

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletin



Tuesday, June 23

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 continues to amend bulletin distribution timing as we continue our transition to regular operations, please refer to this header for the next bulletin date: **The next bulletin will be Thursday, June 25.***

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	June 19	June 23	Change
Tests Completed	373,724	402,837	+29,113
Total Positive	7,625	7,781	+156
Active	512	532	+20
Fatalities	152	153	+1
Recoveries	6,961	7,096	+135
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 5,218 Edmonton zone - 885 Central zone - 89 South zone - 1,290 North zone - 282 Unidentified zone - 17		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations</u> Calgary Zone - 26 North Zone - 5 South Zone - 30 Unidentified Zone - 12	

New Measures

- **As of Monday, June 22**, applications are open for the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund through the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Full eligibility details are available on the Western Economic Development page [here](#). To apply to this program in the Alberta region contact the Western Economic Development regional office directly by calling **1-888-338-9378**.
- Canada created a web hub for buying and supplying PPE. [Click here](#) to access it.
- Pharmacists in Alberta can begin to give out larger quantities of prescriptions again, up to a 100-day supply.
- Alberta is now allowing anyone in the province to get tested for COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. Asymptomatic testing can be scheduled through the online AHS COVID-19 self-assessment tool [here](#).
- Alberta will only supply PPE to critical service providers in publicly funded or contracted settings. Private organizations can continue to access PPE through the government until **June 30**, but will need to pay market price.

First Nation-specific Updates .

- Alberta Health is available on request to support First Nations in developing guidelines around ceremonies.
- The Alberta government will provide each First Nation individual in community 4 non-medical masks. Those who are in urban centers will be able to get the masks through the restaurant partnership program, or through a community service agency.

National and Regional Updates

- Alberta is issuing comprehensive guidance to schools on re-opening for the 2020/21 school year. This includes guidelines on hygiene and health requirements, student learning, transportation and diploma exams. It also addresses mental health and psychological supports for students and staff.
- Addressing the separation of family members, the Canadian government is offering a limited exemption allowing members of the immediate family of permanent residents or citizens to come into Canada, targeting husbands, wives and/or children.
- The Canada-US border closure will be extended to July 21.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

****NEW* Updated ISC Bulletin Frequency***

Based on feedback received, ISC is amending the frequency of their bulletin to once a week - going forward the Chiefs Update will arrive every Wednesday in July with the exception of July 1st (Canada Day). It is unclear if there will be a bulletin this Thursday.

****NEW* All Chiefs call schedule***

The next All Chiefs call is set to occur Wednesday **July 29**. During the summer months, ISC will host All Chiefs calls once a month (scheduling TBD).

****NEW* June 23 Bulletin:***

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates twice weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (June 23) is attached. It includes the following information:

- Environmental Public Health Officers
- ICSF Assessment
- Ensuring safe gatherings on First Nations
- Relief measures for Indigenous Businesses

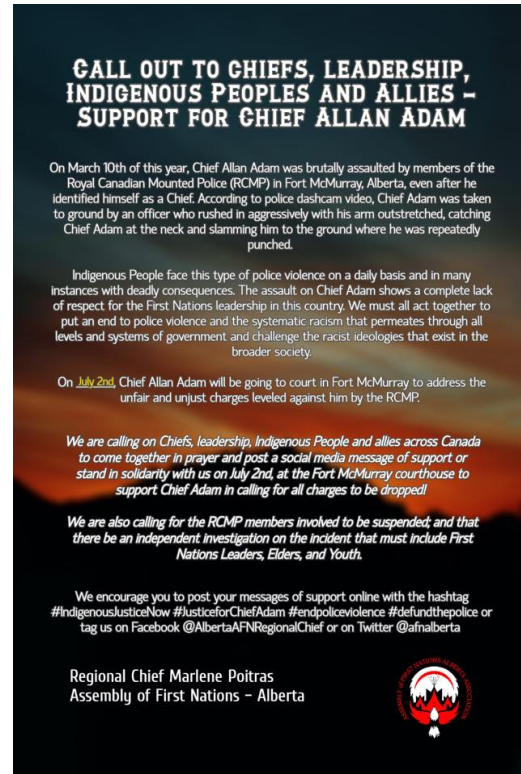
Also attached is a one-pager entitled "External Funding Opportunities" which lists current COVID-19 support funding opportunities from other organizations outside of the federal government.

