

AFN Alberta COVID-19

Daily Bulletin



Monday, May 11

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 8	May 11	Change*
Negative (#s of Tests)	177,559	188,157	+10,598
Positive	6,098	6,300	+202
Fatalities	115	117	+2
Recoveries	4,020	4,659	+639
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 4,278 Edmonton zone - 511 Central zone - 99 South zone - 1,159 North zone - 228 Unidentified zone - 25		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations</u> Calgary Zone - 19 North Zone - 4 South Zone - 6 No cases in Edmonton or Central Zones	

***As a reminder, on Mondays - AFN Alberta updates the statistics from over the weekend, for updated numbers over the last 24 hours, please refer to our provincial update towards the end of the bulletin.**

New Measures

- Starting today, Alberta will make testing for asymptomatic people working outside their homes in the Calgary zone available for one week, up to 1,000 people a day.
 - Asymptomatic testing **must** be arranged through the [AHS website](#).
- Today, Alberta launched a new [website](#) to help businesses learn about the public health measures they need to have in place before reopening. The website provides sector-specific guidance to businesses opening during the different phases of the province's relaunch plan. Visit alberta.ca/biz-connect for more details.
- Alberta is now allowing "responsible" travel to summer homes and cabins in the province, but advises against travel outside the province. Restrictions on gatherings of 15 or more are still in effect.
- Water testing at Alberta beaches will be delayed this year because the province is prioritizing COVID-19 testing. Albertans are advised to use open bodies of water at their own risk.
- As of May 14, these 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.

First Nation-specific Updates

- ISC-AB will be hosting the following Chiefs call for the remainder of the month:
 - 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 –Treaty 6 Chiefs
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 –Treaty 8 Chiefs
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 –Treaty 7 Chiefs
 - 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 –Treaty 6, 7 and 8 All Chiefs Call
- 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.
- **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

- Last Friday, the Prime Minister announced that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will extend beyond June. The subsidy was set to expire on June 6.
- Prime Minister Trudeau announced cost-sharing agreements with all provinces and territories to top up the wages of essential workers. Final details of these agreements are still being determined.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

COVID-19 ISC-AB and Treaty-Area Chiefs Call Schedule for May

ISC-AB will be hosting the following Chiefs call for the remainder of the month:

- 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 –Treaty 6 Chiefs
- 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14 –Treaty 8 Chiefs
- 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 –Treaty 7 Chiefs
- 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 –Treaty 6, 7 and 8 All-Chiefs Call

Chiefs are encouraged to continue sending requests to Dean Janvier and ISC-AB will structure these calls to make sure they are providing the information that is most important to leadership.

NEW *ISC Bulletin Timing Update*

This week, ISC-Alberta will be updating the frequency in which it provides its bulletins. The health bulletin from Dr. Yacoub will continue to be available on Thursday, but the ISC “daily” bulletin will now update to a Tuesday and Thursday cycle.

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

May 8 | Meeting with Public Safety Minister Bill Blair

Regional Chief Poitras and AFN Alberta board member Chief Stan Grier met with Minister Bill Blair today to discuss some of the ongoing issues with First Nations policing in light of COVID-19. Minister Blair received a mandate from the Prime Minister to legislate First Nations policing as an essential service. The Minister expressed his strong willingness to meet this mandate, and to collaborate with leadership in the region to ensure First Nations receive and can provide quality policing services in their communities.

Key Highlights:

- Regional Chief Poitras and Chief Grier shared an overview of the law enforcement challenges First Nations are experiencing during the current pandemic, the need for First Nations policing to be considered an essential service, and funding considerations for First Nations to do their own law enforcement contracting on reserve.
- It was noted that many First Nations were dissatisfied with the cooperation from policing services, notably the RCMP, in enforcing curfews, border closures, and other public health measures. Chief Grier recognized the limitations police face in enforcing measures that are **not** laws of general application (i.e. provincial/federal laws) or bylaws passed pursuant to the *Indian Act*, especially in communities without a formal agreement with the RCMP. That said, there could have been a better process for police and First Nations to work past some of these limitations to ensure the safety and protection of communities were properly looked after.
 - Many of these issues have been resolved regionally. However, **the Minister was encouraged to reaffirm to Alberta RCMP in a letter that they should be working with First Nations to find common ground on enforcing public health measures.**
- **Minister Blair committed to speaking with Minister Miller about ways Public Safety funding could be unlocked to support the community's security budgets during COVID-19.**
 - Citing that ISC has stretched existing funds to provide resources to First Nations for COVID-19, beyond the Indigenous Community Support Fund, Regional Chief Poitras asked if there's any flexibility with existing funding envelopes that could support First Nations with security expenses.
- AFN Alberta understands there's a current moratorium in the provinces on establishing independent First Nations policing services on reserve that will be lifted in June 2020. **The Minister committed to being involved in dialogue with First Nations and the Province around the lifting of this moratorium, and advancing independent and/or RCMP law enforcement on reserve.**

