

# AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletin



## Wednesday, December 16

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>.

*The next bulletin will be sent Wednesday, January 6, 2021. AFN Alberta will not be distributing a weekly bulletin over the Christmas break (December 18, 2020 - Jan 4, 2021).*

### HIGHLIGHTS

	December 10	December 16	Change
<b>Tests Completed</b>	2,444,373	2,562,225	+117,852
<b>Total Positive</b>	75,054	84,597	+9,543
<b>Active</b>	20,163	20,169	+6
<b>Fatalities</b>	666	760	+94
<b>Recoveries</b>	54,225	63,668	+9,443
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 33,120    Edmonton zone - 36,165 Central zone - 4,813 South zone - 4,640    North zone - 5,639 Unidentified zone - 220		<u>COVID-19 in Indigenous Peoples (both on and off reserve)</u> <u>(As of December 15)</u> Total - 4,714    On-Reserve only - 1,791    Active - 1,359 Recovered - 3,324    Deaths - 31 <u>FN Cases by Zone (both on and off reserve)</u> North - 1,154    Central - 815    South - 253 Calgary - 963    Edmonton - 1,521	

### New Measures

- On Tuesday, December 8, the government of Alberta brought in new health measures to be in effect provincewide. The restrictions are to be in place for a minimum of four weeks. **Full details and link to the press conference just below today's highlights.**
- \*NEW\*** The province received its first 3,900 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 14 and another 25,350 doses are expected at the start of next week.
  - Alberta plans to immunize 29,000 health-care workers by the end of December.

### First Nation-specific Updates

- The AFN completed its first virtual Annual General Assembly, held December 8-9, 2020. Additional details can be found in the legislative updates section of the bulletin.
  - \*NEW\*** Following the Annual General Assembly, AFN Executive met to discuss priority items raised, you can find full details in the meeting summaries section.

### National and Regional Updates

- **\*UPDATED\*** The entirety of the province of Alberta is still under Enhanced COVID-19 status. [Click here](#) to view the interactive map updated by Alberta Health.

## **PROVINCEWIDE MANDATORY HEALTH MEASURES**

On December 8, 2020 the Government of Alberta introduced the following **additional** restrictions **Province Wide** to be in place for at least 2 more weeks:

### **Immediate Changes**

- No indoor or outdoor social gatherings in any setting
- Close contacts limited to household members only
  - Individuals who live alone will be allowed up to two close contacts for in-person visiting, with those two people remaining the same for the duration of the restriction period
- No festivals, events, parades, concerts, exhibitions, competitions, sports or performances.
- Grades 7-12 at-home learning Nov 30, 2020 to Jan 11, 2021
- ESC-Grade 5 at home learning after break until Jan 11, 2021
- The mandatory indoor public masking requirement has been extended province wide

### **In effect 12:01 a.m., December 13, 2020**

- All places of worship limited to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance.
- All retail services must reduce customer capacity to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy.
- Mandatory work from home measures will be implemented unless the employer determines that work requires a physical presence for operational effectiveness.
- Closures - the following will be closed:
  - Restaurants, Pubs, Bars, Lounges and Cafes closed to in-person
    - Takeout, pickup and delivery services still permitted.
  - Casinos, bingo halls, gaming entertainment centres, racing entertainment centres, horse tracks, raceways, bowling alleys, pool halls, legions and private clubs
  - Recreational facilities - fitness centres, recreation centres, pools, spas, gyms, studios, day and overnight camps, indoor rinks and arenas
  - Entertainment business and entities - libraries, science centres, interpretive centres, museums, galleries, amusement parks and water parks

The full release and video conference can be found at the following link:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=75859ADEA5D5E-045D-2386-0CB140C175A800DD>

## **INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS**

### ***\*NEW\* AFN COVID-19 National Task Force Weekly Update - Dec 14***

Attached to this bulletin you will find the weekly C-19 Task Force Update dated December 14th

### ***\*NEW\* December 16 Bulletin:***

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's Bulletin (December 16th) is attached. It includes the following information:

- Vaccine Update
- Mental Wellness
- Jordans Principle help with COVID-19 relief
- Service Canada Services
- Deadlines for CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative

### ***\*NEW\* Mental Health Telehealth Session - January 20, 2021***

Attached to today's bulletin is the poster for an upcoming Mental Health telehealth session, *Helping the Helper: Resources and tools to support resilience and mental health for front end workers*, on **Wednesday January 20, 10 am - 12 pm**

To connect to the session:

- via Zoom, go to <https://fntn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 928 4795 5576 and Passcode: 864150
- from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 928 4795 5576 and Passcode: 864150
- from a videoconference-enabled room, go to [www.fntn.ca](http://www.fntn.ca) to register

Questions can be submitted in advance of or during the presentation to [VChelp@FNTN.ca](mailto:VChelp@FNTN.ca), or via Zoom during the presentation.

