

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



## Community support for those in Isolation

If your community requires immediate assistance with an increase in cases, or supports such as temporary infrastructure, rapid testing or PPE, please contact your Regional Medical Officers of Health or the Community Liaison Team. Indigenous communities and organizations can also continue to request flexible, needs-based funding from the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) to design and implement COVID-19 supports within their communities. These funds can be used for measures including, but not limited to:

- support for Elders and vulnerable community members
- measures to address food insecurity, such as support for the purchase, transportation and distribution of food, as well as traditional foods such as hunting and fishing
- educational and other support for children
- mental health assistance and emergency response services
- preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

## When individuals are ill

Because of the current high case count, individuals with COVID-19 symptoms should assume that they have COVID-19, even if they have not been tested. AHS has created a [COVID-19 Self-Care Guide](#) to help manage mild symptoms at home. The Alberta Medical Association has [Patient Resources for COVID-19](#) available on their website that can help determine when an individual may need to talk to their doctor.

## Update on Rapid Antigen at-home tests

Rapid antigen (at-home) tests for employers and service providers, as well as children in schools, are on the way. First Nations communities requiring at-home test kits can email [rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca) to submit their requests. Employers and service providers can apply to receive free rapid test kits for use in their organization's COVID-19 screening program. Details can be found [here](#). All children in schools will be receiving their tests shortly, if they have not done so already. To Find out what to do with a positive, negative, or invalid rapid antigen test result, refer to [Rapid testing at home | Alberta.ca](#).

## Question of the Day

### Q: What is PAXLOVID?

**A:** PAXLOVID is a combination of the two antiviral drugs, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. On January 17<sup>th</sup> Health Canada approved the use of this drug to treat adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to serious disease, including hospitalization or death.

The active ingredient, nirmatrelvir, in PAXLOVID works by stopping the virus from replicating. The drug is intended for use as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of the start of symptoms. The treatment consists of two tablets of nirmatrelvir and one tablet of ritonavir taken together by mouth twice per day for five days.

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

## Alberta Cases: as of Jan 17<sup>th</sup> , 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (Jan. 17 - 3,279 new cases)</b>	<b>455,660</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>382,025</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>16,117</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>14,663</b>
<b>On-Reserve Active Cases</b>	<b>1302</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>183,230</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>41,157</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>146,646</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>51,667</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>27,953</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>1,007</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>3,412</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta</b>	<b>137,997</b>

## National Information

[ISC Coronavirus disease – Awareness Resources](#)

[PHAC Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)

[PHAC COVID-19 resources: social media](#)

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

**Recording: January 12<sup>th</sup> - Mental Wellness Radio Townhall – Youth Check-in.** Click [here](#).

**Recording: Telehealth Update – January 13<sup>th</sup>** with Dr. Chris Sarin, Dr. Parminder Thiara and special guests: Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health and Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Health. Click [here](#).

**Mark your calendars: January 26<sup>th</sup> Mental Wellness Radio Townhall with Dr. Evan Adams and guests**

# Vaccine Update



## Vaccine Snapshot

\*as of January 17, 2022

### Fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine available for immunocompromised adults

Beginning Thursday, January 20, immunocompromised adults can book their fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine, at least five months after their third.

Fourth doses will help those who are immunocompromised to have the same level of immunity as those individuals who are receiving their third dose and who are not immunocompromised.

More information and the list of eligible conditions for a fourth dose can be found [here](#).

### Third doses...best protection against severe outcomes

Everyone aged 18 and older can get a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine 5 months after their second dose. Individuals who received 2 doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine can get a booster of an mRNA vaccine. Vaccine effectiveness against infection may decline over time, especially with the highly transmissible Omicron variant, but vaccines remain the best way to prevent severe illness and death. Third doses can boost immunity to improve protection against infection and severe disease and limit spread.

Children ages 5-11 are also eligible for vaccination. An 8 week interval between the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for children aged 5 – 11. Contact your local health centre for more information or to book an appointment. Further information on pediatric vaccination is available [here](#).

### Proper mask use

To make mask use as effective as possible, it's essential to make sure that it is worn properly. Keep the nose and mouth covered while wearing a mask to prevent exposing oneself and others to potentially infectious respiratory particles.

For more information on the use and care of masks, click [here](#) and [here](#).



**112,034** doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **86.5%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.



At least **72.1%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **12.9%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.