOs are certified public health inspectors, who have undergone specialized training in public health and are therefore able to provide public health guidance, education, risk assessments, inspections, and recommendations to First Nations. Please contact your community EPHO to assist in the relaunch planning and guidance for your return-to-school planning. Additionally, Our Education team will remain in contact with your Nations to answer questions on funding, protocols or other education related issues.

#### Vaccination Plans:

As you've likely heard, vaccinations have begun in Alberta mostly targeting those in home care (on and off reserve) and residents and staff of Long Term Care homes, including several on First Nations. The next priority group will be on-reserve members over the age of 65. In order to rollout delivery of these vaccinations as soon as possible, Alberta Health is requesting a vaccine plan from every First Nation in Alberta. FNIHB will work with communities to validate the population over 65 as well as your capacity for storing and administering the vaccines. These plans are critical for determining timelines for when vaccines can be expected in communities. Through a coordinated approach, communities will receive the vaccine at approximately the same time. The plans, as well as any questions you may have, can be submitted to your FNIHB contacts. Please ensure these plans are finalized and submitted as soon as possible so that the coordination and logistics of vaccine delivery can be accomplished as quickly and smoothly as possible. Should you have any questions or require support, please contact the CD inbox at [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca)

### Question of the Day

**Q:** How can we ensure we are using safe air and surface disinfection products?

**A:** In Canada, surface disinfectants are regulated and evaluated by Health Canada. Applications for the approval of disinfectant products must provide evidence that the product is effective against microorganisms it claims to kill. Additionally, disinfectant labels must present clear instructions for use to prevent acute health hazards, and should provide information on compatibility with surfaces, as relevant. Health Canada approved disinfectants are assigned a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A list of products approved for use against COVID-19 is available [here](#). Companies have approached First Nations communities and other potential buyers making false claims of their approval status. There are products imported and sold under Interim Measures which have not been evaluated by Health Canada. A list of products authorized for sale in Canada under the Interim Measure is available [here](#). Please connect with your local Environmental Public Health Officer if you have any questions.

### National Info

[CPHO Issue Statement Series on COVID-19: mRNA Vaccines](#)

[Vaccines can protect you and those around you](#)

# Alberta Cases:

as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup> – 652 new cases)	112,743
AB Recovered Cases	98,178
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	3,750
On-reserve Recovered Cases	2,594
On-Reserve Active Cases	1,132
Calgary Zone Confirmed	43,140
Central Zone Confirmed	7,834
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	47,798
North Zone Confirmed	8,494
South Zone Confirmed	5,300
Unknown Confirmed	177
Deaths due to COVID-19	1,345
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	24

## OneHealth Reminder

A friendly reminder that the Alberta OneHealth website (<https://www.onehealth.ca/ab/ABCovid-19>) has a section specific to the COVID-19 vaccine. This information contains information specific to the vaccines as well as a communications tool kit and other resources that communities can use. This area will be kept up to date as new resources and information as it becomes available. Please distribute the link and information with your Nations administration and community.

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

### Vaccine Telehealth Session TOMORROW:

On **January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30-3pm** a telehealth detailing vaccinations and other COVID-19 updates will be held.

- To connect to the session: via Zoom, go to <https://fntn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 970 1352 4309 and Passcode: 963703
- from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 970 1352 4309 and Passcode: 963703
- from a videoconference-enabled room, go to [www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca) to register. Questions can be submitted in advance of or during the presentation to [VChelp@FNTN.ca](mailto:VChelp@FNTN.ca), or via Zoom during the presentation. This session will be recorded and posted to [www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca).

### AHS Vaccine Update:

AHS has developed [this FAQ site](#) which also includes further resources and an online form if you have questions that are not answered online.