

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *September 30, 2020*

### Updates

#### Update to Testing Criteria:

On September 17, 2020 the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw announced that the testing criteria for COVID-19 have changed. Testing will now prioritize Albertans with symptoms and vulnerable groups at higher risk of getting or spreading COVID-19. This will reduce testing wait time and speed up access to results. Priority testing is available to:

- any person exhibiting any symptom of COVID-19
- all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
- all workers and/or residents at specific outbreak sites

Asymptomatic individuals in the following groups requesting a test may also be tested:

- school teachers and staff
- health care workers
- staff and residents at congregate living facilities, including long-term care
- Albertans experiencing homelessness
- travelers who require testing prior to departure

For your Nations specifically, ISC will offer asymptomatic testing for any community with active cases or outbreaks.

#### Bill C-2 – Changes to Canada Emergency Response Benefit:

Subject to this legislation receiving Royal Assent, the government announced the introduction of Bill C-2, to create three new temporary Recovery Benefits to support Canadians who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19. The benefits below will replace the CERB. Specifically, the legislation includes:

- A Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not eligible for EI and who still require income support. This Benefit would support Canadians who have not returned to work due to COVID-19 or whose income has dropped by at least 50%
- A Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) of \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19.
- A Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19 or because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine.

Canadians will be able to apply for the CRB, CRSB, and CRCB through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for one year up until September 25, 2021.

### Question of the Day

**Q: Are we in a second wave of COVID?**

**A: Alberta is currently not experiencing a second wave, however, we have seen a concerning rise in COVID-19 cases in some provinces in Canada as well as in some First Nations communities. Now is not the time to be complacent, please reemphasize the following messages to your community members:**

- Limiting non-essential travel in and out of communities
- Keeping physical distance
- Avoiding crowds
- Wearing non medical masks when distancing is not possible
- Adhering to hand and respiratory hygiene, and
- Staying home when sick (unless for medical appointments).

**ISC will continue to support your communities and are working with your local health teams in the protection of Elders, immunization of influenza and ensuring high-risk individuals are up to date with pneumococcal vaccine as per the provincial guidelines.**

# Alberta Cases:

as of September 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – 160 new cases)</b>	<b>17,909</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>16,072</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>8,845</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>669</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>5104</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>1425</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>1828</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>4</b>

## Speech From the Throne

On September 23 the Governor General of Canada, opened Parliament by delivering the [Speech from the Throne](#). Some key Indigenous priorities for ISC include:

- Expanding distinctions-based health care legislation to include a mental-health strategy;
- Continuing distinctions-based work to close the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities;
- Additional investments to meet the clean drinking water commitment;
- Implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- Implementing the Calls to Justice of the MMIWG inquiry;
- Introducing legislation to implement the UNDRIP;
- Accelerating work to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing;
- Supporting additional capacity building for First Nations and,
- Working with partners, including directly with First Nations to address food insecurity.

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

### Going Out Safely During COVID-19

This [document](#) provides advice and recommendations to make informed choices for Going Out Safely During COVID-19.

### Reminder: Health Co-Management is October 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Regional Contact:

Allen Willier, Special Leadership Liaison, is available to support information sharing and to assist you in navigating questions or concerns related to COVID-19. He may be reached at 780-446-8969.