

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *January 20, 2021*

## Updates

### Update on Public Health Guidelines:

As of January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Province announced a slight easing of public health guidelines. Outdoor social gatherings of up to 10 people will be allowed as long as everyone is wearing masks and keeping at least two metres (six feet) apart. Indoor gatherings remain prohibited. Additionally, personal wellness services will be allowed to reopen Monday by appointment only for one-on-one services. Personal wellness services include businesses like salons, barbershops, aesthetics, reflexology, tattoo and piercing studios. Businesses and customers are expected to continue to follow the health guidelines, including mandatory masks and enhanced cleaning practices. Also effective January 18<sup>th</sup>, the capacity limit for funerals is being raised to 20 people, as long as people wear masks and observe physical distancing. Funeral receptions, however, are still prohibited. You can view all guidelines [here](#). Please connect with your local Environmental Public Health Officer if you have any questions on funerals or gatherings of any kind, they remain available to provide guidance and address concerns.

### Vaccine Hesitancy:

For your information, a presentation on "[Vaccine Hesitancy and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Populations](#)" by Dr. Sarah Minwanimad Funnell, is now available on the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases website. This webinar discusses some of the specific challenges for vaccine uptake amongst First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations, including their negative historic and contemporary experiences with mainstream healthcare systems, health care professionals, and vaccine providers in Canada.

### Government of Alberta FAQ on COVID Vaccine:

The Government of Alberta has created a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) website on the COVID-19 Vaccine which can be found [here](#) and includes questions on how the vaccine works and other useful information such as:

Check out [COVID-19: What You Need to Know](#) for information on:

- Who should get the vaccine
- How many doses you need
- How well the vaccine works
- Side effects
- Who should not get the vaccine

## Question of the Day

**Q:** How can we protect our Nations from vaccine scams?

**A:** As we all work together to ensure safe and effective vaccines are made available to Canadians, Health Canada has been made aware of individuals and private entities claiming to have access to vaccines for sale. This outreach, which is directed at provincial and territorial governments, is fraudulent and is originating from illegitimate sources. Should you or any of your members encounter any suspicious offers related to vaccines please share with Health Canada, by providing information online at <https://health.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/problem-reporting/health-product-complaint-form-0317.html>

## National Info

[COVID-19 vaccines and Indigenous peoples](#)  
[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know](#)

[Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on January 18, 2021](#)

[Healing in pandemic times: Indigenous peoples, stigma, and COVID-19](#)

# Alberta Cases:

as of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – 456 new cases)</b>	<b>117,767</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>105,208</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>4,456</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>3,113</b>
<b>On-Reserve Active Cases</b>	<b>1,315</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>45,085</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>8,282</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>49,411</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>9,303</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>5,558</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>1,463</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>28</b>

## Updates to COVID-19 reporting in schools

Previously, schools with COVID-19 cases are described as either being on alert, outbreak or watch. Each category reflects a certain number of cases at a particular school. As of Jan. 18, the following terms will be used:

- Alert: one to four cases
- Outbreak: five-plus cases

The term “watch,” which many partners found confusing, will no longer be used. Schools with two or more cases will continue to be reported and reflected on the [COVID-19 school map](#). Additional guidance materials for learning during COVID-19 can be found at [alberta.ca/returntoschool](http://alberta.ca/returntoschool).

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

### Mental Health Telehealth Session TODAY:

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-12pm a telehealth titled *Helping the Helper: Resources and tools to support resilience and mental health for front end workers* will be held.

- To connect to the session: via Zoom, go to <https://fnfn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 928 4795 5576 and Passcode: 864150
- from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 928 4795 5576 and Passcode: 864150
- from a videoconference-enabled room, go to [www.fnfn.ca](http://www.fnfn.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.fnfn.ca](http://www.fnfn.ca).

### Vaccine Update Recording:

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, ISC officials provided an update and discussed Vaccinations for First Nations in Alberta. The session was recorded and available [here](#).

### Reminder: ISC Weekly COVID Vaccine Update:

ISC will run an 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.