

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *December 16, 2020*

Updates

Vaccine Update:

This week begins the roll out of the Pfizer vaccine in Alberta. Critical health-care workers will be receiving the vaccine as soon as today. On-reserve First Nations people over age 65 will be a priority in the first phase of the vaccine roll out, in addition to long-term care residents and staff, seniors age 75 and older, and critical health-care workers. This year has brought its challenges, but it has also shown us the immense amount of strength that we have when we all work together to protect one another's health. Learn about the [approval process for vaccines](#) and [what you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine for Canada](#). In addition, The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) [website](#) is updated regularly and is an excellent resource. ISC is working closely with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners to support an integrated and coordinated approach to support the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine for Indigenous Peoples and communities (click [here](#) for more information). On Monday, the Government of Alberta announced over 25,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine are en route to Alberta. These are in addition to the 3,900 doses that are expected to arrive this week and will begin to be administered in Calgary and Edmonton within days of delivery. The ultra-cold freezers needed for the Pfizer vaccines are now installed at eight locations across Alberta and AHS staff are being trained to ensure quality and safety are maintained. For provincial specific info, click [here](#).

Mental Wellness:

We acknowledge the significant impact COVID-19 has had on all those working to support communities during this time. A First Nations telehealth session dedicated to mental health will be held on January 20, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm (MST). A reminder that Individuals and front-line workers can access mental health and substance use support, resources, and counselling during COVID-19 through [Wellness Together Canada](#). Additional Mental Health Supports:

- The Hope for Wellness Helpline is available 24/7 offering counselling and crisis intervention. Call toll-free at 1-855-242-3310 or connect to the online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](https://www.hopeforwellness.ca).
- The Kids Help Phone is available 24/7 offering counselling and information to youth on how to access community support services. Call toll-free at 1-800-668-6868.
- The Alberta Mental Health Help Line is available 24/7 to provide information about mental health services, as well as referrals to other agencies if needed. Call toll-free at 1-877-303-2642.
- Family Violence Resources: <https://www.alberta.ca/family-violence-prevention-resources.aspx>

Question of the Day

Q: How can Jordan's Principle help with COVID-19 relief?

A: During the coronavirus pandemic, Jordan's Principle continues to assist First Nations children living in Canada access the products, services and supports they need. This can include, for example, laptops, psychological services, speech and language services, as recommended by an educational, social or health professionals. To find out more, contact your [regional focal point](#). For support and up-to-date information on COVID-19 visit [COVID-19 and Indigenous communities](#).

National Info

[Vaccine development and approval in Canada](#)

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

Alberta Cases:

as of December 15^h, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Dec. 14th – 1,341 new cases)	83,327
AB Recovered Cases	61,934
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	1759
On-reserve Recovered Cases	1335
On-Reserve Active Cases	410
Calgary Zone Confirmed	32,668
Central Zone Confirmed	4,711
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	35,603
North Zone Confirmed	5,538
South Zone Confirmed	4,594
Unknown Confirmed	213
Deaths due to COVID-19	744
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	14

Reminder: Service Canada Services

As a reminder, Service Canada is taking steps to ensure everyone can connect and get the full benefit of the Government of Canada supports available in these challenging times. To support access to critical programs and services for clients, including First Nations members, without access to technology, Service Canada Community Outreach and Liaison Service are available to offer alternate service delivery methods that will continue to support accessing critical programs, services and benefits. You can call them at: 1-877-631-2657

Regional Snapshot



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

CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative

DEADLINE APPROACHING! The [new CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative \(RHI\)](#) is intended to address the urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians as a result of COVID-19. There are two streams:

- 1. Major Cities stream** (\$500M) for cities with highest severe needs, and are encouraged to apply a community benefits approach and push for projects targeting women, and the urban Indigenous population;
- 2. Project stream** (\$500M) wherein Indigenous governing bodies and organizations will be eligible to apply and will be priorities. Regional CMHC Specialists are available to advise and navigate Indigenous governing bodies and Indigenous organizations through submission requirements. Applications close for the Project Stream on December 31, 2020.

Details and application forms can be found [here](#).