

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *May 26th 2021*



Updates

Mental Wellness Day for Schools:

On June 3, 2021, schools can access free, online sessions on mental wellness. There are individual sessions for kindergarten to grade 3, grades 4 to 6 and grades 7 to 12 students – as well as teachers, staff and parents. All share a common theme: 'Take care of yourself and each other.' It's a way of recognizing the resilience of school communities during this difficult year and offering some fun, engaging sessions on supporting mental wellness together. Activities include a performance and message from Alberta country music singer Brett Kissel, inspirational messages from the Edmonton Oilers, Calgary Flames and others, as well as fun, age-appropriate activities for children and youth led by Alberta Health Services, Ever Active Schools and Jack.org. Sessions for adults include talks by the College of Alberta School Superintendents, resilience expert Michael Ungar, clinical psychologist Jody Carrington and RESPECT Group co-founder Sheldon Kennedy. Full details available [here](#).

The Alberta Jobs Now Program:

As we begin to rebuild economically from COVID-19, the province has announced up to \$370 million to help private and non-profit businesses support much-needed jobs for unemployed and underemployed Albertans across the province. Employers will be able to apply for a grant that covers 25 per cent of an employee's salary for a 52-week period up to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee. The grant can be used to cover salary or training costs. Employers who hire persons with disabilities will receive a grant 1.5 times higher than the amount they receive for other new employees. Employers will be able to apply at alberta.ca/jobsnow. They can apply for funding for up to 20 new employees. Employers have until Aug. 31 to apply. A second intake will open on Sept. 15 and close on Dec. 31. To be eligible for the program, private sector business or non-profit organizations must use the funding to hire unemployed Albertans in a new or vacant position. The new hire must reside and work in Alberta and must not have worked for the employer within the past 90 days. Full details available [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: How can we continue to ensure food security as we navigate this pandemic?

A: Canadian Roots Exchange which works to promote respect, understanding, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, is providing funding to support Land and Food Sovereignty. Funding up to \$25,000 or \$80,000 (for large scale applications) is available for projects that increase opportunities to participate in land-based programming, learn about food and medicines and engage with knowledge keepers. Projects in this stream need to be Indigenous-led and youth-focused, although community-focused and intergenerational activities can be run. Projects can be up to 12 months in length. The deadline is JUNE 7th and full details can be found [here](#).

National Info

[COVID 19 and the Vaccine - A Message from the National Turtle Lodge Council of Knowledge Keepers](#)

[Vaccine side effects](#)

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

Alberta Cases:

as of May 25th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 24th – 387 new cases)	225,034
AB Recovered Cases	210,764
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	8,400
On-reserve Recovered Cases	8,121
On-Reserve Active Cases	194
Calgary Zone Confirmed	91,449
Central Zone Confirmed	19,859
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	76,096
North Zone Confirmed	25,420
South Zone Confirmed	12,180
Unknown Confirmed	30
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,192
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	83
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	43,480

What to Do if Your Child Is Sick with COVID

Kidshealth.org developed [this page](#) to help parents and children deal with a COVID case and provide resources and information to keep children and their families safe. The site also has pages and information directed towards kids and teens themselves where they can seek more info in a safe way. Also, there is a section for educators as well. With the return to school, this is another place to find helpful information and useful resources in plain language for kids to understand current health issues.

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

FNHMA COVID-19 Town Hall TODAY:

Today at, **11am** FNHMA is convening a Virtual Town Hall Information Session & Q+A to discuss the effects of the pandemic on affecting health managers, front line health workers, and First Nations communities. you'll be able to connect with these health officials through email and take part in the Live Q+A session every week. Questions can be sent to FNHMA@ihtoday.ca an the event live streamed [here](#).

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



Vaccine Snapshot

*as of May 24th *



43,911 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **27,128** First Nations people have received their first dose.



At least **3,796** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **3,301** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **16,783** First Nations people have received two doses of the vaccine.

Health Canada authorizes more flexible storage conditions for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine:

On May 19, Health Canada authorized a submission from Pfizer-BioNTech to allow its COVID-19 vaccine to be stored at regular refrigerated temperatures (2-8°C) at the point of use for up to one month. This change means that there will be more storage options available for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which will allow for more flexibility in immunization plans. As this is the only vaccine currently approved for use in those under 18, this will help to increase on reserve youth vaccination rates. Health Canada will continue to monitor the safety, efficacy and quality of all COVID-19 vaccines. More details available [here](#).

COVID-19 Quarantine for Immunized Close Contacts:

Alberta health recently changed the approach to quarantine for those that have received a licensed vaccine. Health staff on reserve have been informed of the changes and have implemented them fully. This approach is based on the emerging evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly protective against infection. You are considered **partially** immunized 14 days after you've received one dose of the vaccine. If you are partially immunized at the time you are exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- If you don't get tested, you must [quarantine](#) for 10 days from the date of last exposure.
- Get [tested](#) for COVID-19 on day 7 or later (this is 7 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19). If your test is negative and you still have no symptoms your quarantine is over.
- If you develop [symptoms](#), get [tested](#) for COVID-19 as soon as possible. You must [isolate](#) for at least 10 days after your symptoms start, if you are not tested.

If you're **fully** immunized (14 days after you have received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, if the second dose was less than 14 days prior then you're considered partially immunized) and are exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- You do not have to quarantine as long as you do not have symptoms.
- If you develop [symptoms](#) get [tested](#) for COVID-19 as soon as possible. You must [isolate](#) until you receive a negative test result OR for at least 10 days after your symptoms start, if you are not tested.

Full details are available [here](#) or discuss with your healthcare provider.