June 19 | University of Calgary Webinar on Indigenous Resilience

UPDATED Regional Chief Poitras joined Dr. Reg Crowshoe, Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe, and Stoney-Nakoda CEO Ryan Robb for a virtual panel focussed on the Indigenous response to COVID-19. The recorded video is available on YouTube via this [link](#).

July 2 | Support for Chief Allan Adam

On July 2nd, Chief Allan Adam will be going to court in Fort McMurray to address the unfair and unjust charges leveled against him by the RCMP. **We are calling on Chiefs, leadership, Indigenous People and allies across Canada to come together in prayer and post a social media message of support or stand in solidarity with us on July 2nd**, at the Fort McMurray courthouse to support Chief Adam in calling for all charges to be dropped! We encourage you to post your messages of support online with the hashtag **#IndigenousJusticeNow #JusticeforChiefAdam #endpoliceviolence #defundthepolice** or tag us on Facebook **@AlbertaAFNRegionalChief** or on Twitter **@afnalberta**



CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

June 23 | Chiefs Committee on Health Meeting

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Health (CCoH) met today to receive updates from the national First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM). ISC did not present their update, but provided the attached deck to share new information from their department with the members. **The following documents were shared at the meeting and be found attached:**

- FNIGC presentation
- FNHSM presentation
- Meeting summaries from the AFN COVID-19 Task Force Working Groups:
 - Pandemic planning working groups meeting
 - Reopening working group meeting
 - Data working group meeting
 - ISC/FNIHB Update to the CCoH

Key Highlights:

- FNIGC has been exploring ways to support First Nations at the national level with COVID-19 responses:
 - They published a special paper intended to support coronavirus emergency preparedness efforts in First Nations reserve and Northern communities: <https://fnigc.inlibro.net/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=102>.
 - \$250,000 from ISC for work focused on “collaborating and coordinating with First Nations partners and FPT governments to explore the sharing, stewardship, and governance of First Nations-specific COVID-19 information.”
- The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has several established bodies that have been advancing data sovereignty and governance, particularly in the area of health. They established an information sharing agreement with federal and provincial governments that have allowed First Nation data bodies in the province the ability to track and collect COVID-19 data, and identify data needs.

Additional Information

FNIGC Presentation:

- Through regional and national partnerships, FNIGC aims to assert data sovereignty and support the development of information governance and management at the community level.
- Through a \$2.5 M/3 year investment made by Canada in 2018, FNIGC has been working towards designing a National Data Governance Strategy and establishing Regional Information Governance Centres.
- FNIGC was asked to clarify how they interact with regional data, and if regional COVID-19 data is being “rolled up” by them.
 - No regional COVID-19 data is being shared with them yet. Until appropriate sharing agreements are in place, and FNIGC is directed and deemed appropriate to lead any sort of national data gathering, they won’t be collecting any sort of this information.

Manitoba COVID-19 Information Sharing Agreement Presentation:

- The Manitoba FN Health Information Research Governance Committee (HIRGC) approved previous data linkages to the Manitoba Indian Status Registry (ISR) to accurately identify FNs interactions with the health outcomes for the FN Atlas Report, FN Children’s Atlas, Community Based Health Profiles and the Diabetes Atlas
- HIRGC has provided their review and approval of Data Linkages of Indian Status Registry with Manitoba Personal Health Identification Numbers, with the support of resolutions, passed by (Manitoba) Chiefs in Assembly to demonstrate the inequities amongst Manitoba First Nations in linking to administrative datasets that include health, justice, education and CFS held within Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

