

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: September 1st, 2021



REMINDER: Get Vaccinated to help prevent “Long COVID”

For some individuals who contract COVID, illness and ongoing symptoms or issues can persist for months after the original diagnosis, referred to as “long COVID”. Troublingly, many long COVID sufferers never had a severe illness to begin with, most were asymptomatic or not hospitalized with the illness. Although not a lot of research exists yet, long COVID is very real. AHS estimates that about 10%-35% of positive cases of COVID develop Long COVID, which is over 45,000 Albertans as well as about 8% of children. A long COVID framework is being developed with Pathways for rehabilitation:

- Acute care/ in-patient rehab
- Primary care/ community rehab
- Post-acute Care/ Contributing rehab

Being fully vaccinated has proven to be effective against developing more severe symptoms even if one does contract COVID. Currently, health professionals are focusing on the 3Rs: recognition, research & rehabilitation to better understand Long COVID and combat it, but all experts agree the best thing you can do for your own health and safety and those around you is to ensure you get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. A link to the Long COVID telehealth session that occurred on Friday July 16th can be found [here](#). Additional resources from Alberta Health Services on getting healthy after COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Fourth Wave:

Alberta has entered the fourth wave of the pandemic, and the highly infectious B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant has become the dominant COVID-19 strain in the province. ISC- AB and the Medical Officers of Health (MOH) team are available to work with you and your communities to maintain an enhanced COVID-19 response, which includes supporting First Nations with testing, case management, and contact tracing efforts as needed. We encourage you to coordinate with your health staff on submissions to the regional Communicable Disease Emergencies (CDE) Inbox at sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca to request surge supports as required. We encourage you and your Nation members to visit the [Alberta OneHealth COVID-19 webpage](#) to access a variety of resources, including guidance on the new K-12 school year, Telehealth series information, and immunization handouts and tools.

Question of the Day

Q: What Information is available on the outbreak at the Alberta Indigenous Games?

A: The Alberta Indigenous Games were held in Edmonton, Alberta from August 12-19, 2021. At this time, at least **eighteen** cases of COVID-19 have been identified in various communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan through contact tracing. The Alberta Indigenous Games events occurred in several venues throughout Edmonton, including the following:

- Callingwood Park
- Goldstick Park and Pavilion
- Michael Cameron Arena
- Rundle Park
- Saville Community Sports Centre
- St. Francis Xavier Sports Centre
- Tipton Arena
- West Edmonton Mall (Ice Palace)

All cases are either confirmed or believed to be unvaccinated. For further information on the 2021 Games and an event schedule, please visit the [Alberta Indigenous Games website](#).

ISC-AB and its partners are actively investigating this situation. The ISC-AB Medical Officers of Health team recommends individuals who attended/participated in the Alberta Indigenous Games self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following your last potential exposure (you can take [Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)). Should you develop symptoms, ISC-AB's Medical Officers of Health team recommends you self-isolate and arrange testing through your local health centre.

Alberta Cases:

as of August 31st, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Aug 30th –920 new cases)	252,930
AB Recovered Cases	238,895
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	9,765
On-reserve Recovered Cases	9,055
On-Reserve Active Cases	614
Calgary Zone Confirmed	101,559
Central Zone Confirmed	22,946
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	83,611
North Zone Confirmed	29,919
South Zone Confirmed	14,847
Unknown Confirmed	48
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,375
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	95
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	66,776

AgriRecovery funding

Agriculture and Agri-Food has increased total AgriRecovery funding to up to \$500 million to address extraordinary costs faced by producers due to drought and wildfires. This includes initial funding of \$100 million announced on August 6, 2021. Producers can also apply for interim payments under AgriStability to help them cope with immediate financial challenges. The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta have agreed to increase the 2021 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50% to 75%, so producers can access a greater portion of their benefit early to meet their urgent needs. Full details available [here](#).

Regional Snapshot

252,930

cases

40%

Calgary Zone

51%

males

10,418

Hospitalized ever

1,970

ICU ever

2,375

deaths

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

Useful Links

Expanding Indigenous continuing care

The province announced Indigenous groups and organizations can now apply for grants under the new \$154 million Continuing Care Capital Program. The new program offers one-time capital grants to support building, upgrading or renovating continuing care spaces. There are 3 funding streams: The first stream focuses on developing continuing care capacity with Indigenous groups and organizations, the second on increasing continuing care capacity in previously identified priority communities and the third on modernizing existing facilities. The deadline for applications is **Dec.17**. Full details available [here](#).