## **CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES**

### ***\*NEW\* AFN Executive Committee Meeting | December 15, 2020***

Following the Virtual AGA, the Executive Committee of AFN met to discuss priority areas, Regional Chief Poitras was in attendance and here are some key highlights from the priority discussion areas:

#### *Chiefs Committee on Education discussions*

- The executive moved that the National Chief and AFN Executive Committee support that education funding be based on needs rather than a funding formula.
  - RC Poitras stressed that the Chiefs Committees are recommendatory bodies and do not make decisions on funding allocations.
- National Chief encouraged the executive to lobby the Ministers and Deputy PM Freeland to increase education funding amounts. Advocacy efforts are needed prior to the next

budget in order to have the potential to impact funding amounts.

#### *AFN Chiefs Forum on UN Declaration Bill C-15 Discussion*

- National Chief recommended a two-day forum tentatively planned for February 10-11, 2021 on Bill C-15. The motion was unanimously agreed upon.

#### *First Nations Policing and Justice*

- A discussion on Justice and Policing was held, and the executive agreed that there are regional differences in approaching the issue, and each region has been taking its own approach. (e.g. Alberta provincial Government is undertaking a review of the Provincial Police Act simultaneously and Regional Chief Poitras has held meetings with both Federal and Provincial leaders at the table so First Nations can directly engage on this and other processes).
  - It was stressed that the portfolio holders need to be in sync with these regional realities and support was given for a cohesive and cognizant approach.

#### *AGA Recap/Overview - Lessons Learned*

- The Executive went over the virtual AGA and discussed some of the limitations and lessons learned for the future. It was conveyed that there was a lot of frustration from not having time to address all Chiefs comments in the virtual space.
  - The Chairs tried to apply rules as they are in the charter as consistently as possible. It was understood that due to the amount of items in the agenda that at times the meeting was running well over 45 past allotted items.
- It was recommended the chairpersons meet and identify the limitations of the virtual AGA and develop a report, with recommendations.
  - The Co-Chairs did note as a preliminary observation the gender disparity that arose and that at times all the speakers to certain issues were men.
  - CEO Janice spoke to next steps, noting that they are recognizing the issues that arose through these follow-up discussions and that a survey will be sent to all participants soon for feedback, and will try to roll-out recommendations in the new year.

## **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES**

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

- ***Government of Canada COVID Updates***
- ***Government of Alberta COVID Updates***

### ***Government of Canada COVID Updates***

[\*Federal Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution - December 16, 2020\*](#)

[\*Canada to Receive 168,000 Doses of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in December\*](#)

On Parliament Hill, Dr. Howard Njoo, Canada's deputy chief public health officer, conducts a technical briefing concerning Canada's distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. He is joined by Major-General Dany Fortin, the vice-president of logistics and operations at the Public Health Agency of Canada and head of the country's vaccine distribution efforts, Dr. Tom Wong, chief medical officer of public health for Indigenous Services Canada, and Dr. Evan Adams, deputy chief medical officer of public health for Indigenous Services Canada. **Key Highlights:**

- Canadians have started to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Njoo stated that he has never seen the global health community come together in this way.
  - Dr. Njoo also stated this was only the beginning of the end, and that we need to keep up our public health measures while vaccinations are underway.
- Provinces are moving to scale up points of use based on their regional immunization strategies. Training to administer the vaccine is also underway.
  - Freezers are being delivered across the country to meet the cold-chain requirements of the vaccines. Provinces and Territories already have ancillary equipment in their possession for the first order of 2021. (syringes, PPE etc.)
- Dr. Evan Adams gave an update on the COVID-19 cases for First Nations across Canada
  - As of December 15 there are 6,390 COVID-19 cases on reserve in Canada with 2,472 of these being active. 50% of all Indigenous communities in Canada have experienced COVID, in particular Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have been affected. There have been 55 on reserve fatalities.
- The Prime Minister announced that Canada will receive up to 168,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine by the end of December, pending Health Canada's approval of the vaccine.
  - Deliveries could begin within 48 hours of federal regulatory approval.
  - Trudeau also announces that another 200,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be delivered to Canada the week of December 21.
    - This batch is part of the 249,000 doses that Canada will receive by the end of 2020 from its initial shipment of Pfizer's vaccine.

## **Government of Alberta COVID Updates**

[Video Link: Alberta Community Outreach Program and Vaccinations - December 15, 2020](#)

[CPAC Video: Alberta Update on COVID-19 - December 16, 2020](#)

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney holds a news conference in Edmonton to provide an update on his government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He is joined by provincial cabinet ministers Tracy Allard (municipal affairs), Kaycee Madu (justice and Alberta's solicitor general), and Rajan Sawhney (community and social services), as well as Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health. **Key Highlights:**