- Tracking of First Nations COVID-19 positive case was based on HIRGC's approval to capture First Nations identity through the following 3 datasets:
- Utilize the First Nation data collected within the COVID-19 intake form where First Nations can voluntarily self declare as First Nations Status, Non-Status, Inuit or Metis;
 - Linking to familial relations (ie. Sibling or child) to a positive COVID-19 cases, and;
 - Linking to the First Nations Linked File that was created based on data linkages between the Indian Status Registry and the Personal Health Information Numbers held by Manitoba Health, this linkage was also based on an ISA signed between FNHSSM and the Province of Manitoba in 2017.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada's COVID-19 Update - June 22 & 23***
- ***Prime Minister Statement on National Indigenous Peoples Day***
- ***Alberta's COVID-19 Update - June 23***
- ***National Indigenous Peoples Day: Minister Wilson***

Canada's COVID-19 Update - June 22

[Prime Minister's briefing](#)

[Federal Ministers and Health Officials Update](#)

On Monday the Prime Minister and Federal Officials took the stage for their respective daily updates. **Key Highlights:**

- As of Monday, there were 101,337 cases of COVID-19 with 8,430 deaths. 63,886 individuals, or 63% have now recovered. 2,415,000 individual tests have been completed to date, for an average of 38,000 daily over the last week, with about 1% of these tests returning positive.
- 2.6 Million Canadians have been assisted through the Wage Subsidy (CEWS). As was announced earlier this week, CERB has been extended for two months with the understanding that not all industries can reopen at the same pace.
- Last week, the centre for addiction and mental health survey indicated that more than ¼ of respondents had engaged in binge drinking since the start of the pandemic. Addictions and drug abuse continue to be an increased issue during the Pandemic. Supports through the federal government are available at [Wellness Together Canada](#).
- Jean Yves-Duclos updated Canadians on the easing of health restrictions for Public Servants. Many public servants will continue to work remotely for some time to come, and measures will be in place as the slow transition to workplaces happens.

Canada's COVID-19 Update - June 23

Federal Ministers and Health Officials Update

The Prime Minister was in private meetings this morning, so his usual morning address to Canadians did not occur. Federal Ministers gave their daily update at the usual time. **Key**

Highlights:

- Statistics had not changed on COVID-19 as of press time on Tuesday's update, and the same statistics from Monday were presented.
- Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand provided a brief update on Canada's procurement efforts.
 - We have received half a million N95 respirator masks from 3M in the US on a monthly basis in addition to orders delivered to the provinces and territories. SpiritRX Services an Indigenous-led pharmacy and medical supply & equipment company sourced and delivered PPE for First Nations which included 1M isolation gowns for Manitoba.
 - We have delivered 4.9M gowns, 18M face shields, 7M litres of hand sanitizer, and nearly 111M surgical masks delivered with more on the way. Shipments of N95 respirators as part of our agreement with Medicom to manufacture and delivered on a monthly basis have also been sent. The Government distributed 3.5M N95 across the country. After receiving Health Canada certification, we will be receiving CAE ventilators every week in Canada.
- Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Navdeep Bains also gave a brief update on COVID-19 response projects being undertaken by his ministry.
 - Over 6,400 Canadian firms have offered expertise to retool and scale up urgent goods and services.
 - Under the Innovative Canada Solutions Program, a prototype stream allowing the government departments to test prototypes of medical and non-medical solutions is underway. Lind Equipment is developing a UV sanitizer innovation called Apollo light using LED UV-C generated to decontaminate and potentially allow us to reuse PPE. Science indicates that UV-C light can inactivate viruses such as COVID-19. The Apollo light will be piloted in certain offices.

Prime Minister Statement on National Indigenous Peoples Day

On Sunday, June 21, the Prime Minister issued a statement on National Indigenous Peoples day, acknowledging the ongoing systemic inequalities and discrimination that Indigenous peoples are facing, amplified by COVID-19. The statement can be read in its entirety [here](#).

