

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *October 28, 2020*

Updates

Mental Wellness

As COVID number continue to increase in Alberta, mental wellness remains a priority for all of us during the pandemic. We remind you that Non-Insured Health Benefits – Mental Health Counselling Services continue where individuals can contact the Edmonton Regional Office at: 1-800-232-7301, Monday to Friday from 8AM to 4PM. Additionally, the Regional Mental Wellness Crisis Response Teams are currently providing telehealth support to First Nations communities and organizations that are responding to mental health crisis and responding on site on a case by case basis. Services offered are:

- Critical Incident Assessment, Stabilization & Debriefing
- Emotional & cultural support

The crisis response coordinator can be contacted at: 780-495-0577. Please note that coordination can take 24-48 hours, so is not a substitute for emergency services.

A Message From Dr. Hinshaw on Testing

Alberta Health is aware that some First Nations in Alberta are concerned that it is taking a long time for members to receive the results of their COVID-19 tests. We also know that, in some cases, it is also taking a long time for Alberta Health Services to carry out the necessary contact tracing for identifying on reserve contacts of off-reserve COVID positive cases. We want to assure you that First Nations persons, on and off-reserve, receive the same priority as all other Albertans. The truth is that the provincial laboratory and AHS contact tracers have been overwhelmed by the sheer number of tests and number of positive cases over the past number of weeks. They are reporting delays of anywhere between three and seven or eight days in responding. We are working closely with FNIHB and AHS to ensure that all Albertans receive their test results back as quickly as possible, and that contact tracing processes use every efficiency possible. We encourage you to contact us if you would have other questions.

Thank you.

Doctor Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
ADM, Public Health and Compliance



FEELING SAD OR DISTRESSED?
Support is available for all Indigenous People in Canada

Talk to a counsellor by phone at
Hope for Wellness Help Line at
1-855-242-3310

or through online chat at
hopeforwellness.ca

 Indigenous Services Canada Services aux Autochtones 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.
- 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.
- The Alberta Health Services - Indigenous Health Cultural Support Line provides afterhours support Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 4-8PM. Call toll free at 1-855-735-6766.
- Family Violence Resources:
<https://www.alberta.ca/family-violence-prevention-resources.aspx>

Alberta Cases:

as of October 27th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (October 26 th –422 new cases)	26,155
AB Recovered Cases	21,108
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	429
On-reserve Recovered Cases	352
On-Reserve Active Cases	72
Calgary Zone Confirmed	11,554
Central Zone Confirmed	961
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	9,365
North Zone Confirmed	1,917
South Zone Confirmed	2,290
Unknown Confirmed	68
Deaths due to COVID-19	309
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	5

Funeral Guidelines

A reminder that the Government of Alberta has detailed COVID-19 guidance for funerals to prevent the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic which can be [found here](#). **There are now new mandatory gathering restrictions in Edmonton and Calgary.** For the current gathering restrictions, including funerals, [please click here](#). Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHOs) are available to support planning for funerals. EPHOs are certified public health inspectors, who have undergone specialized training in public health and are therefore able to provide public health guidance, education, risk assessments, and recommendations to First Nations. Please contact your community EPHO should you require support.

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

COVID-19 Funding Telehealth Series:

ISC-Alberta will be presenting a 4-part COVID-19 Funding telehealth series in November. The first session, an overview of COVID-19 funding, will occur on **Tuesday November 3rd from 1:00-3:00 pm**. Please see the attached posters for details.

To connect to the session:

via Zoom, go to <https://fntn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 956 7169 0662 and Passcode: 022862

from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 956 7169 0662# and Passcode: 022862

from a videoconference-enabled room, please register at www.fntn.ca to register

Questions can be submitted in advance of, during, or at the end of the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca, or via Zoom during or at the end of the presentation. There will also be a facilitated question and answer period during the second half of the presentation for those who wish to ask their questions in live time.