

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Thursday, April 9

AFN Alberta is summarizing updates and information we are receiving on our website. All our previous bulletins can be found on this page as well. <http://www.afnab.ca/News-and-Events/Coronavirus>.

AFN Alberta will not be posting a bulletin until Tuesday, April 9. If critical news breaks, a separate correspondence will be issued to all contacts.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Test Results

ALBERTA	April 8	April 9	Change
Negative (#s of Tests)	68,762	70,247	(+1,485)
Positive	1,423	1,451	(+28)
Fatalities	29	32	(+3)
Recoveries	519	592	(+73)

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta

Calgary zone - 878(+18) Edmonton zone - 376 (+8) Central zone - 72 (+0) South zone - 26 (+0) North zone - 97 (+2)
Unidentified zone - 2

New Restrictions and Measures

- Alberta made several funding announcements today to support businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19, including increasing their 2020 infrastructure budget by \$2 billion to get people back to work (*Details in the national and regional updates section of this bulletin*).
- The province is expanding testing to **all Calgary zone residents** that exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms as well as **all essential service workers province-wide** exhibiting symptoms. Anyone ill who **lives with a person 65+** is also now eligible.
 - Earlier this week, Alberta expanded testing eligibility to first responders, correctional staff, COVID-19 enforcement workers (Police, Bylaw), and healthcare workers. Joining these is anyone over the age of 65 in the province that exhibits fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat.
- Canada is recommending people **not to use** homemade hand sanitizers as it may not be effective in killing the coronavirus.
- Public health orders in Alberta are expected to remain in effect until the end of May.
- Canada and Alberta are endorsing use of non-medical masks by the general public to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Wearing a mask **does not** protect the wearer from being infected but **can** prevent the virus from spreading from the wearer to people

around them.

First Nation-specific Updates

- Today, Regional Chief Poitras shared a video message on social media urging everyone to stay at home this long weekend.
- ISC Alberta Region created teams to work closely with First Nations on COVID 19. [Click here](#) to find your Nation's liaison and their contact information.
- ISC published a guide and self-screening tool for people visiting or returning to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to view it.
- **Indigenous Community Support Funding for Urban and Off-Reserve Organization: application launched Monday and is open until April 13.** This funding is to help organizations and communities providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres or off reserves during COVID-19. [Click here](#) to apply.
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) published an information sheet with details on how First Nations can obtain financial support during the COVID-19 break. [Click here to view it.](#)
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Communities can request PPE from ISC/FNIHB through the communicable disease inbox:
sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca
 - Alberta Health Services (AHS) is also helping fill supply gaps. Communities can put in weekly requests for PPE through AHS. Contact:
ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca.
- AHS Indigenous-specific questions/concerns/requests can be emailed to ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca.

National and Regional Updates

- Canada anticipates 22,580-31,850 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 500-700 deaths by April 16. Death toll could be between 11,000 and 300,000 over the course of the pandemic, depending on how strictly people adhere to the public health measures. (*Details in the national and regional updates section of the bulletin.*)
- Canada lost 1 million jobs in the month of March
- **On Tuesday**, Premier Kenney announced that the COVID-19 outbreak is likely to peak in Alberta mid-May. He also released projections on anticipated cases and deaths, and how prepared the province is for the upcoming surge in confirmed cases. (*Details in the national and regional updates section of the bulletin*)
- Applications for the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) are now available online or by phone at 1-800-959-2041. There are specific days in the week to apply for the benefit based on birth month.
 - Born January to March: Apply on Mondays (starting April 6)
 - Born April to June: Apply on Tuesdays (starting April 7)
 - Born July to Sept: Apply on Wednesdays (starting April 8)
 - Born Oct to Dec: Apply on Thursdays (starting April 9)

- Born any month:

Apply on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Video Message to First Nations from Regional Chief Poitras

Relevant Link: [Regional Chief Poitras' COVID-19 Video Message](#)

Today, Regional Chief Poitras issued a video message on social media asking First Nations to follow public health orders and stay home this long weekend. She asked everyone to heed the message of Siksika SN7 youth, who reminded all of us that “we need physical distancing” to fight the coronavirus. The Regional Chief also thanked all leaders, community members, and front-line workers for doing their part to combat the pandemic. [Click here](#) to view her message.

****UPDATED* Protocols for Reporting Confirmed Cases in First Nations Communities***

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) confirmed the following protocols around notifying community leadership of confirmed cases on-reserve, and how they are reporting those in regional and national.

