

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Daily Bulletin



Tuesday, April 14

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

Over the Weekend, COVID-19 Test Results

ALBERTA	April 9	April 14	Change
Negative (#s of Tests)	70,247	82,649	(+12,402)
Positive	1,451	1,870	(+419)
Fatalities	32	48	(+16)
Recoveries	592	914	(+322)

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta

Calgary zone - 1,242(+364) Edmonton zone - 402 (+26)
Central zone - 74 (+2) South zone - 36 (+10) North zone - 107 (+10)
Unidentified zone - 9

New Restrictions and Measures

- Alberta [expanded](#) COVID-19 testing to **anyone with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, or a sore throat**.
 - Anyone who is sick **must** stay home and take the [COVID-19 self-assessment form](#) to arrange testing. (Calling 811 no longer required to schedule testing).
- **As of midnight tonight**, international travellers will have to quarantine in a hotel if they don't have any other options.
- **As of midnight tonight**, a provincial fire ban will come into effect, as well as a ban on Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. **Indigenous people may use OHVs on public land for traditional purposes.** (*additional information in the Alberta update*).
- Canada and Alberta are endorsing use of non-medical masks by the general public to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Wearing a mask **does not** protect the wearer from being infected but **can** prevent the virus from spreading from the wearer to people around them.
- Canada is recommending people **not to use** homemade hand sanitizers as it may not be effective in killing the coronavirus.

First Nation-specific Updates

- Ministers Bennett and Miller wrote a letter to the National Chief asking for AFN's input on the possibility of Canada enacting the *Emergencies Act*, and declaring a national state of emergency. The Prime Minister confirmed to the AFN Executive that they **will not** be enacting the *Emergencies Act* at this time and, ideally never. (*Details provided below*).
- **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

- **Today**, Alberta announced a \$3 million grant to caregivers in Alberta.
- On **Saturday**, Premier Kenney announced Alberta will send excess PPE supplies to BC, Ontario, and Quebec.
- Alberta will [match](#) up to \$2M of donations for COVID-19 fundraising campaigns.
- Canada anticipates 22,580-31,850 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 500-700 deaths by April 16. Death toll could be between 11,000 and 300,000 over the course of the pandemic, depending on how strictly people adhere to the public health measures. (*Details in the national and regional updates section of the bulletin.*)
- Alberta made several funding announcements **last week** to support businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19, including increasing their 2020 infrastructure budget by \$2 billion to get people back to work. (*Details in the national and regional updates section of the bulletin*)
- **Last Week**, Premier Kenney announced that the COVID-19 outbreak is likely to peak in Alberta mid-May. He also released projections on anticipated cases and deaths, and how prepared the province is for the upcoming surge in confirmed cases. (*Details in the national and regional updates section of the bulletin*)

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Canada Asks for Input on Enacting the Emergencies Act

Last Friday, Regional Chief Poitras received a copy of a letter to the National Chief from Ministers Bennett and Miller, regarding the potential for the Government of Canada to invoke the *Emergencies Act*. Today, the AFN National Executive participated in a conference call with the Ministers and the Prime Minister to further discuss this matter (a complete summary can be found below in the “call and meetings summaries” section of the bulletin). The Prime Minister

confirmed that Canada will not be moving forward with applying the *Emergencies Act* at this time and, ideally, never.

Our office sought legal advice from MLT Aikins to inform discussions with First Nations in Alberta on. You can find their memo attached. **Key highlights:**

