

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletin



Wednesday, July 29

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 be issuing its COVID-19 updates once weekly going forward, refer to the highlight below
The next bulletin will be sent Wednesday, August 5

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	July 22	July 28*	Change
Tests Completed	606,465	668,226	+61,761
Total Positive	9,861	10,603	+742
Active	1,251	1,430	+179
Fatalities	174	190	+16
Recoveries	8,436	8,983	+547
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 6,450 Edmonton zone - 1,605 Central zone - 357 South zone - 1,630 North zone - 533 Unidentified zone - 28		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations (As of July 28)</u> Calgary Zone - 46 North Zone - 38 South Zone - 37 Unidentified Zone - 31 Total - 152 Recovered - 121 Active - 25	

* AB Health: Updated July 29. Numbers are up to date as of end of day July 28.

New Measures

- Due to a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases, Alberta is reminding people to “get back to the basics,” and continue following these guidelines:
 - Avoid contact with people and maintain a 2m distance when out in public.
 - Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face
 - Wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible
- Canada and the U.S. have agreed to extend and maintain border closures until Aug 21
- **Effective as of July 23rd**, the province will be shifting from restricted access to safe access for Long Term Care Facilities.
 - A new [video](#) is available on Alberta.ca outlining new approach to visitors and families
- Another 20 million non-medical masks are again available province wide through the government partnership with A&W, McDonald’s and Tim Hortons chains. Masks will be available at over 700 locations, and 8 masks per package will be distributed.
- Alberta is now in phase 2 of its COVID-19 relaunch. [Click here](#) for relaunch guidance documents.

First Nation-specific Updates .

- The [AFN Alberta COVID-19 webpage](#) has been updated with new resources and information for First Nations.
- A COVID-19 Indigenous Business Task-Force, funded by Indigenous Services Canada, released findings from a survey analyzing the impacts of the pandemic on Indigenous businesses. [Click here](#) to read their report.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is funding \$31.7 million through its On-Reserve Shelter Enhancement Program to build 10 shelters in First Nation communities across the country. [See the eligibility details from CMHC here.](#)
- 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 for support.

National and Regional Updates

- Alberta announced K-12 students are returning back to school for the 2020-2021 year.
- Dr. Hinshaw is stating that the COVID-19 'curve' "is no longer flat." For the last two week, Alberta has been witnessing a major spike in active COVID-19 cases.
- Canada and the provinces and territories signed a [Safe Restart Agreement](#) that supports increasing COVID-19 testing and health care capacity, amongst other measures. Canada committed \$19 billion in funding to the provinces/territories through the agreement.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

****NEW* Updates to the AFN Alberta COVID-19 Website***

Late last week, we published updates to the AFN Alberta COVID-19 website. [Click here](#) for information and resources about:

- How to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak
- Financial aid available to First Nations (individuals, businesses, communities).
 - This section includes fact sheets about what First Nation individuals should know before applying to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
- Public Health Planning Resources
- Mental Health Support
- Previous AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletins

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

****NEW* July 29 Bulletin:***

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (July 29) is attached. It includes the following information:

- Increase in COVID cases
- Return to School
- Community Resources
- Individual Risk Evaluator for Albertans

Also included is a two page bulletin on current services levels at Indigenous Services Canada - Alberta Region for both Regional Operations and FNIHB.

****NEW* COVID-19 Indigenous Business Task Force Report***

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 task-force concluded that more dedicated federal support to Indigenous businesses is needed. The group is made up of individuals representing Cando, the Canadian Aboriginal Business Council, Inuit Tapariit Kanatami, and other organizations. Key findings include:

- 91% of surveyed businesses reported a negative impact from COVID-19
- Nearly half of those surveyed have applied for government assistance
- 30% reported a shutdown of their facilities

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

No Notable Calls or Meetings

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Federal Update on COVID-19, July 28***
- ***Provincial Update on COVID-19, July 27***
- ***Federal Ministers Announce \$625 Million to Support Child-Care Restart***
- ***Alberta Announces Economic Stimulus for Municipalities***
- ***Alberta Premier Holds End-of-Session News Conference***

Federal Update on COVID-19, July 28

[Federal Briefing on the Response to COVID-19](#)

Dr. Tam gave the Federal government update on COVID-19 yesterday in a very brief news conference. **Key Highlights:**

- As of July 27 114,597 cases of COVID have been reported in Canada, with 8,901 deaths. 87% of confirmed cases have recovered. Labs have completed over 3,863,000 tests to date, for an average of 40,600 tests daily over the last week, with about 1% of these returning positive.

- Since last Friday, there has been an increase in daily cases being reported. The upward trend needs to be observed. Canadians need to limit social contacts and maintain social distancing and hygiene.

Provincial Update on COVID-19, July 27 and July 23.