- FNIHB relies on provincial or local health agencies to report communicable disease cases on-reserve.
- When provincial health agencies confirm a positive COVID-19 case in a First Nation community, FNIHB notifies community leadership.
 - To protect a person's privacy, FNIHB does not tell leadership the individual's name, gender, age, or any other personal identifiers.
- Names of communities where cases are confirmed are not publicly reported to respect and protect community and individual privacy. This is in large part because it would be easy to identify who is infected simply by naming their community, since there is such a small number of confirmed cases in First Nation communities.

Additional Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

April 9 Daily Bulletin:

ISC Alberta Region is sending daily updates during the week to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (April 9) is attached. It includes the following information.

- Additional COVID-19 Testing Criteria
- First Nation Cases and Contact Management
- Youth Outreach Information
- Links to Siksika Youth Video and GCIndigenous Twitter Updates

Weekly Public Health Bulletin

Dr. Yacoub, Alberta's Senior Medical Officer of Health at FNIHB, sent his weekly bulletin to all First Nations. These bulletins provide updates to First Nations on COVID-19 from a public health perspective. You can find it attached to this update.

Community Liaison Teams

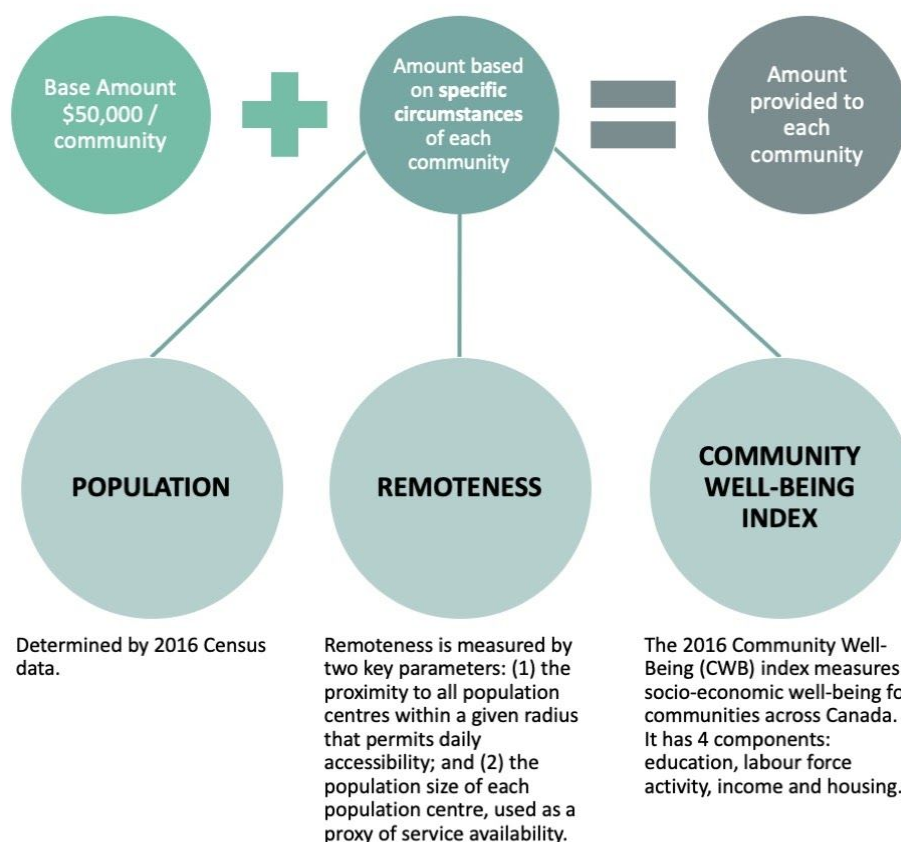
ISC Alberta Region created teams to work closely with First Nations on COVID 19 and act as their point of contact, respond to questions, and address operational or coordination issues related to the pandemic. [Click here](#) to find your Nation's liaison and their contact information.

Recommendations for Visitors or Returning Members to Communities

ISC published a guide and self-screening tool for people visiting or returning to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to view the document. To prevent the virus from entering a community, members are asked to refer to this guide before visiting or returning to their First Nation.

Indigenous Community Support Fund Methodology

As mentioned in previous updates, the specific allocation each First Nations received from the \$215 M COVID-19 Indigenous Community Support Fund was based on population, remoteness, and their community wellbeing index. The infographic ISC shared below outlines the funding formula methodology in detail.



Source: Indigenous Services Canada

Info Sheet: How to Access Financial Assistance:

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) published an [information sheet](#) with details on how First Nations can obtain financial support during the COVID-19 outbreak. This provides information on:

- Support for individuals and families
- Support for people facing unemployment, who are sick, quarantined, impacted by self-isolation or unable to work.
- Support for seniors
- Support for students and recent graduates
- Support for Indigenous communities and people who are vulnerable
- Support for people facing unemployment, who are sick, quarantined, impacted by self-isolation, or are unable to work.