- In the last 24 hours Alberta reported 1,270 new cases of COVID-19 and completed 17,500 tests. Positivity is at 7.3%. There are 749 hospitalized with 139 in the ICU. AHS continues to work to increase capacity and beds available for the ICU. 16 new deaths were also reported in the last 24 hours.
  - In the last 10 months, more Albertans have died from COVID-19 than the last 10 years of influenza combined.
- Addressing Vaccine safety, Dr. Hinshaw stated that it is important to remember that Canada has one of the most robust regulatory systems in the world for vaccines and the same testing and scrutiny was applied to this as there would be to any new drug. No safety concerns have been identified.
  - Effectiveness and Safety needed to be verified before any administration to Canadians, this is part of the reason why no one under 16 may currently receive the vaccine as there has been no trials conducted to this point.
- Alberta's first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were administered to health-care workers in Calgary and Edmonton earlier in the day. Another 25,300 doses are expected within the next week.
  - The first tranche of the Moderna vaccines is expected within a week or so.
- Addressing the measures put in place last week, and continued high rates of transmission, an outreach campaign has begun to 11 neighborhoods between Edmonton and Calgary.
  - Care packages with Masks, Hand Sanitizer and information delivered by community care teams and provided with information on socioeconomic supports that are available to them.
  - As part of this initiative an expansion of isolation support program is being undertaken which will offer 14 days in hotels for people in hard hit communities that cannot effectively isolate. There are 16 hotels ready for them who need them.
    - Additionally, Individuals will be eligible for a temporary emergency payment of \$625 once their mandatory self-isolation at hotels has been completed.
- A public awareness campaign in 10 languages is also being launched so that people have access to information relevant to COVID-19 and vaccination.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

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

- ***\*NEW\* Provincial Concerns with UNDRIP Legislation***
- ***\*NEW\* RCMP Indigenous Policing Newsletter, Vol. 1 Issue. 1***
- ***AFN Annual General Assembly Dec 8-9 Documents***
- ***AFN National Climate Gathering Products***
- ***Police Act Review - Written Submissions***

### ***\*NEW\* Provincial Concerns with UNDRIP Legislation***

Two letters were received this week by the AFN National Office. The first is directed to Federal Ministers Lametti and Bennett from the provincial Indigenous ministers of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan; The second is from Alberta Justice Minister Kaycee Madu to Minister Lametti's office. Both of the letters raise concerns about the implementation of the federal UNDRIP legislation, Bill C-15. You can find copies of the letters attached to today's bulletin.

### ***\*NEW\* RCMP Indigenous Policing Newsletter, Vol. 1 Issue. 1***

As part of the initiative to improve communications and promote dialogue and sharing the work of the RCMP, Deputy Commissioner Zablocki and his team have published the first issue of their Indigenous Policing Newsletter. You can find it attached to today's regional bulletin.

### ***AFN Annual General Assembly Dec 8-9 Documents***

The AFN AGA for 2020 has now concluded. All public resources are available on the AFN website linked here: <https://www.afn.ca/2020-annual-general-assembly/> resources available include:

- Forum Agenda
- Final Draft Resolutions (pre-AGA amendments)
- Sector Updates via Video
- Issues Updates
- 2020 Executive Report

As final voting results on resolutions are confirmed and additional AGA information is made public, our office will push them out to the region.

### ***AFN National Climate Gathering Products***

With the conclusion of the Annual General Assembly, the Environment sector of AFN has released multiple products from the AFN National Climate gathering in March. The gathering represented one-half of the mandate received from the Chiefs-in-Assembly in resolution 05/19 - *Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency* - The other half is the ongoing development of an AFN National Climate Strategy. **Products are as follows:**

- Comprehensive Report of the Gathering (English attached, French on request)
- Two Videos
  - A 2 minute introductory [video](#)
  - A 6 minute overview [video](#)
- And presentations from all concurrent sessions which can be found [here](#)  
(scroll to bottom of page at the link)

### **\*REMINDER\* Police Act Review - Written Submissions**

The province has completed its series of four engagements on review of the Provincial Police act and is now accepting written submissions with any perspective or feedback to be provided. You can reach them through [JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca) - **the deadline for written submissions is January 4, 2021**

### **IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Canadians can now apply through the Canada Revenue Agency for a new sick leave benefit and a new caregiver benefit for those forced to take time off work to care for a dependent because of the pandemic. Details on this and other Employment Insurance changes are available through the [Government of Canada](#)
- The Alberta First Nation Governance Information Centre is publishing a weekly COVID-19 update with First Nations case count and epidemiological data. [Click here](#) to access the latest and previous reports (on the left sidebar of the webpage).
- Alberta Health is available on request to support First Nations in developing guidelines around ceremonies. Contact [ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca](mailto:ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca) for support.
- 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 COVID-19 Indigenous Business Task Force released their findings from a survey meant to analyze the impact of the pandemic on Indigenous businesses. [Click here](#) to read the report. Their work was funded by Indigenous Services Canada.
- The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM) has created a series of 5 posters with sexual and reproductive health information for Indigenous communities. The posters have been translated into 4 languages (French, Plains Cree, Inuktitut, Mohawk) and are hosted on the [NACM website](#)
- The [Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic](#) (at the link provided) provides video or phone care with a family doctor in Alberta to rural and urban Indigenous communities. All physicians are either Indigenous or have experience working with Indigenous communities.