

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Wednesday, May 20

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>.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	May 19	May 20	Change
Individuals Tested	218,964	221,571	+2,607
Total Positive	6,716	6,735	+19
Active	1,004	1,004	-0
Fatalities	128	128	+0
Recoveries	5,516	5,637	+121
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 4,649 Edmonton zone - 521 Central zone - 99 South zone - 1,212 North zone - 230 Unidentified zone - 24		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations* (as of May 19)</u> Calgary Zone - 19 North Zone - 4 South Zone - 6 Unidentified zone - 7	

New Measures

- On Tuesday, it was announced the border closure would continue to be in place for another 30 days in an agreement between Canada and the United States.
- The province is now allowing **outdoor** gatherings of 50 or more, provided that 2m physical distancing can be followed, and people are not sharing food or drinks.
 - Indoor gatherings are still limited to no more than 15 people.
- A fire ban continues to be in place for provincial parks and protected areas and on public land.** Alberta says this will allow emergency resources to remain focused on COVID-19, and not putting out human-caused wildfires and supporting community evacuations.
- Provincial campgrounds remain closed, but day use in provincial parks is permitted.** Alberta will reopen campgrounds with limited capacity on June 1.
- Some national parks will also be reopening June 1, with physical distancing measures in effect.

First Nation-specific Updates

- 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
 - The First Nations Health Managers Association created this new “help desk” to provide First Nations health managers with one point of contact to search for credible information about COVID-19
- ISC-AB will be hosting the following Chiefs call for the remainder of the month:
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 –Treaty 6, 7 and 8 All Chiefs Call
- Minister Miller confirmed Canada **will not** ban Sundances or other spiritual ceremonies during the pandemic.
- ISC is tracking the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 on First Nations on their website. The numbers are updated Monday to Friday. [Click here](#) to view the webpage.
- **Service Canada has a dedicated toll-free phone line for First Nations members needing help with their CERB applications. Call 1-877-631-2657**
- **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 Emergency Student Benefit applications opened **On Friday. Students who have not filed taxes will have to contact CRA to register their Social Insurance Number.**
- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy has been **extended** through the summer to give businesses the confidence to rehire and even grow their businesses during this time.
- Alberta is asking businesses to post a short survey about the steps they are taking to reduce risk of exposure to the coronavirus within 14 days of reopening. The survey is up on the [Bizconnect website](#) that the province launched last week to help businesses learn about the public health measures they need to have in place before reopening.
- Seniors will receive a one-time boost to Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments to a maximum of \$500 to deal with the added pressures and costs of COVID-19.
- Canada created a web portal to help businesses find a wide range of COVID-19 support and other programs and services. [Click here](#) for the new tool.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

InfoPoint by the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA)

[InfoPoint](#) is a convenient and accessible help desk for COVID-19 related information for First Nations' health managers. It is available from 6 am – 6 pm MT, Monday to Friday. You can contact InfoPoint at 1-855-446-2719 to talk to a real person, or email your questions to InfoPoint@fnhma.ca



Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

COVID-19 ISC-AB and Treaty-Area Chiefs Call Schedule for May

ISC-AB will be hosting the following Chiefs call for the remainder of the month:

3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 –Treaty 6, 7 and 8 All-Chiefs Call

Chiefs are encouraged to continue sending requests to Dean Janvier and ISC-AB will structure these calls to make sure they are providing the information that is most important to leadership.

****UPDATED* Thursday, May 21 | 1:30 to 3:00 pm | Weekly COVID-19 Telehealth Call***

A weekly telehealth call on COVID-19 is being held for First Nation health centre staff to talk through possible scenarios and ask FNIHB staff questions. Please note the details shared with us below:

To join by phone dial: 1 587 328 1099, code 97183509505#

To view the webinar: <https://fnfn.zoom.us/join>, enter Meeting ID: 97183509505

Objectives

1. Medical Officer of Health Update
2. Current priority topic
3. Let's work through some scenarios
4. Guest presenter - Dr. Luanne Metz of Foothills Medical Centre
5. Additional questions from communities

Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to

VChelp@FNTN.ca

ISC Guidance on Lifting Public Health Restrictions in a First Nation

The national ISC office is finalizing a draft guidance document to help your community with relaunch. Please find attached a **draft** version of the document.

This draft document is meant to complement the guidelines and tools from the province of Alberta for specific settings by sector. ISC encourages all Nations to check alberta.ca/BizConnect regularly for this guidance from Alberta.