- The three purposes for declaring a "public welfare emergency" outlined in the letter are very broad. First Nations may want assurances on how the *Emergencies Act* would address any of the gaps being outlined to date, if at all.
- The *Emergencies Act* grants Canada a broad range of powers that could displace on-reserve jurisdiction without local laws in place.
 - **First Nations should be aware of this and, in the absence of their own laws/by-laws, should consider implementing them through their own inherent jurisdiction, or through *Indian Act* by-law making authority.**
- Resource allocation to First Nations may be enhanced *or* reduced under the *Emergencies Act* (i.e., food security; PPE, testing kit, medical supplies distribution/redistribution; repurposing First Nation-owned businesses to supply necessary items).
 - First Nations should be aware of how this may affect them (northern and remote First Nations, for example, may have greater access to resources than in non-emergency situations)
- There is some uncertainty with how the *Emergencies Act* may be applied to First Nations, as it has never been used since becoming law in 1988. First Nations may have consultation rights that must be met (and should be legally assessed on a case-by-case basis)

The National Executive was also provided a legal briefing note to inform their discussion with Minister Bennett, Minister Miller, and Prime Minister Trudeau, which you can also find attached to this update. On today's call, Regional Chief stressed that any consultation on this matter must occur with individual First Nations as signatories to Treaty and holders of section 35 rights. She also raised the following key points:

- For the first time since Treaties were signed, many First Nations in Alberta have enacted the famine and pestilence clause and the medicine chest clause contained in their respective Treaty. They need to be supported based on identified needs, according to the provisions of Treaty and they must be consulted directly.
- The *Emergencies Act* is silent on First Nation jurisdiction, if the Act were invoked how will the First Nations jurisdiction and authority be addressed? There are many questions with respect to the scope of the Act that needs to be clarified.
- Should the provinces not consent to the *Emergencies Act* and decide to enact their own Emergency Management Act (AB), in which First Nations are deemed municipalities, how will the federal government deal with First Nations in this instance?
- Our Nations are experiencing issues with accessing funding to support off reserve members. Many off-reserve members do not have a lot of resources for food and

accommodation. The lack of technology and Internet services is also a deterrent for off-reserve members to access funds online that have been announced. Will there be more funds allocated to deal with off-reserve members?

- Overcrowding and lack of housing on reserve is a huge concern this needs to be addressed immediately in response to the Pandemic.
- First Nations are using their own source revenue to fund their pandemic response, will they be fully refunded for all the resources expended during this time?
- First Nations need to be at the table where decisions are being made about them. They are the rights holders and they have the authority and sovereignty over their communities and their citizens.

The Prime Minister confirmed that he has asked Minister Miller to work on additional funding measures to support First Nations' response to COVID-19. In particular, both the Prime Minister and Minister Miller acknowledged that the \$15 million allocated for Indigenous organizations serving off-reserve/urban Indigenous populations is inadequate. ISC is working on supplementing these applications through other existing funding envelopes. *(A full summary of this discussion can be found in the "calls and meetings summaries" section of the bulletin below).*

Additional Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

April 14 Daily Bulletin:

ISC Alberta Region is sending daily updates during the week to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (April 14) is attached. It includes the following information.

- Community Indigenous Support Funds Update
- Public Service Posters
- Mental Health Supports Questions
- Environmental Public Health Teams

Update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

ISC sent a memo to all First Nations about PPE. Their updates highlight that they provide PPE "in cases where other sources are unavailable". Many First Nation communities have supplier arrangements with local PPE sources. If a province or territory is unable to process their requests for health care purposes, they should contact ISC Regional Offices." You can find the full update attached.

ISC also sent a memo to all community health teams advising that they should adopt a continuous masking protocol This memo is also attached.

Community Liaison Teams

ISC Alberta Region created teams to work closely with First Nations on COVID 19 and act as their point of contact, respond to questions, and address operational or coordination issues related to the pandemic. [Click here](#) to find your Nation's liaison and their contact information.

Recommendations for Visitors or Returning Members to Communities

ISC published a guide and self-screening tool for people visiting or returning to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to view the document. To prevent the virus from entering a community, members are asked to refer to this guide before visiting or returning to their First Nation.

