

AFN Alberta COVID-19

Daily Bulletin

Monday, March 30

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

Day-to-Day COVID-19 Test Results

ALBERTA	March 29	March 30	Change
Negative (#s of Tests)	44,999	46,057	(+1,058)
Positive	661	690	(+29)
Fatalities	3	8	(+5)
Recoveries	27	94	(+67)

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta

Calgary zone - 422 (+14) Edmonton zone - 164 (+15) Central zone - 46 (+0) South zone - 12 (+0) North zone - 45 (+0)
Unidentified zone - 1

New Restrictions and Measures

- As of **today**, anyone in mandatory self-isolation or quarantine **must** stay on their property, and cannot go outside for short walks.
 - This includes international travellers, people who test positive for COVID-19, people in close contact with a person who tested positive, or anyone feeling any symptoms.
- Passengers showing COVID-19 symptoms will now be denied boarding on domestic flights and trains.
- **As of Friday**, the maximum size of gatherings in Alberta is now 15. This includes weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies, and social gatherings.
- Provincial parks and public lands are closed to vehicle access. **First Nations will not be impacted.**
- Non-essential businesses were ordered to close. Restaurants can no longer offer dine-in service, but can offer take-out and delivery.
- Non-critical medical centres like dentistry, physiotherapy, optometry will also close.
- No one in Alberta will be evicted for not paying rent in the month of April. Alberta announced additional protections for renters during the pandemic. ([Details in the March 27 bulletin](#)).

- Non-urgent medical imaging and testing is being postponed to prioritize COVID-19 testing.

First Nation-specific Updates

- **Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 31st at 10:30 am** ISC Alberta Region is hosting a **call with Ministers Miller and Bennett for Alberta Chiefs (updated details below)**
- **Wednesday, April 1, at 11 am** AFN Alberta and Treaty 7 Chiefs are calling all Nations to **come together in prayer for COVID-19**.
- Canada is [recommending](#) that First Nations do not hold upcoming elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- First Nations in Alberta will receive over \$26M for COVID-19 from the \$305M national Indigenous fund.
- **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

- Canadians needing financial aid are recommended to sign up for a CRA [My Account](#) so they can complete a Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) application more quickly, once the online portal opens on April 6.
 - **On Thursday**, The Prime Minister confirmed income assistance provided through CERB **will be taxable**, just as EI benefits are taxable.
- Canada launched a [new website](#) tracking national COVID-19 data, statistics, demographics, and trends in real-time.
- Alberta did not host any news conferences on COVID-19 over the weekend. Highlights of their Friday briefing:
 - Alberta announced closure of non-essential businesses and dine-in services for restaurants, protections for renters affected by COVID-19, and new measures to increase healthy system capacity ([Details in the March 27 bulletin](#)).
 - Alberta legislature will resume on Tuesday to approve legislation related to COVID-19.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

****Updated* Call with Alberta Chiefs and Ministers Miller and Bennett | Tuesday, March 31st at 10:30 am***

On Friday's ISC Bulletin, Chiefs were informed that a call between them and Minister Miller is taking place tomorrow. A calendar invitation was sent today confirming the call will begin at 10:30 am. **Minister Bennett will also be joining.**

Chiefs are asked to send their specific questions to Dean Janvier by TODAY, Monday, March 30 to "prepare and make the best use of the time." You can reach Dean at dean.janvier@gmail.com or by text at 780-545 -6655.

****Updated* Hour of Prayer for COVID-19 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st at 11 A.M.***



TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Calling on all Nations to come together and pray on **April 1st at 11AM.**

We are calling on all pipeholders to lift their pipes and for all faiths and denominations to stop and pray at this point in time. Please join us in prayer for our Nations and for all people to be protected from the COVID-19 Virus.

Together we are stronger.

Message brought to you by AFN Alberta and Treaty 7 Chiefs

AFN Alberta and Treaty 7 Chiefs are calling on all Nations to come together for an hour of prayer on **Wednesday, April 1 at 11 am** to bring an end to this virus and request protection for our people. Elders, youth, Chiefs, pipe holders, and community members of all faiths denominations are welcome to offer prayers together at this time.

Additional Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

***New* Daily Bulletin:**

ISC Alberta Region is sending daily updates to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Please find attached today's update, which includes information on:

- *Indigenous Community Support Fund* -- an email was sent this weekend with your community's specific funding allocations and some of the things funding could be used for.
- A link to Alberta's detailed COVID-19 statistics and demographics, including mapping of cases across the province.
- Additional Income Assistance funding
- Mass gatherings

ISC Recommends Postponing First Nation Elections

Relevant link: [*Marc Miller urges First Nations to delay elections during COVID-19 crisis*](#)

Canada is recommending that First Nations do not hold upcoming elections during the current pandemic. In a [*tweet*](#) posted Friday, Minister Miller said they will work with communities that "choose to postpone their election to ensure leadership continuity.

Conference Calls with Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 (Alberta) Chiefs:

ISC Alberta Region is hosting weekly calls with Chiefs to provide updates on COVID-19 response and answer questions. Summaries of the discussion are also being sent to leadership.