Canada is encouraging people to file their 2018 income tax returns so they can have easy access to all the benefits they are providing during this time. [Click here for more information on our website about financial support and income assistance.](#)

Indigenous Community Support Funding for Urban and Off-reserve Organization

Relevant Link: [Indigenous Community Support Fund: Urban and Off-Reserve Application](#)

ISC launched funding **Monday** to help Indigenous organizations and communities provide services to Indigenous people in urban centres or off reserves during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications will be open until **Monday, April 13 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.** Eligible applicants include:

- National, regional and local Indigenous service delivery organizations supporting Indigenous peoples living in urban centres
- National, regional and off-reserve Indigenous organizations supporting their members living away from their communities (for example, Indigenous representative organizations and Tribal Councils)
- Other Indigenous organizations or communities providing services to Indigenous peoples living off reserve or in urban centres that are not eligible for funding under the distinctions-based streams of the Indigenous Community Support Fund (for example, non-status groups and independent communities)

Full details and criteria are available through ISC at the following link:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585928331845/1585928356443>. ISC staff are also available to assist with proposal submission by email: aadnc.icsfru-fscaru.aandc@canada.ca

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

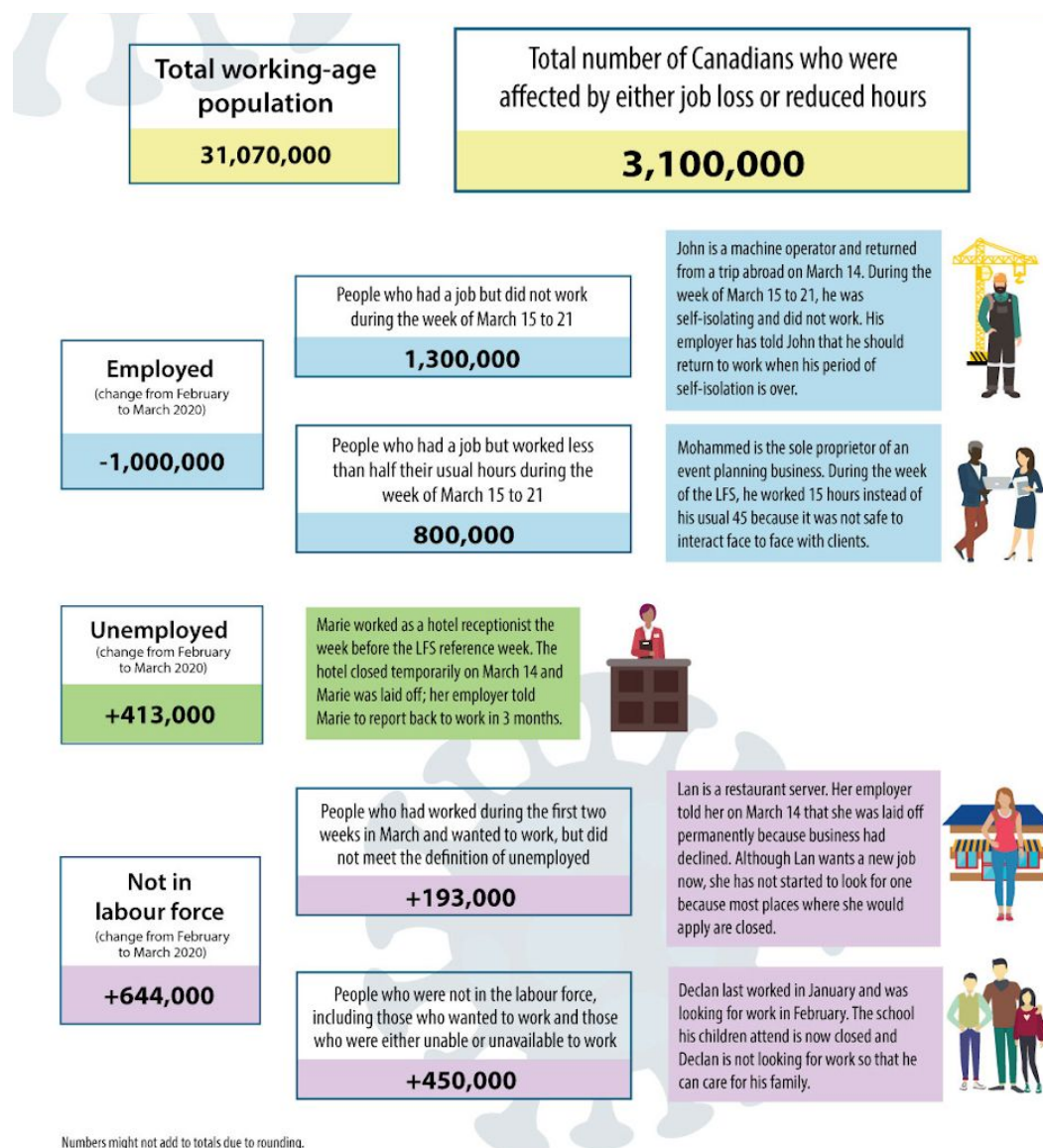
No notable call or meetings today.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

