

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: January 6, 2022



Omicron variant – cases still surging

The highly contagious Omicron variant continues to spread in Alberta, as in other jurisdictions across Canada and around the world. As of January 4th, there are more than 34,000 active cases in Alberta. The positivity rate from December 31, 2021 to January 4, 2022 has ranged from 28 to 36%. The current data indicates that Omicron has a lower rate of serious outcomes than the Delta variant. However, due to the high number of individuals acquiring infection in a very short time period, it still has the capacity to impact the healthcare system.

Expanded Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit

On December 22, 2021 Canada announced that it would expand eligibility for the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB) on a temporary basis from December 19, 2021 to February 12, 2022. The CWLB provides targeted income support to workers who are unable to work due to COVID-19 public health lockdowns. This benefit will provide \$300 a week (\$270 after taxes) in income support to [eligible workers](#) who are directly affected by a public health lockdown, and who have lost 50% or more of their income as a result. Affected Canadian workers in newly designated [lockdown regions](#) can [apply for the benefit](#) today. Payments will be retroactive to December 19, 2021

Change to Isolation Requirements

Effective January 3, 2022 individuals in Alberta who are fully immunized with two doses of vaccine (or one dose of the single-dose Janssen vaccine) and test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for five days if their symptoms resolve. They must, however, wear a mask around others for the next five days at all times and are not to eat and drink around others. Those who are unvaccinated or have received only one dose of vaccine are still required to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days, or until their symptoms subside. Click [here](#) to learn more.

In-person School Resumes January 10, 2022

The government of Alberta announced that in-person learning will resume on January 10th with all students and staff having access to medical grade masks and rapid testing kits. Shipments of rapid tests and masks will start this week and all schools will have their initial shipments by the end of next week. Also, students in grades 4 to 9 and their parents will be able to view free online tutoring resources to address any gaps in skills and learning due to the pandemic. To learn more, click [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: The Omicron variant is spreading so quickly, what can I do to protect my family and community?

A: Get fully vaccinated: Vaccination, in combination with public health and individual protective measures, offer the best and most robust protection against serious illness due to COVID-19. A booster shot offers the best protection from severe illness from the Omicron variant. All individuals 18 years old and older in Alberta are urged to get their booster as soon as possible, providing that it has been 5 months since their second shot. Children ages 5-11 are also eligible for vaccination.

- **Limit social contacts.** Connect virtually or in very small groups.
- **Work from home, if you can.**
- **Take a rapid test when appropriate.**
- **Isolate immediately should you show any cold or flu symptoms.**

Alberta Cases: as of Jan 5th , 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Jan. 4th 4,752 new cases)	384,126
AB Recovered Cases	343,597
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	14,850
On-reserve Recovered Cases	14,296
On-Reserve Active Cases	405
Calgary Zone Confirmed	148,316
Central Zone Confirmed	40,736
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	121,233
North Zone Confirmed	48,386
South Zone Confirmed	24,887
Unknown Confirmed	568
Deaths due to COVID-19	3,333
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	148
Omicron Variants of Concern Confirmed in AB	128,016

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

**All Chiefs Call with Dr. Hinshaw:
January 7th 2:00-3:30-** appointments with
log in details were sent out.

**UPCOMING:
Mental Wellness Radio Townhall
– Youth Check-in:** Wednesday,
January 12th Noon to 1:00 on Windspeaker
Radio.

Telehealth Update – January 13th
The next MOH Telehealth update will be on
Thursday, January 13th, with Dr. Chris Sarin,
Dr. Parminder Thiara and special guest Dr.
Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of
Health, Alberta Health. Please register for the
session at <http://www.fntn.ca> .

Vaccine Update



Storage and Use of Rapid Tests

Storing and using rapid tests at the right temperature is important in order for them to function properly. Please keep kits above 2°C. Do not leave them in your vehicle, even for a short time and store them between 2° and 30° Celsius. Let the test reach room temperature before using to ensure an accurate result.

While PCR testing continues to be available on reserve at this time, rapid testing is becoming an increasingly important tool in slowing the spread of the Omicron variant. Repeated screening can help detect infection as soon as possible. If you don't have symptoms, perform rapid tests twice per week, 72 hours apart, for 2 weeks (For example: Sunday and Wednesday or Monday and Thursday).

First Nations members should contact their local health centre to determine when and how kits will be available in their communities. Members can also obtain kits from pharmacies in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, and select AHS clinics.

To watch a video about how to perform a rapid test, click [here](#)

Updates to the ISC COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit

You can access this new version [here](#). It includes:

- Vaccine-related resources
- Resources for kids
- Information on the “[My Vaxx Journey](#)” campaign

Many of the updates are geared towards youth and young adults. Below are specific resources of particular interest to that audience:

- Pre-recorded radio PSAs on mental health:
- [recorded by James Jones \(Notorious Cree\) \(EN\)](#)
- [recorded by rapper Samian \(FR\)](#)
- Partnership with the Assembly of Seven Generations

[@covid_communitycare](#) You can re-watch their webinar here: [Debunking Covid-19 Vaccine Myths – YouTube](#)

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of January 3rd



109,099 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **85.8%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose**.



At least **71.3%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **10.9%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses of the vaccine**.