

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *July 15, 2020*

### Updates

#### Second Wave:

A second wave of COVID-19 would be an increase or spike of cases after the initial wave of infections has decreased and stabilized. This is still a new virus and there is no certainty on what will happen to the infection moving forward, but preparations for a continued response to COVID-19 is prudent. This could include reviewing the lessons learned from the start of the pandemic in March and updating your pandemic plan. Preventing a second wave depends almost entirely on us all. Physical distancing, wearing non-medical masks when distancing is not possible, good hand hygiene, staying home if you are feeling unwell and getting tested if you have any symptoms is a shared responsibility and the best way to avoid or minimize the impact of a second wave. From the modelling available to us, adhering to the public health directives can cut the number of daily infections, hospitalizations and deaths by much more than half. We continue to monitor the [Alberta situation](#) closely and your health directors are meeting with both AHS and ISC regularly.

#### Masks For Albertans:

Once again, the Government of Alberta will be providing masks for all residents. Specifically for First Nations, this will be double the previous order and will be made available directly to your Nations. Questions regarding this mask program can be directed to your provincial contact or calling 211. All are encouraged to wear non-medical masks in public when it's difficult to maintain physical distancing of 2 meters at all times. Masks should complement – not replace – other prevention measures. Continue physical distancing and good hand hygiene, and stay home when sick.

### Question of the Day

**Q: What type of costs are eligible for additional public health support for First Nations during COVID-19?**

**A: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) works with Indigenous communities in the provinces to support the public health response to COVID-19 with additional funding of \$285 million. Examples of COVID-19 public health expenses that may be supported include costs related to:**

- Supplies and storage
- Surge health infrastructure
- Staffing and surge capacity
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Food security to support physical isolation
- Perimeter security
- Supports to update, review or activate pandemic response plans
- Working with other governments
- Translation of documents or messages into Indigenous languages, English or French

Full details available [here](#). For any questions please contact your Community Liaison officer or [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca)

## Alberta Cases:

as of July 14<sup>th</sup> 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (July 13– 86 new cases)	8,912
AB Recovered Cases	8,048
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	127
On-reserve Recovered Cases	88
Calgary Zone Confirmed	5,657
Central Zone Confirmed	141
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	1,274
North Zone Confirmed	388
South Zone Confirmed	1,431
Unknown Confirmed	21
Deaths due to COVID-19	163
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

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

## COVID Funding for Forest Operations

The Government of Canada will provide up to \$30 million to offset additional costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures for small and medium enterprises in the forest sector, including tree-planting operations. The government intends to work with the provinces and territories to deliver this funding, which will preserve jobs for forest sector workers. The investment will help cover extra costs for things like sanitizing stations, additional accommodations and/or transportation, facilities and services to maintain social distancing, and personal protective equipment. More info available [here](#).

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

### BBC Article on the Navajo Nation's battle against COVID-19:

- [An American example of the challenges of COVID-19 on reserve and the importance of adherence to public health measures.](#)

### COVID-19 Web page for kids

- The GoC has created a [web page](#) just for kids. It has tips on how you can become a handwashing hero, what the virus is, why people are wearing masks and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.