

AFN Alberta COVID-19

Daily Bulletin



Monday, May 4

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

AB Testing Results	May 1	May 4	Change*
Negative (#s of Tests)	153,766	164,722	+10,956
Positive	5,573	5,836	+263
Fatalities	92	104	+12
Recoveries	2,359	2,942	+583
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 3,905 Edmonton zone - 503 Central zone - 89 South zone - 1,085 North zone - 221 Unidentified zone - 33		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations* (as of May 3)</u> Calgary Zone - 17 North Zone - 2 South Zone - 1 Unidentified zone - 5	

*AFN Alberta captures the cumulative change in cases over the weekend, so numbers will look higher than the Provincial update which captures the net change in a 24 hour period.

New Restrictions and Measures

- **Testing eligibility is being further expanded today;** full details available in the provincial update section of the daily bulletin.
- **AHS will resume some scheduled non-urgent surgeries as soon as today.** Dental and other services will also be allowed to resume.
- **As of May 14, the following services are expected to re-open.**
 - Retail stores, hair styling and barbering, daycares, restaurants, cafes, lounges and bars (with 50% occupancy limits), museums and art galleries, further outdoor recreation and additional allied health services.
- To support mental wellness, Dr. Hinshaw issued a new order last week for long-term care residents allowing outdoor visits for those who aren't in isolation with a designated essential visitor and one other person.
 - All visitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering.
 - Visitors will still be restricted from entering facilities.
- Alberta also clarified that up to two visitors at a time will be allowed to visit a patient that is dying. Visitors will be required to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

- Due to flooding, people in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo are currently exempt from physical distancing and gathering restrictions. The province is shipping masks to Ft. McMurray to prevent the spread of the virus.

First Nation-specific Updates

- **Tomorrow, Tuesday, May 5 at 11 am** ISC is organizing a teleconference call between all Alberta Chiefs and Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw.
- ISC headquarters developed and sent documents about how they will respond to different COVID-19 scenarios on First Nations, mental wellness supports currently available, and a Q&A regarding changes made to the NIHB Program.
- **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 launched the AB TraceTogether mobile app to help AHS trace possible cases of COVID-19 faster. The app is voluntary and can be downloaded on the App Store and Google Play store.
- A new outbreak is being reported at the Purolator centre in Calgary
- Over \$690 million in funding has been directly allocated by Indigenous Services Canada towards the health response to COVID-19. This includes procurement of supplies and nursing services, as well as the preparedness measures being taken by First Nations communities.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

May 4 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 (May 4) is attached. It includes the following information:

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit
- Three Eagle Wellness Society (Family Violence Prevention)
- Early COVID-19 recognition for Elders
- Windspeaker Radio Spots

[ISC Q&A on COVID-19 and Jordan's Principle support for First Nations children](#)

ISC released a Q&A outlining how the Jordan's Principle program can support children during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to view the document.

[ISC COVID-19 Plan and Scenarios](#)

Recognizing that First Nation leaders are seeking a consolidated and updated ISC pandemic plan that is specific to First Nations, ISC developed a document outlining their plan and response to different COVID-19 outbreak scenarios on a First Nation. **You can find this attached to the bulletin.** They will also be working on a document that includes urban-based scenarios.

[ISC Listing of Existing Mental Health Resources](#)

ISC headquarters is sharing a listing of existing mental health resources available to First Nations. **You can find this list attached to this bulletin.**

[ISC Q&A on Non-Insured Health Benefit \(NIHB\) Changes](#)

ISC developed a Q&A made to adapt the NIHB Program in the context of COVID-19. **You can find this attached to the bulletin.** This information has been shared online and through various communications. They developed this document for ease of reference.

[ISC PPE Webpage](#)

ISC has updated a webpage outlining the process for requesting PPE from the national stockpile, including for first responders, and providing a template form to submit requests for PPE and other assistance. [Click here](#) to view the webpage.

[Numbers of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 on First Nations](#)

ISC is now 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.

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 4***
- ***Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 4***
- ****RECAP* Alberta's Staged Relaunch Plan (April 30)***

Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 4

Relevant Links: [Prime Minister briefing \(9:15 am MT\)](#)

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

In his return to morning briefings outside his home in Ottawa, Prime Minister Trudeau discussed the federal government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, following this, Deputy Prime Minister Freeland, CMO Dr. Tam and cabinet ministers provided their updates **Key Highlights:**

- There are now 59,844 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada, with 3,766 deaths. To date labs have tested over 919,000 with just over 6.5% of tests returning positive.
- Earlier this morning, the Prime Minister joined global leaders to discuss the accelerated development of COVID-19 treatments, vaccines, and testing.
 - Canada has contributed over \$850 million towards global efforts in both domestic and international research.
- Update on response programs: Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has gone out to over 7.3 million Canadians. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) has seen 96,000 business applications on the behalf of 1.7 million workers. Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) has seen 518,000 businesses approved for their emergency accounts.