- The Minister was reminded that deeming First Nations policing as essential services will allow Nations to receive equitable, sustainable funding for their policing, just like other law enforcement agencies across the country, without having to go back and negotiate for additional multi-year funding.
- Speaking more broadly about the First Nations Policing program, Minister Blair recognized that the program has been around for 35 years and needs updating. He's told the Prime Minister that Canada has a responsibility to improve First Nations policing by making it an essential service, and providing adequate funding for Nations to build and sustain the proper infrastructure, including governance models. This will require a substantial investment, which he has flagged to the Prime Minister. Both are in agreement this is the right thing to do. However, with the emergency expenditures Canada has had to make for COVID-19, Minister Blair anticipates the funding piece will be more challenging to secure than anticipated.
- Regional Chief Poitras also highlighted that some First Nations in more isolated parts of the province do not receive timely response from the RCMP. For example, Frog Lake First Nation had issues with keeping drug dealers and gang members out of their community, as these individuals take advantage of the fact that it takes police up to 2 hours to get there.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 11***
- ***Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 11***

Canada's COVID-19 Update - May 11

Relevant Links: [Prime Minister's daily briefing](#)

[Ministers' and Health Officials' COVID-19 Update](#)

[Federal Government Unveils Support for Large Businesses](#)

Speaking from outside his home in Ottawa, Prime Minister Trudeau updated the federal government's response to the Pandemic, following, Deputy Minister Freeland, Dr. Tam and colleagues gave their daily update on COVID-19 statistics.

Key Highlights:

- There are now 69,156 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 4,906 deaths. 32,400 or 47% have now recovered. Over 1,118,000 people have been tested to date with about 6% returning positive, and over the past week Canada tested an average of 26,000 people daily.
- The next phase of support for businesses was announced by Prime Minister Trudeau today - widening the business credit availability program to include Medium sized businesses that need more liquidity.

- PM reiterated that these are bridge loans - not bailouts, and would not be used as a gift to corporations, but rather to avoid bankruptcies.
- Many restrictions and commitments will be contingent on receiving these benefits. The full listing can be found in the announcement but some of the ones explicitly referenced by the Prime Minister are, maintaining jobs and investments, respecting collective agreements and pension obligations, environmental and climate commitments.
- Strict limits on Dividends, Share buybacks, and executive compensation. Companies will also have to share their complete financial structure to apply.

Additional Information

- This is National Nurses week, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke to their passion, resilience and dedication and their going above and beyond every day. Deputy Minister Freeland echoed the sentiment.

Alberta's COVID-19 Update - May 11

Relevant Link: [Alberta Update on COVID-19 - May 11 at 3:30 p.m.](#)

[Alberta BizConnect: Business Guidance and Support to Reopen Safely](#)

The Minister of Economic Development, Tanya Fir, reviewed the province's relaunch strategy, as Alberta prepares for phase 1 of its reopening on Thursday, May 14. Dr. Deena Hinshaw then provided the daily COVID-19 update.

Key Highlights:

- Alberta identified 47 new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours for a total of 6,300. Of the confirmed cases, 4,659 have now recovered. The province also identified 2 additional deaths, for a total of 117.
- Alberta launched a new [website](#) to provide businesses and nonprofits guidance on how to reopen and resume operations safely. The website provides sector specific information and a platform to ask questions.
 - The website currently provides guidance for businesses reopening in phase 1 of the relaunch strategy.
- Starting today, Alberta will make testing for asymptomatic people working outside their homes in the Calgary zone available for one week. Dr. Hinshaw says they are doing this to get a broader snapshot of infection in Calgary, which has been the province's pandemic hotspot.
 - Asymptomatic testing in Calgary can be arranged on the AHS website on a first come first serve basis for up to 1,000 people a day.

Additional Information

- There are 102 active cases in outbreaks in continuing care facilities. 542 residents in long-term care facilities have recovered.

- At the Cargill facility, there are 36 active cases in workers and 911 workers have recovered. 1 death reported over the weekend was an employee from Cargill.
- There are 58 active cases from the JBS Plant in Brooks, and 538 workers there have recovered. There are also 16 active cases from the outbreak at Harmony Beef and 22 workers have recovered.
- Another case has been confirmed at the Calgary Remand Centre. This is unrelated to the confirmed case reported on Friday, meaning there's no evidence of community transmission in the detention centre.
- There's three confirmed cases in two unrelated Calgary daycares. The day cares are now closed as a precautionary measure, and there's no evidence that transmission happened at the daycares.
- 6 cases identified at a Canada Post facility in Calgary. Exposure seems to have happened outside the workplace.
- The final decision on stage 1 of the relaunch has not yet been made, but Dr. Hinshaw is confident the province can shift to this stage on schedule.
 - Much of the province has succeeded in flattening the curve. Hospitalization and ICU admissions are down, recoveries are on the rise, and the number of confirmed cases is less each day.
 - The province's testing and contact tracing capacity is increasing, which will allow the province to test and track new cases more quickly, and do extra sampling in situations where they need more information about the spread of the virus.