How to Access Financial Assistance:

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) published an [information sheet](#) with details on how First Nations can obtain financial support during the COVID-19 outbreak. [Click here for more information on our website about financial support and income assistance.](#)

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

Tuesday, April 14 | AFN Executive Call with Minister Bennet, Miller Miller, and Prime Minister Trudeau

Today, Regional Chief Poitras was joined by other Executive members of AFN and National Chief Bellegarde to speak with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett, Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to discuss the *Emergencies Act* and other COVID-19 issues. **Key Highlights:**

- The National Chief clarified to the Ministers prior to discussion that their conversation about the *Emergencies Act* should **not** be considered as consultation. Minister Miller confirmed the call was not deemed to be consultation.
- The Ministers were clear that Canada has not yet made the decision to declare a public emergency, as well, Minister Miller highlighted that the *Emergencies Act* can only be enacted when Canada can show that an emergency cannot be dealt with through existing legislative and policy measures (including the *Quarantine Act* and the *Indian Act*) and is beyond the capacity of provinces/territories to deal with through their own measures.
- The Regional Chiefs raised key concerns, questions and messages around Canada potentially enacting the *Emergencies Act*:
 - A federal public emergency declaration could be a helpful tool for addressing food security and supply issues. However, First Nations have no guarantee that their needs will be prioritized or their jurisdiction and Treaty rights upheld.
 - Canada needs to consult with First Nations about this declaration because they are the rights holders.
 - Almost all regions do not support enacting a public emergency declaration because of the unanswered questions around Treaty and inherent rights.
- Some specific actions Canada could take if a public emergency is declared:

- Consistency in travel restrictions and rules across the country.
- Consistency in gathering of data
- Commandeering of hospitals (turning private property into medical facilities).
- Streamlining of supply and provision chains so service and supply delivery is optimized.
- Standardization of health protocols across the country so testing, treatments, public health orders, etc. are uniform nationally.
- Prime Minister Trudeau told the Executive that Canada will not be moving forward with the Emergencies Act at this time and, ideally, never.
- Canada wants to use the momentum of the current crisis to fill gaps and address longstanding challenges in First Nations.
- The PM has instructed Minister Miller to work on additional funding measures for FNs. They have heard “loud and clear” that the immediate funding provided is not enough.
- The National Chief’s office will document discussions and follow up with the PMO with a formal letter.

Points raised by Regional Chief Poitras

- For the first time since Treaties were signed, many Nations in Alberta have enacted the Famine and Pestilence Clause and the Medicine Chest Clause of Treaty to deal with this pandemic. First Nations need to be supported based on identified needs and consultation must occur with them directly. If Canada enacted the *Emergencies Act*, how would you deal with First Nations that have their public health laws and measures in place?
- First Nations need to be consulted directly because they are the rights holders. It is imperative that Canada talks to them. They need to be at the table where decisions are being made about them. They are the rights holders and they have the authority and sovereignty over their communities and their citizens
- The *Emergencies Act* is silent on First Nations jurisdiction. If the Act were invoked how will the First Nations jurisdiction and authority be addressed? There are many questions with respect to the scope of the Act that needs to be clarified.
- Should the provinces not consent to the federal *Emergencies Act* and decide to enact their own *Emergency Management Act* (AB), in which First Nations are deemed municipalities, how will the federal government respond to First Nations in this instance?
- What would the impacts be around Treaty and inherent rights? Especially the rights to hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering resources from the land.
- What would be the intended scope, and how long would Canada intend to keep the country in a state of emergency?
- The AFN Executive passed a motion calling on Canada to fund First Nations for their COVID-19 response, at a minimum of \$9 billion dollars. How would funding needs and gaps be met during a federal state of emergency?
- First Nations are using their own source revenue to respond to COVID-19, will they be fully refunded for all the resources they expend during this time?
- An issue that our nations are dealing with is off reserve members, many do not have a lot of resources for food and accommodation. The lack of technology and Internet

services is a deterrent to off-reserve members to access financial assistance that has been announced.

