

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Updates

### CERB and EI Update:

The Government of Canada announced that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will be extended by an additional four weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks. This means that for the many Canadians expecting to exhaust their CERB benefits at the end of August, they will now be able to access an additional month of support. The government will transition people who have been receiving the CERB to a more flexible and generous EI program for those who qualify, and will include additional features and tools to get back into the workforce. Effective September 27, EI will now be available to more Canadians, including those who would not have qualified for EI in the past. Those receiving EI will be eligible for a taxable benefit rate of at least \$400 per week, or \$240 per week for extended parental benefits, and regular benefits will be accessible for a minimum duration of 26 weeks. This will include supporting Canadians receiving EI benefits to have access to skills training and employment supports, to help them get back to work. The impacts for Income Assistance clients will not change. More details available [here](#).

### Mental Health and Wellness Support Funding:

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Minister Miller announced [\\$82.5 million in mental health and wellness supports to help Indigenous communities](#) adapt and expand mental wellness services, improving access and addressing growing demand due to the pandemic. The funding will help partners and communities to adapt mental wellness services to the current COVID-19 context, including:

- expanding access to culturally appropriate services such as on the land activities, community-based health supports and mental wellness teams;
- adapting mental health services, such as virtual counselling, to meet increased demand; and
- supporting Indigenous partners in developing innovative strategies to address substance use and to improve access to treatment services.

The Minister specifically mentioned the impact this public health emergency has had on women and the 2SLGBTQQIA community and issues surrounding connectivity in remote communities attempting telehealth approaches. We will share details on how the funding will be distributed as soon as it is available.

## Question of the Day

**Q: Where can we find more guidance on safely reopening schools?**

**A: on August 21<sup>st</sup> the Province released revised information and guidance documents that will aid all communities in school opening. These include a [revised scenario 1 reopening plan](#), [implementing school re-entry guidance](#), and a [resource guide for COVID-19 outbreaks in schools](#).**

## National Information

[Download COVID Alert today](#)

[Canada COVID-19 App and Self-Assessment Tool](#)

[Going out safely during COVID-19](#)

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities](#)

### The Hope for Wellness Help Line

is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: [hopeforwellness.ca](https://hopeforwellness.ca)

## Alberta Cases:

as of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (August 24<sup>th</sup> – 77 new cases)</b>	<b>13,083</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>11,714</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>7,156</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>570</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>2,776</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>1,725</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>1</b>

## Influenza and COVID-19 this fall

As with every year, there is increased occurrence of viral infections in the fall. Most notably this year, we are anticipating the co-occurrence of COVID-19 and influenza. We are taking additional measures this year because both the influenza viruses and COVID-19 have the potential to cause large outbreaks. Young children, people over the age of 65, pregnant women and those who are in poor health are more likely to become very sick from the flu. In the COVID-19 climate, it is important for people to get the flu shot to reduce the incidence and/or severity of influenza. Getting the flu shot can help keep you, your family and community healthy. Furthermore, preventing the spread and infection of the flu can reduce the burden on the health care system. FNIHB is preparing for flu vaccinations to be available in October. Please check with your local health care facility for more information on local immunization plans. More information and resources on the flu shot is available [here](#)

## Regional Snapshot

13,083

cases

55%

Calgary Zone

50%

males

654

Hospitalized ever

128

ICU ever

235

deaths

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

## Update on the Regional Contact:

**Dean Janvier will be departing from the role of Special Leadership Liaison effective today, Wednesday August 26, 2020.** Dean has been hired as the President & CEO of Siksika Resource Developments Ltd., which is a group of companies owned by the Siksika Nation operating in the Agriculture, Construction, Commercial, Hospitality and Retail sectors. He is honoured to have served all First Nations in Alberta to address the COVID-19 pandemic and wishes all of you good health and continued success.

We are grateful for Dean's leadership and support throughout the pandemic and wish him well on his new venture.

The Special Leadership Liaison position was created to ensure additional support for Leadership through COVID-19 and we are planning to continue with this approach moving forward.