Additional Information

- Dr. Tam stated that at the slightest sign of symptoms Canadians must stay home. "Working while sick will no longer be a thing".
- This week is mental health week, DPM Freeland reminded us to take care of ourselves and each other. It's okay to ask for help, and experience emotions, we are all in this together.
- The Prime Minister requested all Canadians to join in at 2pm ET today to observe 2 minutes of silence in honour of Veterans.

Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 4

Relevant Link: [CMO Update \(3:30 pm\)](#)

Health Minister Tyler Shandro provided some opening remarks before Dr. Hinshaw provided the provincial daily update on COVID-19 statistics and measures in Alberta. **Key Highlights:**

- 70 new cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours, total cases now at 5,836 of these, 2,942 have recovered. The province also reports 9 additional deaths. Total lives lost are now at 104. This is a somber milestone. 4 of these were in the last 24 hours, others were in previous days or weeks but not confirmed at that time as related to COVID-19.
 - In regards to outbreaks - there are now 621 cases in continuing care facilities across the province. Cargill sees 936 cases, of which 810 have recovered. There are 469 cases at the JBS plant in Brooks with 998 cases total in the city of Brooks.

- **Testing eligibility is being further expanded today**; anyone with fever, chills, new or worsening cough, new or worsening shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat or painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, muscle or joint aches, generally feeling unwell or general fatigue, gastrointestinal issues including loss of appetite, or conjunctivitis (pink eye).
 - The province is also expanding availability to all close contacts of confirmed cases regardless of if they are experiencing symptoms or not.
 - A new protocol has been put into place to test all those admitted to any continuing care facility in the province, as well as testing when residents are admitted to hospital and when they return from hospital.

Additional Information

- A new outbreak at Purolator in Calgary has occurred with 30 confirmed cases among employees.
- More than six weeks ago facing a growing number of cases of COVID, Alberta cancelled all non-essential surgery. Minister Shandro recognized the concern and stress that these delays caused. Now that the curve is flattening, **today**, restrictions will begin to lift on non-urgent scheduled surgeries.
 - Patients that would be at greater risk with further delays will be prioritized initially, safety of patients and healthcare providers will continue to be monitored as the relaunch continues.
- Independent allied health professionals are able to resume their practices as of today as well. The decision to open will lie with the individual operator of the facility.

****RECAP* Alberta's Staged Relaunch Plan (April 30)***

Relevant Links: [Full Provincial Update \(3:30 pm MT\)](#)

[News Release: Alberta's safely staged COVID-19 relaunch](#)

In a plan developed by public health officials, Premier Kenney outlined the initial steps to reopening the Alberta Economy, through an Alberta relaunch strategy. **The full presentation is available in the provincial update linked above.**

- The reopening of Alberta's economy and society will happen in a staged approach:
 - Stage 0: Current State - Strongest public health controls in place
 - Stage 1: Some reopening of businesses and services while ensuring protection from resurgence of COVID-19. **Alberta is expected to transition to this stage on May 14.**
 - Stage 2: Further reopening of businesses and services with continued protections in place to protect the public. Relaxing some restrictions on public gatherings
 - Stage 3: Opening all workplaces and relaxing restrictions on public gatherings.

- The government will rely on certain trends with the COVID-19 situation to decide when and if Alberta will move up or down these stages. They will consider hospitalization, percentage of ICU beds occupied because of COVID 19, and the rate of new cases .
- **Stage 1** -- This will allow the following services to reopen: retail, hair styling and barbering, daycares, restaurants, cafes, lounges and bars (with 50% occupancy limits), museums and art galleries, further outdoor recreation and additional allied health services.

Additional Information

- Public health guidelines are being constantly reviewed, changes and clarifications to the reopening plan *will* occur as the plan further unfolds.
 - Every phase will have an evaluation and monitoring period to determine further relaxations or restrictions.
 - Outbreaks may result in temporary restrictions being placed within a specific local area.
- The Province will be asking those using services and systems that don't allow for physical distancing (e.g. Public Transit) to wear masks. The Government of Alberta has purchased non-surgical masks for this purpose and is working on a distribution plan.
- The Premier concluded with a metaphor on the Buffalo. When stalked by wolves the buffalo herd together to protect their own from the threat. Let the spirit and example of the sturdy prairie buffalo serve as our challenge and inspiration. With care and common sense we will move steadily through the relaunch strategy.