- Overcrowded and lack of housing on reserve is huge issue that must be addressed during this pandemic

Summary of Discussion:

Prime Minister's and Ministers' Opening Comments:

- Minister Miller said the *Emergencies Act* is an “instrument of last resort” to deal with public welfare emergencies, international emergencies, or wartime emergencies when all other federal/provincial legislative options and measures for Canada to deal with such emergencies (including the Quarantine Act and the Indian Act) have been exhausted.
 - Miller noted that the *Indian Act* can limit effectiveness of emergency response because of many of the colonial, patriarchal provisions it includes.
- Minister Miller said the *Emergencies Act* is meant to fill the gap in coordinating response to local and provincial states of emergencies, including those made by FNs, and ensure the federal government can assist as quickly as possible.
- Self-determination exists in good times and bad times. Miller recognized that First Nations' ability to practice self-determination must be equal no matter the circumstances. To this end, he said section 35 would remain unchanged, as would established Charter rights.

Executive Roundtable:

- BC (RC Teegee): COVID-19 is exacerbating chronic issues First Nations already experience - food insecurity, lack of ready access to telecommunications and internet services make it difficult for communities and people to prepare, access financial support, and stay informed and connected.
 - Information needed on how Canada plans to distribute new testing kits that provide rapid, on-site results. It's been noted that these kits would be useful for northern and remote communities.
 - COVID-19 is exacerbating chronic issues First Nations already experience -- food insecurity, lack of ready access to telecommunications and internet.
- NWT (RC Yakeleya): Supported the enactment of the *Emergencies Act* if it is properly applied. It has the potential to provide several remote communities with the law enforcement, food security and medical personnel assistance needed.
- Yukon (RC Adamek): Yukon FNs want to engage via a protocol agreement, as part of the duty to consult in their agreements. The National AFN COVID-19 task-force will need financial support to operate.
- Saskatchewan (RC Cameron): the letter Ministers sent does not mention inherent or Treaty rights, and FSIN cannot support a declaration because of the potential impact it will have on our rights.

- Manitoba (RC Hart): pressed on inadequate financial support. The \$215 Million to deal with COVID-19 is not enough. AFN has an ask of \$9 Billion that Canada has not yet responded to. Also pressed for presentation of concrete pandemic plans from ISC.
- Ontario (RC Archibald): application of the *Emergencies Act* is unnecessary and Canada must find alternative means to support First Nations. AFN passed a motion calling for \$9 billion dollars for First Nations to respond to this pandemic and prepare their Nations.
- Quebec (RC Picard): province and federal government need to fully involve Chiefs in decisions impacting them. QC is not including them in their plans, and FNs need support in establishing public health regulations and restrictions in their communities.
- New Brunswick/PEI (RC Augustin): First Nations businesses are looking for strong federal support. Recommends that planning begins for a post-COVID world, where people all work together and are viewed as equal.
- Nova Scotia/NFLD (Chief Denny & Chief Paul): We have established a working group that will begin developing a plan and options for economic recovery. What tools do the federal governments have to help guide us? Will there be a First Nation specific economic stimulus package?
 - FNs need access to data and projections to ensure we have an equal opportunity to make statistically informed decisions.

Closing Comments from Ministers and Prime Minister Trudeau:

- PM committed to staying connected with the Executive -- he has been speaking regularly with NC.
- PM agrees data and modeling should be shared with First Nations
- With regard to support for FN businesses, PM said their goal is to have businesses that existed before COVID will continue to operate like they existed after COVID. They intend to ensure Indigenous businesses get the support that is needed.
- They will not be moving forward with the *Emergencies Act* at this time and, ideally, never.
 - The questions around jurisdiction are very unclear but it is a tool that we have to deploy if such a time comes.
 - The current level of collaboration and coordinated actions across the country does not warrant enacting the legislation.
- Canada wants to use the momentum of the current crisis to fill gaps and address longstanding challenges in First Nations.
- PM has instructed Minister Miller to work on additional funding measures for FNs. They have heard “loud and clear” that the immediate funding provided is not enough. They are working on flowing money to FNs experiencing jurisdictional challenges.