Summaries and information of the following can be found in the update below.

- **Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - March 2020 (COVID-19 Impacts)**
- **Canada Releases COVID-19 Projections**
- **Canada's April 9 COVID-19 Update**
- **Alberta Funding Announcements**
- **Alberta's April 9 COVID-19 Update**
- **RECAP: Detailed Modeling Data by Premier Kenney. (April 7&8)**
- **Canada Advises Against Use of Homemade Hand Sanitizer**

Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Infographic - March 2020



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Canada Releases COVID-19 Projections

Relevant Link: [Federal COVID-19 Projections \(April 9, 2020\)](#)

Canada's Deputy Minister of Health Stephen Lucas and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam presented the modelling data projecting how COVID-19 will spread nationally.

- Canada anticipates 22,580-31,850 cases, and 500-700 deaths by April 16.
- The Canadian death toll could be between 11,000 and 300,000 over the course of the pandemic, depending on how strictly Canadians adhere to the public health measures. We cannot prevent every death, but we must prevent every death that we can.
- In Canada, the number of cases is doubling every 3-5 days, well below many other countries - due in part to the fact Canada saw its first cases much later, allowing us to learn from other countries at the same time as developing our own response.
- Dr. Tam emphasized the importance of keeping up the current public health measures (staying home, physical distancing, etc.) once the initial peak declines, so that there aren't subsequent waves of infection.
- The goal is to lift the capacity of the healthcare system while pushing the infection curve below the peak capacity of the system.
- If an infected person infects fewer than one person on average, the epidemic dies out.
 - Before stronger measures were put in place, each infected individual in Canada was infecting about 2 other individuals. That number is now dropping.

Canada's April 9 Update

Relevant Links: [PM's daily briefing \(9:15 am MT\)](#)

[Ministers' and Health Officials briefing \(10:00 am MT\)](#)

In his daily brief to Canadians Prime Minister Trudeau updated the national number of COVID-19 cases, and spoke to the Labour Force Survey results (pictured above) that 1 million jobs were lost nationally this month. **Key Highlights:**

- Nationally there are now 19,774 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 461 fatalities. Lab testing has been done on over 373,000 Canadians and over 5% of the testing is coming back positive.
- Statistics Canada released the results of the *Labour Force Survey* (infographic above). PM Trudeau commented stating that the loss of a million jobs in a month is stark, and most of the world is in a similar situation.
- The House of Commons will be recalled on Saturday to pass the wage subsidy legislation, and possibly other measures.
- Emergency spending could push the federal deficit above \$184 billion if the spread of COVID does not slow.
- The assistance programs are expected to remain in place as long as needed. This length of time is reiterated as being directly linked to individual actions.

Additional Information

- More than 4.5 million CERB applications have been processed. The Federal government is still working on the necessary legislation for wage subsidy measures and plans to keep expanding the 3 pillars of the economic plan.
- Canadians' collective effort to slow the spread has helped and allowed the health system to cope but we stand at a fork in the road between the best and worst possible outcomes. Continued vigilance is needed over the holiday weekend.
- National COVID modelling was released publicly earlier today. It shows that COVID arrived later in Canada, and this is allowing some foresight into what the country may look like in the weeks and months to come.
- When questioned if there will be multiple waves of economic shut-downs and slumps, the PM responded by saying “normality” will not come back until we have a vaccine. After the first wave of the pandemic, we will have tools and habits allowing for resilience and resistance, but ultimately we need there to be a cure to get back to normal.
- The PM reiterated concern for Indigenous peoples and recognized that much remains to be done to support communities, especially as we now start to see cases appear in some communities.

