

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Friday, May 15

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 publishing the daily bulletin over the long weekend, after Friday's bulletin, regular bulletins will resume Tuesday May 19, 2020.**

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	May 14	May 15	Change
Individuals Tested	200,218	204,723	+4,505
Total Positive	6,457	6,515	+58
Active	1,131	1,073	-58
Fatalities	121	125	+5
Recoveries	5,205	5,317	+
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 4,414 Edmonton zone - 516 Central zone - 97 South zone - 1,174 North zone - 228 Unidentified zone - 28		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations* (as of May 15)</u> Calgary Zone - 19 North Zone - 4 South Zone - 6 Unidentified zone - 3	

New Measures

- The province is now allowing **outdoor** gatherings of 50 or more, provided that 2 m 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, 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. with Provincial parks which are also opening on this date.

First Nation-specific Updates

- Minister Miller confirmed Canada **will not** ban Sundances or other spiritual ceremonies during the pandemic. (Details can be found in the "National and Regional Updates" section of the bulletin).

- ISC is starting to provide guidance to First Nations on lifting public health restrictions. For more information, please refer to the “Information and Documents for First Nations” section, and the documents included with this bulletin.
- ***Updated*** Canada Emergency Student Benefit applications will open **Today**. **Students who have not filed taxes will have to contact CRA to register their Social Insurance Number.**
- ISC-AB will be hosting the following Chiefs call for the remainder of the month:
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 –Treaty 7 Chiefs
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 –Treaty 6, 7 and 8 All Chiefs Call
- 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

- 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. This is posted on the [Bizconnect website](#) that the province launched on Monday 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.
- \$1 billion dollar regional relief and recovery fund announced by the federal government on Wednesday, to flow through the six regional development agencies
- On Tuesday, The Prime Minister announced \$790 million towards vaccinating the world's more vulnerable populations through a partnership with GAVI.
- Prime Minister Trudeau announced cost-sharing agreements with all provinces and territories to top up the wages of essential workers. Final details of these agreements are still being determined.
- 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

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 20 –Treaty 7 Chiefs

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* 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, along with an accompanying presentation outlining key components of the recommendations.

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.

ISC-COVID-19 Plan and Scenarios

The national ISC office developed a document outlining their plan and response to different COVID-19 scenarios on a First Nation. Please find attached an updated version of this document. We sent a previous version of this document in bulletins last week.

AFN COVID-19 Task Force Terms of Reference

On May 5, the AFN [announced](#) it was striking a task force to help the AFN Executive Committee and First Nations receive accurate information, analysis and recommendations for action during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Executive approved the task force's finalized task force terms of reference, which will guide its work. You can find the terms of reference attached.

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

No Notable Calls or Meetings today.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 15***
- ***Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 14***

Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 15

Relevant Links: [Trudeau Announces Extension of Wage Subsidy Until End of August](#)
[Federal Ministers and Health Officials COVID-19 Update for May 15](#)

Speaking from outside his home in Ottawa, Prime Minister Trudeau announced funding support for researchers and research institutions and updated the country on measures for financial support the government has undertaken. Following this, Deputy Minister Freeland, Dr. Tam and colleagues provided the daily briefing on COVID-19 statistics and measures. **Key Highlights:**

- There are now 73,829 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada, including 5,499 deaths. 36,528 cases, or 49%, have recovered. On testing, Canada has now tested over 1,232,000 people with about 6% returning positive, testing an average of 27,000 individuals daily.
- \$450 million was announced by Prime Minister Trudeau for universities and affiliated research institutions, providing temporary support on wages.
- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be extended until the end of August to allow businesses to retain employees and avoid layoffs, re-hiring staff, and expanding if possible. The 30% revenue reduction eligibility criteria will also be evaluated in the coming days.
- Canada Emergency Student Benefit Applications open today, applications can be done through CRA MyAccount or calling CRA.

Additional Information

- The first set of postings for summer jobs for students is up at jobbank.gc.ca, more postings will be up in the coming days for students and recent graduates.
- Recipients of the Child Benefit and GST/HST Credit will not lose their benefits if they fail to file taxes until the end of September. The filing deadline for 2019 was previously extended until June 1.

Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 15

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

In Edmonton, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, provided the daily update from the province on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- There are now 1,073 active cases in the province, with 62 in hospital and 9 in intensive care. 58 new cases have been identified in the past 24 hours.
 - 50 new cases have been identified among asymptomatic people since Monday. This week, the province allowed residents in the Calgary zone to get tested for COVID-19 without showing any symptoms.
- The province is now allowing outdoor gatherings of 50 or more, provided that 2 m physical distancing can be followed, and people are not sharing food or drinks.
 - Indoor gatherings are still limited to no more than 15 people.
 - Dr. Hinshaw said if you want to invite people to your backyard you should make sure they can stay 2 metres apart, make hand sanitizer readily available, and If you cannot do this, you shouldn't host a gathering.
- There will no longer be daily or weekend COVID-19 updates from the province. Dr. Hinshaw will give her update on Tuesday and Thursday next week, and on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the following week.
- Businesses that are recently reopening will now have 14 days after opening to post a short survey publicly outlining what strategies they have taken to mitigate risk. Yesterday, Dr. Hinshaw said businesses would have 7 days after reopening to complete this form. The survey can be found through the bizconnect webpage linked [here](#).