Tuesday, April 14 | Chiefs Committee on Health Weekly Call with Val Gideon and Dr. Tom Wong

In this week’s Chiefs Committee on Health (CCoH) call, ISC Assistant Deputy Minister Val Gideon and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tom Wong provided updates on PPE, testing kits and the Indigenous Community Support Fund request-for-proposals. You can find their presentation

attached. A bi-weekly newsletter will be sent in the coming days sharing key updates from the federal response. **Key highlights:**

Regional Q&A (Alberta)

- Concerns still exist with funding formulas that use population based on the census, which contains outdated numbers (2016). An example was provided that Louis Bull has 700 home care clients, but with no gowns or masks available, service will need to be discontinued.
- Alberta has ordered 250 Spartan testing kits, but there are concerns as to who will provide for Alberta FNs if there are only 250 units.
 - *ISC clarified that there are 250 machines, but 100,000+ testing kits. Alberta is in talks with the National Microbiology lab on how they can jointly have, and place these kits in nursing stations.*

Capacity and Equipment supplies

- Dr. Wong reassured that if there were any gap in testing that ISC would step up and ensure the gap would be filled, no First Nation would be left behind.
- ISC has an emergency stockpile of PPE that is being mobilized every day. WebEx and video conferencing will be used to train medical staff once the equipment has arrived.

AFN Youth Council

- The language in COVID-19 communications so far is not catered to Indigenous communities. (e.g. “stand 3-4 moose apart” would be appreciated). It is important to put this in action with the messaging about no one being left behind.
- Mental health and addictions continue to be a significant concern for youth in the community.
- Are there any statistics available regarding youth? What about homeless youth in particular?
 - *Dr. Wong - In Canada similar to other jurisdictions the virus tends to not affect young people as much as older populations (20+). About 4-5% of reported cases are under 18. There are no First Nation youth cases yet Identified*
 - *Val Gideon - Will look into homeless youth and provide an answer back to CCoH, will also look at additional documentation around mental health and ongoing support.*

Other Updates

- Val Gideon asked the CCoH to debrief her and Dr. Wong following the conversation later today on the *Emergencies Act*.
- Information on what comes out of the RFP that closed yesterday will be covered during the next meeting.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada's April 14 COVID-19 Update***
- ***Alberta's April 14 COVID-19 Update***
- ***RECAP: Alberta weekend announcements - COVID-19 donation matching, testing eligibility expansion, and PPE supplies shipments to other provinces (April 10-13)***
- ***RECAP: Provincial COVID-19 Modeling Projections (April 7)***
- ***RECAP: Canada Releases COVID-19 Projections (April 9)***
- ***RECAP: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - March 2020***

Canada's April 14 Update

Relevant Links: [PM's daily briefing \(9:15 am MT\)](#)

[Ministers' and Health Officials briefing \(10:00 am MT\)](#)

Following the long weekend, Prime Minister Trudeau had several key updates for the country on the status of PPE, new funding for the North, and measures passed in Parliament. **Key**

Highlights:

- Nationally there are now 26,146 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 823 fatalities. Lab testing has been done on over 430,000 Canadians to date.
- As of midnight tonight, travellers will have to quarantine in a hotel if no other option is available to them.
- 4 plane loads of N95 masks and other protective equipment arrived in the country. It will be sent to the provinces shortly. This new shipment is in addition to the 820,000 articles of PPE that have already gone out to the provinces.
 - In Testing COVID-19, Canada has been playing a role in development of rapid testing kits internationally.
- Canada announced a new investment of \$130 million for northern communities.
 - \$76.2 million will be allocated to the Territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut).
 - Nutrition North will receive funding for food and essential goods.
 - Canada is working with air carriers to provide funding for air transport.
 - CanNorth will receive funding to help small business owners whose expenses are not covered by the other economic stimulus measures.
- Parliament was recalled on Saturday, April 11, and passed the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) legislation, which will be rolling it out soon.