- Tuesdays | 4:15 pm | Treaty 6 Chiefs
- Wednesdays | 4:15 pm | Treaty 7 Chiefs
- Thursdays | 4:15 pm | Treaty 8 Chiefs

CALL AND MEETING SUMMARIES

No notable meetings or calls.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- Canada's March 30 COVID-19 Update
- Alberta's March 30 COVID-19 Update

Canada's March 30 Update

Relevant Links:

[*PM's Daily Briefing \(March 30, 9:15 AM MDT\)*](#)

[*Health Officials and Ministers Daily Briefing \(March 30, 10:00 AM MDT\)*](#)

Today, the Prime Minister provided more details on the 75% wage subsidy announced last week for businesses impacted by COVID-19 to keep employees on payroll. The Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland led the government briefing with Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam and cabinet ministers including the defence minister. Key highlights:

- Wage subsidy eligibility and details:
 - Businesses whose revenues dropped by at least 30% will be eligible.
 - Non-profit organizations and charities are eligible.
 - Number of employees will not factor into eligibility -- businesses big or small can qualify.
 - Workers will receive up to 75% of their salary on the first \$58,000 they make -- up to \$847 a week.
- There are 6,320 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada.
- The Canadian military is making preparations to assist with COVID-19 response should their support be requested.
 - Up to 24,000 regular and reserve armed forces members are ready to be deployed if they are needed.
 - Special consideration is being given to mobilize the military to Indigenous, northern, and isolated communities that may need surge capacity support.
- Canada clarified they are not planning on deploying armed forces at this point. The military is making these plans so they are able to deploy quickly should a province or community request their assistance.

Additional Information:

- The PM warned there will be serious consequences if businesses take advantage of the wage subsidy. He encouraged businesses to rehire laid-off workers and to top off the benefit if they can.
- The PM did not specify how much this wage subsidy would cost the government. He implied that the finance and small business and ministers would have more details tomorrow. He iterated that Canada has one of the "best balance sheets in the world" and has money available "for a rainy day."
- Answering a question about specific support to the oil and gas sector as oil prices continue to drop, the PM implied this wage subsidy will be available to support those sectors. He noted that "they need to do more" to support harder hit industries, like oil, tourism, and airline, but no specifics were given.
- While not specifically saying yes or no, the PM implied the carbon tax will still increase on April 1. He noted that the tax is "designed to put more money back into the pockets of Canadians."
- 3% of all COVID-19 tests conducted nationally are testing positive. 93% are returning negative.
- Defence Minister Sajjan mentioned no formal requests for assistance have been received. He was then asked about a letter sent by Abitibi Long Point FN in Quebec requesting military assistance, particularly to help shut down their

borders, and whether the armed forces would be responding to that request. He did not provide a direct response.

- Some Indigenous leaders, particularly southern Chiefs of Manitoba have been requesting Cuban doctors to come in and assist with the COVID-19 Crisis.
 - Deputy Prime Minister Christa Freeland stated “Our government has every confidence in the excellence of the Canadian medical system and Canadian healthcare workers. We have been hearing from Minister Miller and are aware of the particular vulnerability of the Indigenous people,” also stating, “to be very clear, Canada’s healthcare system has the capacity to deal with this challenge.”
 - Dr. Tam added that there are mechanisms in place for mutual aid and assistance, and if enacted would go through the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Alberta’s March 30 COVID-19 Update

Relevant Links:

[Chief Medical Officer Update \(4:30 pm\)](#)

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta’s chief medical officer of health, updated the COVID-19 case numbers, and provided a new order for people required to self-isolate. Key Highlights:

- The number of fatalities increased by 5 for a total of 8 in Alberta. 29 new confirmed cases in Alberta in the last day for a total of 691. 94 total recoveries.
- New recommendation for self-isolation across the country:
 - Under no circumstances should anyone in mandatory self-isolation or quarantine leave their property, including going outside for short walks.
 - This includes international travellers, people who test positive for COVID-19, people in close contact with a person who tested positive, or anyone feeling any symptoms.
 - [Click here](#) for the complete guidelines.
- Dr. Hinshaw is recommending people to celebrate upcoming holidays like Easter **virtually**. Families should **not** be gathering.
- People are also advised against leaving urban areas to self-isolate in summer homes or other rural areas because services are limited there, and it will strain already limited health capacity in these regions.

Additional Information:

- Demographics for 5 deaths yesterday: 2 females in Calgary in their 50s and 70s, 2 males in Edmonton in their 80s, 1 male in the north zone in his 30s.
- 65 of total cases may be the result of community transmission without a clear link to a previously known case.
- There’s a decrease in tests due to challenges with testing supplies.

- Previously, some provinces allowed people under mandatory self-isolation and quarantine to leave their property for short walks, including Alberta. Today's recommendation will now apply across the country -- people under self-isolation **must** stay on their own property.
 - If people want to go outside they can only do so on their balcony, backyard, deck, etc, but cannot leave their home.
 - People in apartment buildings cannot use the stairs or elevator.
- Dr. Hinshaw stressed the importance of reaching out and supporting people under mandatory self-isolation and quarantine for groceries and other essentials so public health orders can be followed.