

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *June 2nd 2021*



Updates

Alberta's Open For Summer Plan:

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan includes three stages based on vaccination thresholds and hospitalizations:

- Stage 1: Two weeks after 50 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 800 and declining. This includes increased capacity for worship, retail, outdoor dining and outdoor gatherings
- Stage 2: Two weeks after 60 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 500 and declining. This includes indoor recreation, gym openings, indoor dining, increased capacity at events and retail.
- Stage 3: Two weeks after 70 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine. This includes lifting of all restrictions, including ban on indoor social gatherings. Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remain.

Since Alberta reached the 50 per cent threshold for one-dose vaccination on May 18, and with hospitalizations well below 800, **we are currently in Stage 1**. Based on the current pace of vaccinations, Alberta is projected to enter Stage 2 in mid-June and Stage 3 in late June or early July. These are estimates only and rely on all Albertans continuing to drive down our hospitalizations while increasing vaccination numbers. Full details are available [here](#).

ICSF 4:

On April 19, 2021, Budget 2021 proposed an additional \$760.8 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF). The ICSF helps you design and implement community-based solutions to prevent, prepare and respond to the spread of COVID-19 within your communities. These funds can be used for measures including, but not limited to: support for Elders and vulnerable community members, measures to address food insecurity, educational and other support for children, mental health assistance and emergency response services, preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Of this amount, approximately \$200 million is being sent to communities as direct allocations in early June. A further \$200 million will be sent in Fall 2021. These funds provide flexibility to address the specific needs identified by your Nations and members. In addition, \$360 million in needs-based funding will support Indigenous communities and organizations, including \$150 million to support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and First Nations living off reserve. Please note, the request process to access needs-based funding has been reopened. For more information and details on the request process, please visit the ICSF [webpage](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Is there support for small businesses needing relief due to COVID-19?

A: Originally launched in April, the Province reopened the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program for a new payment to businesses affected by the April 2021 public health orders. Application intake for the spring 2021 payment from Alberta's small business grant has been extended to **June 30**. The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant (SMERG) offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees that have faced restrictions or closures due to COVID-related public health orders, and have experienced revenue losses of at least 30 per cent. Eligible organizations will receive a payment of up to \$10,000, which follows the previous intake that provided up to \$20,000. Funds can be used as business owners see fit. Full details and eligibility available [here](#).

National Info

[COVID-19 vaccines and Indigenous peoples](#)

Take 15 minutes just for you

Alberta Cases:

as of June 1st, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 31 st – 209 new cases)	227,718
AB Recovered Cases	217,634
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	8,496
On-reserve Recovered Cases	8,263
On-Reserve Active Cases	149
Calgary Zone Confirmed	92,517
Central Zone Confirmed	20,245
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	76,829
North Zone Confirmed	25,778
South Zone Confirmed	12,334
Unknown Confirmed	15
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,228
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	84
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	45,420

Growing Indigenous tourism in Alberta

As part of the plan to help the tourism sector recover, the Government of Alberta is increasing funding to support Indigenous tourism experiences across the province. As part of this funding, Travel Alberta and Indigenous Tourism Alberta have signed a three-year partnership agreement. This partnership supports reconciliation, Indigenous tourism businesses and helps position Alberta as the premier destination for Indigenous tourism in Canada. Which breaks down as \$1.2 million in 2021-22/\$1.25 million in 2022-23/\$1.3 million in 2023-24. Full details [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Education Director Town Hall TOMORROW 10:00-11:30 am:

A meeting with Education Directors to touch base and share information.

- Welcome & Opening Prayer.
- Education K-12 Updates: ISC Education Team.
- Health Updates on immunizations of 12-17 year olds, rapid testing: First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Alberta Health Services (please refer to attached document entitled “Rapid Screening Program”).
- Future meetings: agenda topics, timing.

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 587-414-2346](#) Phone Conference ID: 885 657 968#

Virtual Care Clinic:

The Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC) has updated their hours and they are now **open until 8:30pm on Wednesdays**. The AIVCC serves individuals self-identifying as First Nations, Inuit and Métis and their families. AIVCC provides same-day care to rural and urban Indigenous people residing in Alberta via secure video or phone service and can be reached at 1-888-342-4822 or www.aivcc.ca.

Vaccine Update



Toolkit to Encourage Immunization:

Alberta Health developed a toolkit to help support employers across Alberta as they provide information and encouragement to their employees about getting immunized. The Employer's toolkit for vaccination is intended for use by all Albertans, and we thought you may wish to review it, in case you find any of the materials helpful as you work to encourage your members to be vaccinated as quickly and easily as possible. You can find the toolkit on our website, here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/employers-toolkit-for-vaccination>. In the toolkit you will find:

- An overview and current status of Alberta's COVID-19 Immunization Program.
- Strategies to support employees or members pre- and post-immunization.
- How to address vaccine hesitancy.
- Requirements for the limited number of onsite immunization clinics.
- COVID-19 vaccine questions and answers resource and quick facts.

NACI Advice on Second Dose Mixing:

Yesterday, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) updated its recommendations on the interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines for second doses following studies from Germany, U.K, and Spain.

- If the first dose was the AstraZeneca (COVISHIELD) vaccine, NACI recommends to receive either the same vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna) for the second dose.
- If the first dose was an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna), NACI recommends that the same vaccine product be offered for the second dose.
- If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered for the second dose.

A summary of the NACI statement can be found [here](#).

Vaccine Injury Support Program

In December 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) would establish a pan-Canadian no-fault Vaccine Injury Support Program (VISP), in consultation with provinces and territories. PHAC is pleased to inform you that earlier today, the Vaccine Injury Support Program (VISP) was launched. The VISP is being administered independently by RCGT Consulting. For more information on eligibility, the claims assessment process and how individuals can apply, please visit RCGT's website at www.vaccineinjurysupport.ca.

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of May 31st *



48,801 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **28,303** First Nations people have received their first dose.



At least **3,855** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **3,361** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **18,427** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.