Additional Information

- Now is not the time to visit our elderly relatives, for their safety. New guidelines have been put into place for long-term care homes.

- Canada is working with provinces/territories on a system to ensure proper staffing and support for workers in long-term care and other essential service roles.
- For those that don't qualify for CERB or CEWS, there will be additional announcements this week about how Canada can support them and other sectors.
- Additionally, new supports will be announced for commercial rent for businesses that are heavily impacted.

Alberta's April 14 COVID-19 Update

Relevant Links: [CMO Provincial Daily Update \(3:30 pm\)](#)

[News Release: Increased supports for Alberta caregivers](#)

[News Release: PPE for non-AHS facilities](#)

[News Release: Reducing spring wildfires and protecting municipalities.](#)

Health Minister Tyler Shandro, Shane Schriber, lead of AEMA, and Dr.Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical officer presented today's provincial COVID-19 update **Key Highlights:**

- Minister Shandro announced a \$3 million grant to caregivers in Alberta.
 - This grant will allow them to expand their services, provide expanded hours for the caregivers advisory phoneline, referral systems and update and expand the support programs.
- Dr.Hinshaw updated the Alberta case numbers - 138 new cases were identified in the last 24 hours, with the vast majority of cases found in the Calgary zone. Testing has been increased in this zone in recent days to track and reduce the spread of illness. More information on what the data shows will be available later this week.
 - There are also 914 recoveries to report and two additional deaths, both from continuing care facilities.
- **As of Friday**, all workers in continuing care are long-term care facilities may only work at one site. Testing will occur for any staff or resident showing symptoms. Many residents are actively screened daily and any staff needing to be within 2m of other individuals are required to wear masks for the duration of their shift.
- **Effective tomorrow**, a fire ban and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) ban comes into effect in the Forest Protection Area, and provincial parks. **Indigenous people may use OHVs on public land for traditional purposes.** Use of OHVs on private land for industrial use, (e.g. forestry, agriculture and energy) and by emergency responders is also permitted.

Additional Information

- While Dr.Hinshaw was hopeful that structured timelines can be given soon in terms of reaction to the response (reopening of businesses, relaxing of other public health measures) She reminded that COVID is not going anywhere anytime soon and many actions such as large gatherings may still be a ways out.

- Alberta is confident they have enough PPE, including N95 masks, for response to the pandemic. It was relayed there are processes in place for individuals and organizations requiring PPE to relay those requirements and receive shipment.
- Alberta is spending an additional \$5 million to hire and train up to 200 firefighters to assist with provincial wildfire suppression.

RECAP: April 10-13 Alberta Government COVID-19 Announcements

Relevant Links: [New Release: Supplies headed to provinces in need](#)
[News Release: Boosting charitable donations during COVID-19](#)
[News Release: Providing access to food during COVID-19](#)

Key Highlights:

- On Saturday, Premier Kenney [announced](#) **Alberta will send excess “N95 masks, procedural masks, gloves, goggles, and ventilators” to BC, Ontario, and Quebec.**
 - Shipments will begin this week and the province is willing to send more supplies “as the need arises.”
 - The Alberta government is confident they have enough medical equipment and PPE supplies to meet their province’s needs, and provide this support to other jurisdictions.
- Over the weekend, Alberta [expanded](#) COVID-19 testing to **anyone with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, or a sore throat.** Anyone who is sick **must** stay home and take the [COVID-19 self-assessment form](#) to arrange testing. (Calling 811 no longer required to schedule testing).
 - Late last week, the Province expanded testing to all Calgary zone residents that exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms as well as all essential service workers province-wide exhibiting symptoms. Anyone ill who lives with a person 65+ is also included in expanded eligibility.
 - Alberta also announced expanded testing eligibility to first responders, correctional staff, police and bylaw officers, and healthcare workers.
- Alberta [announced](#) it will **match donations for COVID-19 fundraising campaigns, up to a total of \$2 million.**
 - Donations made between April 15 and May 31 to the following organizations and will be matched by the Province:
 - [United Way of the Capital Region – Local Love in a Global Crisis Campaign](#)
 - [United Way Calgary and Area – COVID-19 Community Response Fund](#)
 - [Calgary Foundation – COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Program](#)
 - [Edmonton Community Foundation – COVID Rapid Response Fund](#)
 - [Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta – COVID Response for Southeast Alberta](#)
 - [Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta – COVID Response and Recovery Grants Program](#)

