

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: November 10th, 2021



Rapid Testing in Schools

Alberta Education's Kindergarten to Grade 6 At-Home Rapid Testing Program has been extended to include all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students attending schools in First Nations. **Outbreak status is not required** for First Nation schools wanting to participate in the program. Rapid screening tests are another tool, along with health measures already in place at schools, to keep students and staff safe. Participation is voluntary for students and staff. Alberta Education will be providing more information [here](#) about the program to First Nation Education Authorities in the coming days. If you have questions about the At-Home Rapid Testing Program, please email EDC.SchoolRapidTesting@gov.ab.ca. Information is also available at [OneHealth.ca](https://www.onehealth.ca) under the K to 12 Schools section of the website.

US Land Border Open to Recreational Travel

On November 8th the US land border re-opened for recreational travellers. When returning to Canada, it is recommended that all travellers regularly check the COVID-19 testing requirements for re-entry into Canada which can be found [here](#) as requirements may be subject to change.

Changes to US Air Travel Rules

On November 8th, those travelling to the US by air must provide proof of a negative molecular or antigen COVID-19 test taken within three days before their flight's departure AND those over the age of 18 must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated. Children under 18 will be exempt from the proof-of-vaccination requirement, but those between the ages of 2 and 17 will be required to show proof of a negative Covid-19 test. These rules are subject to change so it is recommended that travellers regularly check the travel rules found [here](#).

REMINDER: Proof of Vaccine Requirements in Alberta as of November 15th

As of November 15th, businesses and operators participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program will only be accepting Alberta proof of vaccination with a QR code. QR codes can be downloaded [here](#). Vaccine records from First Nations, military, other provinces, and international travellers will continue to be accepted as proof of vaccination.

Question of the Day

Q: What is sotrovimab?

A: Sotrovimab is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein that attaches to the surface of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Sotrovimab prevents the virus from entering healthy cells in your body. Health Canada has authorized sotrovimab to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 that has been confirmed by testing. Sotrovimab is used to prevent these mild to moderate symptoms from getting worse in people who have a high risk of needing to go to the hospital for COVID-19. Alberta Health Services is offering some Albertans sotrovimab to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms in a limited number of settings. AHS intends to expand access to sotrovimab to more areas of the province as soon as possible. **Sotrovimab is not a replacement for immunization against COVID-19 and all eligible individuals are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine.** For more information on the use of sotrovimab in Alberta, please visit [Outpatient Treatment for COVID-19 | Alberta Health Services](#). For more information on sotrovimab please visit the [Health Canada website here](#).

Alberta Cases:

as of November 9th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Nov 8 th –422 new cases)	327,705
AB Recovered Cases	318,456
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	13,900
On-reserve Recovered Cases	13,234
On-Reserve Active Cases	530
Calgary Zone Confirmed	120,871
Central Zone Confirmed	36,949
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	102,258
North Zone Confirmed	44,975
South Zone Confirmed	22,603
Unknown Confirmed	49
Deaths due to COVID-19	3,159
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	135
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	105,686

Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program Deadline December 1, 2021

The Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program is a new program that supports communities in revitalizing and re-establishing cultural spaces. Through this program, Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals strengthen their identities and gain access to their cultures and languages. Interested applicants can find more information, eligibility requirements and the application forms can be found here: [Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Program \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Dr. Adams – on how COVID-related deaths can occur among vaccinated people (though vaccine significantly reduces risk):

Dr. Evan Adams, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health with Indigenous Services Canada, joined CFWE radio on November 4th and you can listen to the discussion [here](#).

November 4th Telehealth Recording on using social media to promote vaccination is available [here](#).

Dr. Teresa Tam – [November 5th Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada](#)

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

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

Vaccine Update



Changes to vaccine eligibility to book a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Starting November 8, the following Albertans are eligible to book a third dose, six months after they have received their second dose:

- All Albertans aged 70 and older
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) people aged 18 and older
- Front-line health-care workers who received their first two doses less than eight weeks apart
- Albertans who received two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Jansen while abroad

Emerging evidence and [recent recommendations made by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) suggest immunity levels and protection against severe outcomes may decline sooner in certain groups. The vaccine continues to be very safe and receiving a third dose will help boost immunity levels and improve protection.

Health Canada reviewing use of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for kids 5 to 11 years old

Vaccines for children aged 5 – 11 are still under review. Doses have been set aside in USA and will be delivered as soon as Health Canada gives final approval. This could be as soon as mid-November.

Canada obtaining Johnson & Johnson doses

Canada will take delivery of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine doses in the coming weeks, with the goal of boosting vaccination rates among those who prefer this vaccine.

Vaccine Snapshot

as of November 8th



93,359 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **79%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose**.



100% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



92.3% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **63.1%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses of the vaccine**.