

NEW MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED

New Mandatory Restrictions in Alberta

The Government of Alberta has declared a state of public health emergency and putting aggressive measures in place to protect the health system and reduce COVID-19 cases.

Beginning **immediately** and imposed **province-wide**, Premier Kenney announced the following enhanced – and mandatory - restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These measures will remain in place for four weeks, but will be extended if needed:

- All indoor and outdoor social gatherings – public and private – are prohibited
- Close contacts are limited to household members only
- People who live alone can have up to 2 close contacts:
 - must be the same two contacts throughout the duration of the restriction
 - if the close contacts do not live alone, visits cannot be held at their home
- All out-of-town travel is discouraged at this time.
- Out-of-town visitors cannot stay in other people's homes while these restrictions are in place, regardless of where they are coming from.
- Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces and workplaces.

Starting **Dec. 13**:

- Working from home is mandatory unless the employer requires a physical presence for operational effectiveness.
- Retail services must reduce customer capacity to 15% of fire code occupancy or a minimum of 5 customers
- Places of worship are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance
- All restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges and cafes are closed to in-person service. Take out, curbside pickup and delivery services are allowed.
- All entertainment businesses and entities must close, including casinos, bingo halls, play centres, theatres, galleries and libraries
- All indoor recreation facilities must close, including gyms, pools, rinks, camps, and recreation centres.
- All personal and wellness services must close, including massages, tattoo parlours, esthetics, manicure, pedicure, body waxing, and make-up

No changes to schooling at this time:

- Students K to 6 will continue in-school learning but will begin winter break Dec. 18 and return to classes Jan. 11.
- Students Grades 7 to 12 will begin online learning Nov. 30, end Dec. 18 and return on Jan. 11.

These education restrictions may raise questions and concerns on how they may impact your Nations. Our Education staff will work with your leadership as you determine how your Nations will proceed.

No changes to weddings and funerals:

- Maximum of 10 people for wedding ceremonies or funeral services and must be held in a public place
- Receptions are not permitted

Detailed provincial information regarding COVID-19 restrictions available [here](#).

Please know that the Community Liaison Teams are available for your questions. We will work through this, together. Thank you for your dedication to safety and well-being for all your Nation members.

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *December 9, 2020*

Updates

Mental Health Funding:

In November, the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada announced additional investments in support of COVID 19 related Indigenous health needs within Alberta. \$11.5 million has been specifically identified to address the mental health crisis related to the COVID pandemic. This includes:

- \$6,000,000 - To provide mental health services addressing the impacts of COVID 19 reflective of eligible activities as noted within general Mental Wellness funding Terms & Conditions. Proposal based, submitted to the CDE Inbox by midnight January 22, 2021.
- \$2,000,000 - To support Contribution Agreement holders to bulk purchase Nasal Naloxone direct from vendor. Partnership with St John's Ambulance will provide free community level virtual Nasal Naloxone administration training as required.
- \$3,000,000 - To support mental wellness related activities for Urban Indigenous groups. ISC will leverage existing Contribution Agreement holders serving the urban population to enable increased capacity.
- \$500,000 - Harm reduction supplies. Mental Wellness Directorate and Health Protection Directorate will work collaboratively to allocate this funding.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Team.

#ProtectOurElders – Winter Campaign:

Following the successful campaign led by Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation in the summer, a new set of videos are now live online and with targeted spots appearing on APTN. These videos take a humorous but focused look at keeping safe during the pandemic. Humour is something that has always been ingrained in the lives of Indigenous people. #ProtectOurElders has partnered with Dane Cunningham, Dakota Hebert, and Candy Palmater who present light and educational content. Although humour is a staple for Indigenous people, it isn't funny when one of our loved ones gets sick. You can view the videos here: <https://protectourelders.ca/>

Question of the Day

Q: How is the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Progressing?

A: As mentioned on Friday's call with Dr. Hinshaw, there are contracts with two companies (Moderna and Pfizer) for vaccinations to begin in Alberta in early 2021. As Dr. Hinshaw stated on Friday, the first priority will be residents and staff of Long Term Care facilities as well as health professionals working with COVID-19 patients. In the current plan, which is still being finalized, the second priority group would be those over 75, additional health care workers, and any First Nation member over the age of 65. First Nations between 18 and 65 will be the next prioritized group for vaccination. That being said, at both a national and regional level, First Nations peoples have been identified as a priority group. While it is exciting to see us discussing vaccination it is still important to recognize that we need to continue with public health measures, as it is quite likely the majority of Canadians will not be vaccinated against COVID-19 until well into 2021. For more information on Canada's COVID-19 vaccination plan, click [here](#) and Indigenous specific info [here](#).

National Info

[Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities](#)

[Canada to receive early delivery of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of December 8th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Dec. 7 th – 1,727 new cases)	72,028
AB Recovered Cases	51,000
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	1498
On-reserve Recovered Cases	1118
On-Reserve Active Cases	369
Calgary Zone Confirmed	28,946
Central Zone Confirmed	3,881
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	29,901
North Zone Confirmed	4,757
South Zone Confirmed	4,307
Unknown Confirmed	236
Deaths due to COVID-19	640
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	11

New Shelter Initiative for Indigenous Women and Children:

DEADLINE APPROACHING – January 15, 2021

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), ISC and CIRNAC have launched an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the creation of 12 new shelters for Indigenous women and children escaping family violence. 10 shelters will be in First Nation communities on-reserve across the country. For more information, please refer to the CMHC website at:

[Shelters Initiative for Indigenous Women and Children](#)

[Seed Funding](#)

[Indigenous and the North Housing Solutions](#)

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Telehealth Session TODAY:

Session with the Canadian Red Cross on their Indigenous Help Desk, **Wednesday December 9 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm.**

To connect to the session:

via Zoom, go to <https://fnfn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 965 8000 1040 and Passcode: 974496

from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 965 8000 1040 # and Passcode: 974496

from a videoconference-enabled room, go to www.fnfn.ca to register

Questions can be submitted in advance of or during the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca, or via Zoom during the presentation.

The session will be recorded and posted to www.fnfn.ca.

AIVCC

The Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic held their official launch on Dec. 1. If you missed the live stream you can watch a recording of the event [here](#).