Updated Posters from Public Health:

[Care at home for those who have or may have been exposed to COVID-19.](#)

[Parenting during COVID-19](#)

[How to quarantine or isolate at home if you have or may have COVID-19](#)

Vaccine Update



REMINDER: Returning to School Safely:

The province has released a [Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention and Management in Schools](#) document to help your Nations plan to reduce respiratory illness and infection in schools. A back-to-school [tool kit](#) provides information for parents and school staff on what to expect when students head to their classrooms. Consistent with the extended timelines for easing COVID-19 measures, students and school staff should screen daily for symptoms using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#), and [must isolate](#) if they test positive or have the core COVID-19 symptoms. A detailed [2021-22 School Year Plan](#) contains two contingency scenarios for continuing student learning if there is a significant change in the COVID-19 situation in the fall. To further promote a safe school year, all eligible Albertans, including students, teaching staff, parents and guardians, are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated with both doses before the school year begins. **As a reminder, our ISC MOH and EPHO teams are always available to work with your Nations on a return to school strategy that emphasizes safety and well-being of children, teachers and staff. Please contact sac.cdemergenciesab urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca for support.**

Booster Doses:

Starting Sept. 1, third doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be available for all seniors living in congregate care facilities and for immunocompromised Albertans. Receiving a third dose will boost immunity levels and improve protection for all seniors living in congregate care facilities and individuals with compromised immune systems. In addition, mRNA doses (Pfizer and Moderna) will be made available to Albertans who are travelling to a jurisdiction that does not accept visitors who have been vaccinated with Covishield/AstraZeneca or mixed doses. Immunocompromising conditions that qualify for an additional dose at least eight weeks after their second dose include: Transplant recipients, including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants, Individuals with chronic kidney disease who are receiving regular dialysis, Individuals in active cancer treatment (chemotherapy, immunotherapy or targeted therapies) excluding those receiving only hormonal therapy, radiation therapy or surgery and Individuals on certain medications for autoimmune diseases, including rituximab, ocrelizumab and ofatumumab. The Government of Alberta has confirmed that All First Nations and Metis persons are eligible if they belong to one of these three groups listed. For more information, please click [here](#)

Vaccine Snapshot

as of August 30th



71,753 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **62.8%** 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.



94.7% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **49.2%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.

Vaccine Update

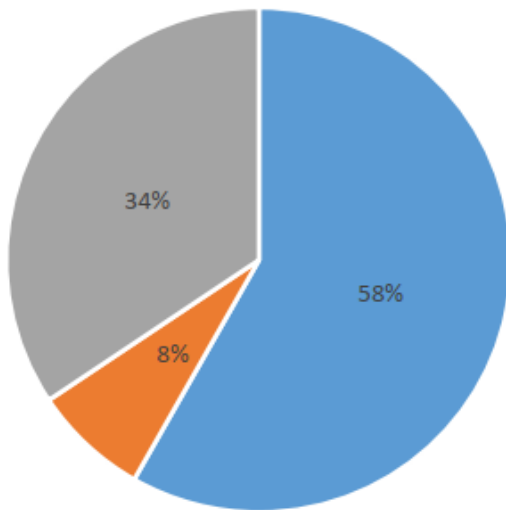


Vaccine Effectiveness:

Dr. Hinshaw has shared this following illustration to indicate how helpful vaccination can be against contracting COVID or becoming hospitalized. More information available [here](#).

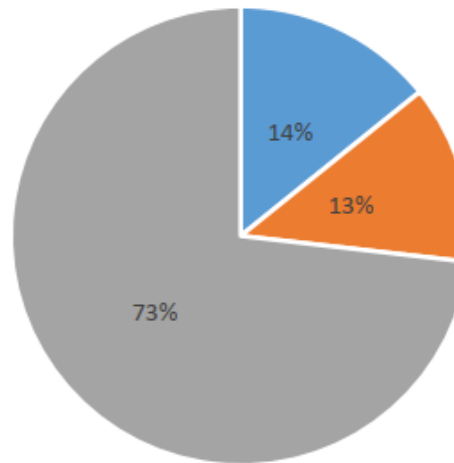
Active Cases and Hospitalizations by Immunization Status as of August 16

Total Population



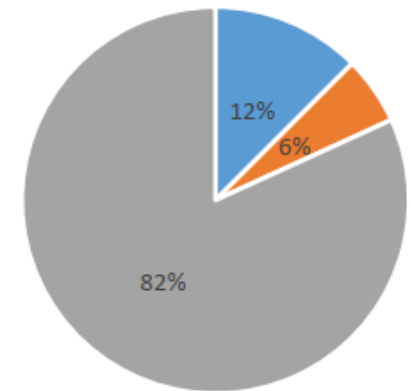
■ Complete ■ Partial ■ Unvaccinated

Current Active Cases by Immunization Status



■ Complete ■ Partial ■ Unvaccinated

Current Total Hospitalizations by Immunization Status



■ Complete ■ Partial ■ Unvaccinated