Alberta's COVID-19 Update - June 23

[Alberta Chief Medical Officer COVID-19 Update - June 23](#)

News Releases: [Alberta's free mask distribution a huge success](#)

Health Minister Shandro took the stage with Dr.Hinshaw today to provide the provinces update on COVID-19. **Key Highlights:**

- 7,096 Albertans have now recovered, over 6,500 new tests were completed yesterday and 45 new cases were identified. 37 people hospitalized with COVID-19 and 6 of these are in ICU. No new deaths to report in Alberta. 532 active cases with 236 of these in the Edmonton zone. The Northeast has been added to Alberta's watch list.
 - A group of 800 samples collected late last week were delayed in testing due to a transportation issue. Testing has now been completed and out of an abundance of safety some of these negative results with symptoms may need retesting.
 - An outbreak of COVID has been identified at Misericordia hospital in Edmonton, confined to a single unit with 6 patients and two staff testing positive. Outbreak protocols have been implemented.
- Minister Shandro announced the first 20 million masks through the restaurant partnership program and direct supply to remote First Nations and Metis Settlements have been distributed, and the provincial government is preparing to distribute another 20 million beginning in July.
- Alberta has completed more than 400,000 tests to date, including 6,500+ in the last 24 hours. The minister announced that Alberta is Investing \$10 million into targeted serology testing to advance their tracking in the spread of COVID-19.

National Indigenous Peoples Day: Minister Wilson

On Sunday, June 21, Indigenous Relations Minister Rick Wilson published a statement on National Indigenous peoples day, also recognizing that Treaty 8 was signed that day in 1899. His full statement as well as a video by the Alberta Government and Premier Kenney can be found [here](#).

IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Alberta is providing \$25 million for projects and services that will improve community mental health and addiction recovery supports and services. **First Nations are eligible and encouraged to apply.** The second call for proposals closes on **August 21, 2020**. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The Red Cross is operating a help desk for First Nations to get dedicated, personalized support on pandemic planning. It is available 7 days a week from 7 am to 7 pm MT. Call 1-833-937-1597.
- First Nation health directors, leaders, and technicians can contact “[InfoPoint](#)” to request information about their COVID-19-related questions at 1-855-446-2719 or InfoPoint@fnhma.ca from Monday to Friday, 6 am to 6 pm MT
- ISC is tracking the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 on First Nations on their website. Data is updated Monday to Friday. [Click here](#) to view the webpage.
 - [Click here](#) to view national demographic data and epidemic curves.
- Service Canada has a dedicated toll-free phone line for First Nations members needing help with their CERB applications. Call 1-877-631-2657
- Applications for the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#) are available through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The CECRA consists of forgivable loans for landlords to subsidize lost rent from small businesses, nonprofits and charitable organizations.
- The [Business Resilience Services Hotline](#) is available to small businesses for the next month to provide free, customized financial guidance from navigating tax regulations and government support to planning a path to recovery.
- Canada created a new web tool to help connect people with COVID-19 aid by asking questions and outlining programs people may be eligible for. [Click here](#) to access it.
- Canada created a web portal to help businesses find a wide range of COVID-19 support and other programs and services. [Click here](#) to access it.
- Canada created a web hub for buying and supplying PPE. [Click here](#) to access it.
- A social media campaign is encouraging celebrating 2020 Indigenous graduates through the hashtag #IndigenousGrad2020. A virtual grad celebration is planned for all Indigenous graduates on June 26. Visit <https://indigenousgrad2020.ca/> for more info.
- The #ProtectOurElders social media campaign launched to encourage people to practice physical distancing and public health measures to keep Elders safe. Visit <https://www.protectourelders.ca/> for ways you can get involved on social media.
- Canada launched the P-O-S-T Promise campaign aimed at encouraging businesses to fill out a voluntary declaration to its customers and employees that they will be diligent in their combat of COVID-19. The details of the initiative can be found at postpromise.com