- [Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta – Better Together COVID-19 Response Fund/Community Kitchen and Food Bank Fund](#)
- The province will [provide](#) \$5 million in funding to support food banks and other programs providing vulnerable populations with food support.

RECAP: Provincial COVID-19 Modeling Projections

Relevant Links: [Premier's April 7 address \(6pm MT\)](#)

The following information covers the information Premier Kenney presented on April 7th and re-iterated on April 8th regarding the provincial modelling data.

- The Premier presented a “probable” model of how COVID-19 will play out in Alberta, and one with the “most serious” of outcomes.
 - Probable scenario would see the peak of the curve hitting the province in Mid-May, with 800,000 Albertans catching COVID-19 and between 400 to 3,100 deaths.
 - The most serious of outcomes would see infection peak at the beginning of May, with over 1 million Albertans infected, and upwards of 5,000 to 6,000 deaths.
 - If the Province were to do nothing, we could see 1.6 million infections, and as many as 32,000 deaths (640 per day).
- Public health orders are expected to remain in effect until the end of May.
- Kenney outlined a plan for how Alberta will tackle the second wave of infection that is anticipated to come after May, once public health orders are lifted.
 - Aggressive system of mass testing (up to 20,000 tests/day) to identify positive cases and those with immunity.
 - Precise tracking and contact tracing of close contacts to any individual that is infected.
 - Alberta plans to deploy screening and quarantine measures on all international arrivals.
 - Strict enforcement of quarantine orders, aided through the use of technologies like smart phone apps.
 - Encouragement and facilitation of the use of masks in crowded public spaces.
- The goal in fighting the pandemic is to pull down the peak of the curve while pulling up the capacity of the healthcare system. The Premier is confident that the health system can cope and there are enough supplies.
 - AHS is doing everything in its power to assist drug treatment and vaccine development efforts.
 - Currently AHS has been given an extra \$500 million and the Premier says no expense will be spared.
 - Alberta has committed \$12 billion to their COVID-19 action plan through over 24 initiatives.

Canada Releases COVID-19 Projections

Relevant Link: [Federal COVID-19 Projections \(April 9, 2020\)](#)

Canada's Deputy Minister of Health Stephen Lucas and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam presented the modelling data projecting how COVID-19 will spread nationally.

- Canada anticipates 22,580-31,850 cases, and 500-700 deaths by April 16.
- The Canadian death toll could be between 11,000 and 300,000 over the course of the pandemic, depending on how strictly Canadians adhere to the public health measures. We cannot prevent every death, but we must prevent every death that we can.
- In Canada, the number of cases is doubling every 3-5 days, well below many other countries - due in part to the fact Canada saw its first cases much later, allowing us to learn from other countries at the same time as developing our own response.
- Dr. Tam emphasized the importance of keeping up the current public health measures (staying home, physical distancing, etc.) once the initial peak declines, so that there aren't subsequent waves of infection.
- The goal is to lift the capacity of the healthcare system while pushing the infection curve below the peak capacity of the system.
- If an infected person infects fewer than one person on average, the epidemic dies out. Before stronger measures were put in place, each infected individual in Canada was infecting about 2 other individuals. That number is now dropping.