[Alberta Update on COVID-19 \(July 27\)](#)

[Alberta Update on COVID-19 \(July 23\)](#)

Alberta Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Deena Hinshaw gave a brief update on COVID-19 in Alberta on July 27, similar to Dr. Tam's presentation on July 28, and on July 23. The CMO is concerned about the increase of daily confirmed cases, and is encouraging Albertans to keep heeding public health advice. **Key highlights:**

- As of July 27, there were 8,774 recovered cases of COVID-19 in Alberta. 1,430 cases were active. High numbers are being identified daily across the province with an average of about 100 daily cases over the last weekend. Over 651,000 tests have been completed in the province. 88 people are hospitalized with 17 in ICU. 8 additional deaths have been reported since last Friday.
 - Dr. Hinshaw emphasized that this virus can have severe and fatal outcomes. 5 of these deaths occurred in an Edmonton continuing care facility. AHS took over day-to-day operations of the Southgate care centre to ensure outbreak control.
- Alberta's updated guidance on long-term care visits has been effective since June 23. Changes include the expectation that operators develop a safe visiting policy and process in collaboration with residents and families.
 - A new [video](#) is available on Alberta.ca outlining new approach to visitors and families
- "The curve is no longer flat in Alberta." There is no zone that has been spared from new, active cases. Albertans need to follow the public health guidelines.
- On July 23, Dr. Hinshaw said Alberta's accurate care is approaching the highest number of admissions in a single day since April 30, when the province peaked at 113 overall hospital admissions, and May 1, when there were 23 ICU admissions.
- The CMO is concerned by the growing number of active cases in the province. On July 9, we had 590 active cases; on July 23, that number more than doubled at 1,300.
- In Alberta, 1 out of every 50 COVID-19 cases between the ages of 30 and 39 has needed hospitalization
 - 1 out of 20 cases between those aged 40 to 69 has been hospitalized.
 - 1 out of 10 cases between the ages of 70 and 79 has died.

Federal Ministers Announce \$625 Million to Support Child-Care Restart

[Minister Ahmed Hussen and Minister Mona Fortier announcement](#)

At a conference in Ottawa, federal ministers Ahmed Hussen and Mona Fortier announced \$625 million in funding for the Canadian child-care sector to support parents' return to work amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- Getting Canadians back to work isn't as simple as reopening businesses and providing employees with PPE. Safe Childcare for Children is also essential.
- Temporary closures and loss of critical revenue has put great strain on the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) sector.
- This \$625 million investment in provinces and territories ensures safe, affordable childcare spaces. When added to funding committed to the bilateral agreements for the ELCC sector with the provinces and territories, the total amount is almost \$1.2 billion dollars, an unprecedented and record amount.

Alberta Announces Economic Stimulus for Municipalities

Premier's Announcement

At a news conference in Edmonton, Premier Kenney announced an economic stimulus program to help municipalities recover from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Premier was joined by Ministers Kaycee Madu (municipal affairs) and Ric McIver (transportation) as well as Mayors Don Iveson and Naheed Nenshi. **Key Highlights:**

- \$1.1 billion will be provided to municipalities to build core infrastructure and help municipal governments cope with the COVID crisis, creating thousands of jobs right now.
 - This total includes a previously announced \$500 million in provincial funding.
 - The new money (\$600 million) is courtesy of the federal safe restart agreement, to help municipalities maintain public services.
 - Within this funding, the province plans to match a \$233 million investment in federal funding to support municipal operating costs and \$70 million matched for public transit operating.
- The Premier estimates the real unemployment rate in Alberta is more than 20%.
- Alberta's provincial recovery plan was outlined at a high level.
 - A \$10 billion effort to build infrastructure this year in an effort that will create ~55,000 good paying jobs.
 - Doubling down on Alberta's investment strategy, through job creation tax cut, red tape reduction, and acceleration of economy diversification.

Alberta Premier Holds End-of-Session News Conference

Recording of Conference

In Edmonton, Premier Kenney held a news conference to highlight legislation passed to address the ongoing pandemic, as the spring provincial legislature session came to an end. **Key Highlights:**

- Premier provided a summary of the bills passed during session, a total of 34 bills passed in 52 days sitting.
- The legislature finished two-day consecutive overnight sitting to pass Bill 30, which makes it easier for private surgical facilities to open in Alberta, and Bill 32, which requires unions to give members the option to not have their dues spent on political campaigns.

- Bills 9-12 were all related to the pandemic. This included the utility deferral legislation and renters protection legislation that restricted evictions and rent increases during the provincial public health emergency.
- A full list of legislative activities during this session can be found here:
http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=bills_statusreport&legl=30&session=2.

IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- StatsCan released reports about the impact of COVID-19 on society, including the following reports that may be of interest to First Nations. [Click here](#) to access the full list of reports.
 - [Economic impact of COVID-19 among Indigenous people](#)
 - [Indigenous people and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [Indigenous people in urban areas: Vulnerabilities to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19](#)
 - [Food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, May 2020](#)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Canada launched the P-O-S-T Promise campaign in response to COVID-19. The details of the initiative can be found at postpromise.com
- Community-owned businesses can apply to the Aboriginal Business Investment fund (ABIF) for initiatives that “demonstrate social and economic benefits for their communities.” Alberta is providing up to \$500,000 in investments through this call for proposals. [Click here](#) for more information. The closing date for applications is September 30.
- 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](#).