Call for Input: Global Report on Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples

Relevant Link: [Call for inputs - Report of the Special Rapporteur Indigenous Rights](#)

The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous rights is calling for input into a global report about how COVID-19 is impacting Indigenous peoples. [Click here](#) for the full details of the request. The UN is accepting responses to a questionnaire from “member states, Indigenous peoples representatives bodies and organisations, civil society actors, health workers and agencies, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders, to contribute to the preparation of his report. **Responses can be submitted to indigenous@ohchr.org by 15 June 2020.**

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

May 19 | Weekly Chiefs Committee on Health Meeting (CCOH)

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Health (CCoH) met with the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) today, who presented on their InfoPoint line mentioned above. ISC Assistant Deputy Minister Valerie Gideon, Dr. Tom Wong and Dr. Evan Adams shared their weekly updates and further reviewed considerations on lifting public health restrictions. **Their presentation is attached, including a detailed table with guidance on reopening in the last slides.**

Key Highlights:

- The First Nations Health Managers Association created “InfoPoint” -- a telephone line and email for First Nations that will search for credible and reliable information about their specific COVID-19 questions.
 - To give InfoPoint a try Call: 1-855-446- 2719 or Email: InfoPoint@fnhma.ca. People are available to respond Monday to Friday from 6 am to 6 pm MT.
- A First Nations-Inuit-Metis Alliance has been struck to do COVID-19 tracking and modelling work
- Val highlighted a “first-of-its-kind” agreement between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the province to track and share COVID-19 data.
 - Manitoba started asking patients testing positive for COVID-19 to voluntarily self-identify if they are First Nations, Métis or Inuit starting on April 3.
 - The data will be shared with First Nations leadership in the province.

- ISC reviewed in detail some of the general criteria First Nations leadership could consider in assessing their readiness for reopening different sectors of their community. **This is detailed in the last slides of their presentation to the CCoH.**
- Responding to a question raised by Chief Irvin Bull, the Alberta representative on the CCoH, about whether ISC will still fund security costs associated with reducing non-essential travel in light of province's beginning to reopen, Val clarified that these kinds of measures are still considered a public health expense, and will be funded.
 - ISC plans to re-issue its [COVID-19 funding guidelines](#) to respond to changes that have happened since March, and to clarify concerns that have come up around funding.
 - Val stressed they do not want to put communities in a place where leaders have to lift certain restrictions or measures because of money, and want to ensure communities are properly supported to maintain measures they determine are needed to uphold community safety.
- There was notable discussion about how First Nation communities should be proceeding with funerals and ceremonies.
 - Dr. Yacoub shared a best practice. There was a "drive through" funeral organized somewhere in Alberta where cars parked outside the funeral home, and only close family participated in the funeral inside. This was a collaborative effort between the funeral home, community leadership, and the RCMP.
 - It's clear that communities and leaders are looking for some guidance on how to balance the need for people to congregate when there is loss, with enforcing reasonable measures to keep community members, especially Elders safe.
 - ISC re-iterated they are not going to be getting in the way of communities practicing their ceremonies and protocol, which are necessary for community governance and life.
 - Some are calling for the AFN or another organization to begin providing some clear guidance on how to proceed with ceremonies safely.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 20***
- ****RECAP* Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 19***

Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 20

Relevant Links: [PM Trudeau Provides Update on Federal Response to COVID-19](#)
[Federal Health Officials Provide COVID-19 Update](#)

Speaking from outside his Ottawa residence, Prime Minister Trudeau made additional announcements on the Federal government response to COVID-19. Following this, Dr. Tam and Dr. Njoo gave their daily COVID-19 statistical updates. **Key Highlights:**

- There are now 79,491 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada including 5,955 deaths. 40,342 (51%) have now recovered. On testing, over 1,372,000 individuals have been tested with about 5% returning positive, for an average of 28,000 people a day.
- Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) - forgivable loans to landlords so they can reduce their rent by 75% for small businesses tenants that have lost majority of their revenue due to COVID-19. Cmhc.ca for details when application portal launches **May 25**.
 - Provinces and Territories will cover 50% in partnership with the Federal government. Landlords are asked to cover the other 25%. Tenants are asked to use the support they have such as the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to cover the outstanding 25% not covered by CECRA.
- There will be a one-time \$300 bump-up to the Canada Child Benefit provided through CRA this month.

Additional Information

- Large employer emergency financing facility applications are open today, in order to provide bridge loans for the country's largest employers. Delivered through the Canada Investment Development Corporation.

***RECAP* Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 19**

(Alberta is transitioning to updates every other day going forward)

Relevant Link: [Alberta Update on COVID-19](#)

Minister of Health - Tyler Shandro, Minister of Seniors and Housing - Josephine Pon, Chair of the Alberta Continuing Care Association - Jennifer McCue, and Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Alberta Dr. Deena Hinshaw gave today's provincial update on COVID-19. **Key**

Highlights:

- There are 1,004 active cases in the province, 61 hospitalized with 8 of these in ICU. Out of 2,428 new tests in the last 24 hours, there are 33 new cases.
- In a new major funding announcement to protect Albertans in continuing care, long term care, and other seniors care, Minister Shandro announced funding of over \$14 million/month for facility operations.
 - Funding is retroactive to March 15, to cover enhanced staffing, costs for cleaning supplies, and loss of accommodation revenue.
 - Funding to remain in place until all public health orders are lifted in Alberta.
 - Funding is in addition to other previously announced funding.
- Minister Pon also announced funding of \$2.9 million/month for seniors lodge operators to meet the needs of these facilities in response to COVID-19.

Additional Information:

- Working remotely where possible is still recommended until Stage 2 of the Alberta relaunch.
- Altered requirement for opening businesses: the COVID-19 measures template through Alberta BizConnect is recommended for businesses opening but is *no*

longer a mandatory requirement. This change was made based upon stakeholder feedback received over the weekend.