

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: October 13, 2021



It's influenza season: The symptoms of influenza are similar to COVID-19

Influenza and COVID-19, which have similar symptoms like fever, cough or muscle aches, are caused by different viruses. Both are contagious and it can be hard to tell the difference between the influenza and COVID-19 viruses when symptoms appear. If you start to develop symptoms, follow the same precautions taken for COVID-19. A lab test can help determine whether you have been infected with the influenza or COVID-19 virus. Because of this, you should also follow COVID-19 prevention measures to help keep others safe. This year is more important than ever, for everyone 6 months and older to get the influenza shot. This will help prevent influenza and influenza-related complications. Preventing influenza will also help reduce stress on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Alberta, people six months of age and older are encouraged to get the influenza vaccine. Children under the age of five must be immunized at an AHS Public Health Clinic or physician's office. Individuals five years of age and older are encouraged to get immunized at their local pharmacy or physician's office. More information on influenza can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Post COVID-19 condition

When people still show symptoms of COVID-19 for weeks or months after their initial recovery, it's called post COVID-19 condition. It's also known as long COVID and may occur in some people after infection. You can get post COVID-19 condition if you were hospitalized or needed intensive care during recovery, or had a mild to severe infection with symptoms or even mild infection without symptoms. Post COVID-19 condition is not COVID-19. Symptoms can be quite different from those during the initial infection. It refers to the longer-term effects some people experience after their COVID-19 illness. The condition can affect both adults and children. Get vaccinated for COVID-19 to protect against post COVID-19 condition. More information can be found [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Where can I go to get my COVID-19 Vaccine Record?

A: As of September 16, Albertans can download their COVID-19 vaccine record at the Alberta COVID Records webpage found [here](#). The COVID-19 vaccine record now includes a QR code and Alberta's official app to scan COVID Record QR codes will be available soon. FNIHB-AB is currently working with Alberta Health to ensure that all COVID-19 immunization data completed in First Nations communities is available through the provincial registry. We expect that these vaccination records will be accessible through Alberta Health and online in the coming weeks. In the interim, records provided at the time of immunization and/or CHIP printouts from health centres can be used as proof of vaccination.

National Info

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

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

Alberta Cases:

as of October 12, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Oct. 11 -606 new cases)	311,633
AB Recovered Cases	291,421
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	12,648
On-reserve Recovered Cases	11,787
On-Reserve Active Cases	752
Calgary Zone Confirmed	116,571
Central Zone Confirmed	33,893
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	98,679
North Zone Confirmed	41,481
South Zone Confirmed	20,999
Unknown Confirmed	64
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,863
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	109
Active Variants of Concern	6,137

Regional Snapshot

311,633

cases

37%

Calgary Zone

50%

males

13,531

Hospitalized ever

2582

ICU ever

2,863

deaths

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

Useful Links

[Alberta Health has updated their "Staying safe and healthy this school year" website.](#)

Effective October 6, public reporting of COVID-19 cases in schools will resume, with Alberta Health identifying online each school with at least 2 COVID-19 cases. School COVID-19 outbreaks will be reported at 10 or more COVID-19 cases within a 14 day period that were infectious while at school. Later in October, K-6 schools in Alberta that are experiencing outbreaks will have access to at-home rapid test kits for students and staff. More information on this will be shared when available.

[Assisting people who have needle phobia or live with development challenges to receive the COVID-19 vaccine - AHS](#)

[AFN Alberta - COVID-19 Video Project: Protect Your Community](#)

Recall notices for Luxe and Dollarama hand sanitizer products

A recall notice was issued on September 23 for Luxe Health Hand Sanitizer Gel (Ethyl Alcohol 74%) due to undeclared impurity and benzene at elevated levels. On September 17, a recall notice for Dollarama MediCare hand sanitizer group products was also issued due to affected lots that may contain concentration of acetaldehyde or benzene that is outside the acceptable limit. These products are being recalled because they do not meet Health Canada's requirements. Stop using the products identified above. For more information on these recalled products, please visit [here](#).

Vaccine Update



3rd Dose COVID-19 Booster Shots Now Available

Effective October 6, third doses are available to Albertans aged 75 and older and First Nations, Métis and Inuit people aged 65 and older. Individuals that fall within these groups are advised to receive their third dose six (6) months after their second dose. Proof of age is required before the vaccine is administered. Further information is available at the [here](#). The province continues to recommend a booster dose 5 months after the second dose for residents of long term care sites. Booster shots are administered after the protection provided by the original vaccine series starts to decrease over time. An additional dose can also be administered to individuals travelling to jurisdictions that do not recognize mixed series doses. Alberta is also continuing to recommend an additional dose to the primary vaccine series for eligible severely immunocompromised individuals.

Concern Over Myocarditis and Pericarditis in Relation to the COVID-19 Vaccine:

As more people continue to get vaccinated across the country, there is concern over the rare risks associated with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. There is a 0.008% chance of serious side effects after the vaccine. As part of the careful monitoring of these vaccines, reports of rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart) after immunization with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been reported. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released a [statement](#) about the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis after immunization with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines to affirm that all authorized vaccines continue to be safe and effective at protecting you from COVID-19. Over 56 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to date, these reports of myocarditis and pericarditis continue to be rare and in most cases resolve quickly. It is important to note that the risk of cardiac complications, including myocarditis, can also be a side effect of the COVID-19 infection and is higher after COVID-19 infection than after immunization. Health Canada and PHAC continue to consider that the benefits of vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine approved in Canada outweigh the potential risks of COVID-19.

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of October 11



79,897 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **70.4%** 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.



98.2% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **54.4%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses of the vaccine**.