

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: July 7th, 2021



Updates

Call For Proposals: Capacity Building in CFS:

The Government of Canada has committed over \$542 million over five years to support the implementation of [an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families](#). The act enables Indigenous groups, communities or peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. Funding is available to support Indigenous groups, communities and peoples and their Indigenous governing body wishing to explore readiness to exercise jurisdiction and/or develop Indigenous child and family service legislation, systems, and programs prior to entering into coordination agreement discussions. Future opportunities to access funding will be available regularly over the next 5 years. There is currently no deadline to apply. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Full details [here](#).

Strategies for Improved Ventilation:

Proper ventilation is one way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Good ventilation exchanges indoor air for outdoor air, helping to reduce potentially infectious particles in the air indoors. If interacting in an indoor setting, [wear masks as recommended](#), avoid closed, crowded spaces and choose larger rooms where you can be the greatest physical distance possible from those outside your household.

The larger the crowd and the smaller the room, the faster the build-up of potentially infectious respiratory particles in the air. When possible and weather permitting, it is better to choose outdoor settings for activities. It is still important to continue to follow physical distancing and mask recommendations when outdoors. Many buildings use a central heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. If your indoor space uses one of these systems, you should:

- complete routine maintenance, like clearing vents and fans and changing the filter as recommended by the manufacturer
- running the system fan continuously at a low speed
- consult a professional to check that the system is working properly

More information available [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: How can we plan safe reopening and gatherings?

A: [Alberta's Open for Summer Plan](#) commenced stage 3 on July 1 and fully reopened, removing all remaining mandatory restrictions including the ban on indoor social gatherings. Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19, quarantine for close contacts that are not fully immunized remain. Alberta's move to Stage 3 does not change requirements in the existing public health orders for licensed supportive living, long-term care and hospice settings. Stage 3 will impact activities off-site, but existing on-site restrictions will remain in place. For more information on restrictions in these settings, see [protecting residents at congregate care facilities](#). General guidance offering optional mitigations to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19 is available to businesses and event organizers who would like to continue additional precautions. Guidance for workplaces and settings that involve children have also been updated to reflect Stage 3. All available [here](#).

As a reminder, the provincial re-opening plan is not mandatory. Our ISC MOH and EPHO teams are always available to work with your Nations that emphasizes safety and well-being of all community members, including planning for community gatherings. Please contact sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca for support. Additionally, the [Government of Canada has developed tools and information](#) that may also assist in your planning.

Alberta Cases:

as of July 6th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (July 5th – 33 new cases)	232,269
AB Recovered Cases	229,201
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	8,964
On-reserve Recovered Cases	8,788
On-Reserve Active Cases	87
Calgary Zone Confirmed	94,604
Central Zone Confirmed	20,825
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	77,758
North Zone Confirmed	26,569
South Zone Confirmed	12,502
Unknown Confirmed	11
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,305
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	88
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	49,388

Expanding Indigenous businesses in Alberta

Through the Province, Aboriginal Business Investment Fund (ABIF) grants are now open for 2021-22 submissions. These grants will provide up to \$500,000 to eligible Indigenous-owned businesses for projects that provide social and economic benefits to their communities. Eligible projects should be close to starting operations or breaking ground within the year following funding and aim to increase:

- the number of Indigenous community-owned businesses
- employment opportunities for Indigenous Peoples
- local revenue streams for Indigenous communities

ABIF funding focuses on expanding Indigenous businesses and creating jobs in a wide array of sectors. From grocery stores to gas stations and tourist ventures to construction and forestry operations. **The closing date for applications is Sept. 30.** Full details [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Dene Tha' Hosted Vaccine Town Hall TODAY:

12-1pm July 7 on [Windspeaker radio](#). Join Chief James Ahnassay, Dene Tha' First Nation Elder Delbert Salopree, and Dr. Parminder Thiara, Deputy Medical Officer of Health with Indigenous Services Canada on Windspeaker Radio for the Dene Tha' First Nation COVID-19 Live Townhall and have your COVID-19 vaccine questions answered!

Education Town Hall JULY 15:

As discussed, we have agreed to meet on a monthly basis with the next meeting scheduled for **July 15 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Here is a draft agenda for the meeting:

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer.
2. Education K-12 Updates: ISC Education Team.
3. Mental health – TBD.

Join on your computer or mobile app:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 587-414-2346,,244520222#](#) Canada, Edmonton
Phone Conference ID: 244 520 222#

Vaccine Update



NACI Updates on Vaccine Usage:

On June 30, 2021, Health Canada updated the product labels, the documents that provide information for health care providers on the use of the vaccines, for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) to include very rare reports in Canada and internationally of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart) following vaccination. The majority of cases have been mild and people have recovered quickly. NACI continues to strongly recommend that a complete series with an mRNA vaccine should be provided to **all** eligible people, including those 12 years of age and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for use in people 12 years and older and the Moderna vaccine is approved for use in people 18 years of age and older.

Going out safely during COVID-19:

While vaccines continue to roll out across Canada, continue to choose lower-risk activities and settings to protect yourself and others. Getting vaccinated helps to protect you. Your risk is lowest when you are fully vaccinated, but you should continue to follow public health recommendations. Risk is lower when:

- You keep your close contacts to only those in your immediate household or those who are fully vaccinated.
- You remain outdoors and away from crowds when gathering with people from outside of your immediate household.
- You and those around you are following personal preventive practices: keeping interactions as few, as brief, and from the greatest physical distance possible, wearing a mask, and sanitizing or washing hands with soap and water
- The setting has many public health measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is even more important with the spread of variants of concern.
- The setting is well ventilated with fresh air from a ventilation system or open doors and/or windows.

Public Health has developed an infographic to help individuals make informed choices when going out safely. You can download the document and learn more [here](#).

Vaccine Snapshot

as of July 4th



57,975 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **33,680** First Nations people have received their first dose.



At least **4,158** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **3,732** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **24,295** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.