

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *July 21, 2021*



### Updates

#### Updates on Travel:

As of July 5, fully vaccinated travellers who are eligible to enter Canada (Canadian citizens, permanent residents, Indigenous peoples recognized by the Constitution Act, 1982 Section 35 and foreign nationals exempted under an Emergency Order) are not required to quarantine or complete a day-8 test. In addition, fully vaccinated travellers arriving by air are not be required to stay at a government-authorized hotel to await their on-arrival test result. To be eligible for the exemption from the federal requirement to quarantine, day-8 testing and the government-authorized stay (for air travellers), fully vaccinated travellers must:

- Be asymptomatic;
- Submit their travel information, including proof of vaccination, in [ArriveCAN](#) within 72 hours before arrival to Canada;
- Meet the [pre-entry test](#) requirement by showing proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken within 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border crossing
- Take a [test on-arrival](#); and comply with any other applicable requirements imposed under the relevant *Quarantine Act* Emergency Orders

Beginning August 9, the Government of Canada will allow entry of fully vaccinated American citizens and permanent residents, currently residing in the U.S., for non-essential travel to Canada. On September 7, provided that the COVID situation remains favourable, the Government intends to open Canada's borders to travellers from any country who have been fully vaccinated with Government of Canada-accepted vaccines at least 14 days prior to entering Canada and meet specific entry requirements.

As for travel of ISC Alberta staff to your Nations, we are still limiting travel for essential reasons only and for the work of medical staff. We are all eager to connect in-person again but should make every effort to use virtual tools first as we ensure that as many staff members are fully vaccinated before resuming regular travel.

#### Changes in Continuing Care Restrictions:

As cases remain low in continuing care facilities and vaccination rates are high for the elderly, the Province will take a two-phase approach for easing remaining measures. The first phase will lift remaining visitor restrictions, current limits to dining and recreation activities, and additional screening for residents who go off-site. Outbreak protocols, single-site staffing and other measures will remain in place until further notice. Lifted restrictions include: visitors no longer limited in number or conditions, all limits to dining and recreation activities for residents are removed and residents are no longer required to be screened upon re-entering the building or are required to quarantine if they have gone off-site. To help make informed decisions for the facilities on your Nations you can view the full details of the provincial plan [here](#).

### Question of the Day

**Q: Should I be concerned about the COVID-19 Delta Variant?**

**A: Yes, the Delta variant or B.1.617.2 was first identified in India in December of 2020. The Delta variant is 50% more contagious than the first strain of COVID-19, spreads rapidly, and is now the dominant variant worldwide. This variant may be capable of re-infecting people who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and outbreaks have occurred in fully vaccinated people. Individuals who are un-vaccinated are at much higher risk for infection and severe disease. Studies have shown that the vaccines in use in Canada are highly effective at reducing severe disease, hospitalization and death. Becoming fully vaccinated with two does and following public health measures of distancing, masking and hand washing is the best deterrent against the Delta variant.**

# Alberta Cases:

as of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (July 19<sup>th</sup> – 69 new cases)</b>	<b>232,875</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>229,951</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>9,018</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>8,894</b>
<b>On-Reserve Active Cases</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>94,937</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>20,878</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>77,876</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>26,628</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>12,543</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>2,318</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta</b>	<b>49,808</b>

## Local Food Infrastructure Fund

On July 9, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced a top-up of \$10 million for the Local Food Infrastructure Fund which re-opened for applications on July 12. The additional funding will address pandemic-related food security pressures in Northern and remote communities across Canada.

The new application intake system will provide rapid-response grants for community-led projects that strengthen food systems by increasing accessibility to healthy, nutritious and ideally local foods. The grants are valued between \$15,000 to \$100,000. The fund will support \$23 million in projects from 2021 to 2022. Full details [here](#).

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

### Recording of Dene Tha and Windspeaker Radio's COVID Vaccine Town Hall:

Please find below the link to the recording of the July 7<sup>th</sup> radio/Facebook town hall co-presented by Dene Tha First Nation and Windspeaker Radio. Dr. Thiara was the MOH participating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDBvXzzLF3k>

### New vaccine lottery offers outdoor adventure prizes:

The [Outdoor Adventure Vaccine Lottery](#) gives vaccinated Albertans a chance to win a variety of outdoor adventure prizes including ski and hunting packages. Due to the unique nature of these prizes, Albertans will be required to register separately for their chance to win. Anyone who already registered for the Open for Summer Lottery will need to register again specifically for the Outdoor Adventure Vaccine Lottery if they want to win these prizes. Winners are expected to be announced on Sept. 17. Registration for the draw closes **September 10, 2021 at 11:59 pm**.

# Vaccine Update



## Importance of Second Dose:

News of variants in COVID-19 are concerning for us all. Variants are expected because viruses are constantly changing over time as they spread, including the virus that causes COVID-19. Public Health Surveillance can help investigate the impacts some variants may have on the transmission or severity of disease, as well as the effectiveness of vaccines and treatments. It is through Public Health Surveillance that the ISC-AB Medical Officers of Health are made aware of the protection that a complete COVID-19 two-dose vaccine series provides. Data shows that two doses provide a very high level of protection against COVID-19 that persists. Data has shown that this protection is effective against all the COVID-19 variants that are circulating at this time and that a third booster is not currently required. Health Canada will continue to monitor the public health surveillance and vaccine manufacturers' data and will take action if new data suggests that any authorized vaccine is significantly affected by new variants. Even if a vaccine shows reduced efficacy against a particular variant, people who are vaccinated have been shown to have a significant level of protection. Widespread vaccination will help us achieve the best public health outcomes by reducing overall transmission.

## 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](#).

## Vaccine Snapshot

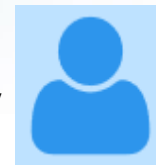
\*as of July 19<sup>th</sup>\*



**61,539** doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **35,076** First Nations people have received their first dose.



At least **4,316** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **3,899** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **26,463** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.