

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *October 14, 2020*

Updates

Consider Expanding Flu Immunization Capacity:

Immunizations are one of the most effective public health interventions to protect individuals and communities. In Alberta, influenza immunizations are provincially funded and universally accessible for all Albertans six months of age and older. The Alberta Influenza Immunization Program will begin in October. Getting a flu shot this year is particularly important as it can lower the chance of respiratory illness during the upcoming influenza season. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a series of challenges for the delivery of influenza immunizations this fall. This includes:

- The need for infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to staff, volunteers, and clients
- The availability of healthcare professionals to provide immunizations due to competing priorities
- Access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for immunizers and support staff
- Access to suitable venues for immunization clinics
- The fear of exposure to and risk of transmission of COVID-19 during influenza immunization clinics

Alberta First Nations and Inuit Health Branch is available to discuss options to expand local immunization capacity. Please contact Mary Zhang at: marymunlie.zhang@canada.ca for more information.

Nominal Roll

It's time to collect the Nominal Roll of students who are resident on-reserve and attending school, either First Nation, federal, provincial or independent/private school. Instructions on how to submit your Nominal Roll to the Department and the timelines for collection have been sent to school administrators. The health and safety of students and staff remains the priority during this school year. Regional staff will be working very closely with recipients to submit Nominal Roll in order to capture the most accurate numbers while recognizing the challenges related to COVID-19 that many schools are experiencing.

Health Measures in Edmonton Zone

Effective October 8th, the Alberta government has implemented additional voluntary public health measures in the [Edmonton Zone](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect Albertans due to the increase of cases in the city. For more information on these additional measures please [click here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Does Vitamin D help against COVID-19?

A: News has been circulating about vitamin D offering protection against the effects of COVID-19, and reducing the severity of illness for COVID-19 patients. Currently there is not enough scientific evidence that vitamin D supplements are beneficial in preventing or treating COVID-19. Adequate vitamin D is still important for overall health and immune function however. Vitamin D is obtained through sunlight, food sources (eggs, margarine, salmon and trout, soy and low-fat milk beverages) as well as supplements. You can learn more on vitamin D [here](#).

National Information

[ISC's seasonal flu page](#)

[NEW flu resource for seniors](#)

[NEW flu resource for families](#)

[Flu factsheet](#)

[Stream Two — Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of October 13th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (October 12th – 220 new cases)	20,956
AB Recovered Cases	18,055
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	337
On-reserve Recovered Cases	288
On-Reserve Active Cases	45
Calgary Zone Confirmed	9,672
Central Zone Confirmed	784
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	6,877
North Zone Confirmed	1,575
South Zone Confirmed	1,990
Unknown Confirmed	58
Deaths due to COVID-19	286
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	4

School Re-Entry Guidance

The Province of Alberta updated guidance for schools on re-entry on October 8th. The document lays out procedures to ensure a school is made as safe as possible for staff and students and is relevant to all schools in Alberta, including on reserve. You can view the document [here](#).

Additionally, the province has a resource guide for [COVID-19 outbreaks in schools](#), [implementing school re-entry guidance](#), information on [isolating students](#), and [fact sheets](#) summarizing the health information for this current school year.

Regional Snapshot



More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Useful Links

Blood Tribe PSA

Welcome to the first video of Blood Tribe's COVID Safety Outreach Campaign, titled "Listen to Granny". Granny is invited to Wind Dancer's school where she talks about wearing a face mask and follows up with a song! This is a collaboration between Blood Tribe Communications and DerRic Starlight's Nuppets https://youtu.be/b_cBjv9OWx4

Regional Contact:

Allen Willier, Special Leadership Liaison, is available to support information sharing and to assist you in navigating questions or concerns related to COVID-19. He may be reached at 780-446-8969.