Alberta Announces More Financial Assistance and Support for COVID-19

Relevant Links: [News Release: \\$2 billion investment in job creation](#)

[News Release: Keeping the supply chain open and moving during COVID-19](#)

[News Release: Pandemic supports available for small business](#)

Today, the province made a series of announcements to support different sectors and Albertans during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- The government increased its 2020 capital infrastructure budget to almost **\$2 Billion** to get people back to work repairing roads, renovating schools, and improving other key provincial infrastructure.
- The province changed regulations for commercial truck drivers and rail workers “transporting essential supplies in direct support of the COVID-19 relief efforts to:
 - Work for longer periods of time, provided all safety conditions are met.
 - Apply for fewer municipal and provincial overweight permits by increasing the limits on weight of loads some vehicles can carry.
 - Be exempt from road bans.
 - Be exempt from municipal bylaws that restrict the hours they operate and park.”
- [Business Link](#) will provide free advice to small businesses on resources and support available to them to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.

Alberta's April 9 COVID-19 Update

Relevant Links: [Alberta Chief Medical Officer Update \(April 9 3:30 pm\)](#)
[Update 27: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta \(April 9 at 5 p.m.\)](#)

Today, Minister Shandro provided a brief update on an initiative in Calgary while Dr. Hinshaw updated Albertans on the current status of the COVID outbreak in Alberta. **Key Highlights:**

- Alberta has identified 28 new cases in the last 24 hours, for a total of 1,451 cases. There are now 592 recoveries from COVID-19 in the province. It is suspected that 192 of these cases may be from community transmission.
 - Alberta completed 1,333 COVID tests in the last 24 hours, it is anticipated that the numbers will increase in the coming days as the testing criteria has expanded.
- Minister Shandro announced that the Peter Lougheed Centre will be temporarily expanded:
 - A temporary structure is being donated to add 6000 sq ft of treatment space for 100 acute care beds.
 - This interior space will support patients through the pandemic response and will be ready for use later this month.
 - AHS is investing \$3 M to make the facility safe for health care delivery.

Additional Information

- Dr. Hinshaw has been receiving messages from students to pass on their thanks to workers at the ministry of health, healthcare workers, and all that provide essential services.
- Alberta's numbers are lower than their model predicts thanks to the actions of Albertans on physical distancing. Dr. Hinshaw is watching closely for when some of these public health measures can be lifted.
 - Other early signs that people's actions are making a difference - Alberta has seen a significant drop in influenza cases, greater than what we would typically expect.
- Dr. Hinshaw has heard reports of private gyms remaining open, she reminded Albertans that this is in violation of the active public health orders and is enforceable by law officials.
- Many Companies and individuals across the province have stepped up to offer support.
- This morning a joint statement on staying at home over the long weekend was made by Minister Shandro and his BC counterpart. They recognized spending the holidays alone is difficult but reminded people they are doing what matters.

RECAP: Modeling Data Presented by Premier Kenney on April 7

Relevant Links: [Premier's April 7 address \(6pm MT\)](#)

The following information covers the information Premier Kenney presented on April 7th and re-iterated on April 8th regarding the provincial modelling data.

- The Premier presented a “probable” model of how COVID-19 will play out in Alberta, and one with the “most serious” of outcomes.
 - Probable scenario would see the peak of the curve hitting the province in Mid-May, with 800,000 Albertans catching COVID-19 and between 400 to 3,100 deaths.
 - The most serious of outcomes would see infection peak at the beginning of May, with over 1 million Albertans infected, and upwards of 5,000 to 6,000 deaths.
 - If the Province were to do nothing, we could see 1.6 million infections, and as many as 32,000 deaths (640 per day).
- Public health orders are expected to remain in effect until the end of May.
- Kenney outlined a plan for how Alberta will tackle the second wave of infection that is anticipated to come after May, once public health orders are lifted.
 - Aggressive system of mass testing (up to 20,000 tests/day) to identify positive cases and those with immunity.
 - Precise tracking and contact tracing of close contacts to any individual that is infected.
 - Alberta plans to deploy screening and quarantine measures on all international arrivals.
 - Strict enforcement of quarantine orders, aided through the use of technologies like smart phone apps.
 - Encouragement and facilitation of the use of masks in crowded public spaces.
- The goal in fighting the pandemic is to pull down the peak of the curve while pulling up the capacity of the healthcare system. The Premier is confident that the health system can cope and there are enough supplies.
 - AHS is doing everything in its power to assist drug treatment and vaccine development efforts.
 - Currently AHS has been given an extra \$500 million and the Premier says no expense will be spared.
 - Alberta has committed \$12 billion to their COVID-19 action plan through over 24 initiatives.

Canada Advises Against Use of Homemade Hand Sanitizer

Relevant Link: [Homemade hand sanitizers may present health risks](#)

Canada recommends people **not** to use homemade hand sanitizers, as they may not kill the coronavirus. They recommend that “you wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If this is not possible, use a Health Canada approved alcohol-based hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol.”