

# AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletin



## Wednesday, December 2

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 Thursday December 10.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	November 25	December 2	Change
Tests Completed	2,157,044	2,289,456	+132,412*
Total Positive	50,801	61,169	+10,368
Active	13,719	17,144	+3,425
Fatalities	500	561	+61
Recoveries	36,582	43,464	+6,882
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 24,983    Edmonton zone - 24,895 Central zone - 3,028 South zone - 3,987    North zone - 4,045 Unidentified zone - 231		<u>COVID-19 in Indigenous Peoples (both on and off reserve)</u> <i>(As of December 2)</i> Total - 3,094    On-Reserve only - 1,253    Active - 923 Recovered - 2,147    Deaths - 24 <u>FN Cases by Zone (both on and off reserve)</u> North - 792    Central - 508    South - 166 Calgary - 695    Edmonton - 925	

### New Measures

- Last week, Alberta's provincial government declared a state of public health emergency and put in new measures to protect the health system and reduce the spread of COVID-19 cases. *Full details of new restrictions listed in section below the highlights, press conference available at the following link:*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZWGxfT8TM8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZWGxfT8TM8&feature=emb_logo)
- AHS has introduced an [online contact tracing tool](#) that will notify close contacts of positive cases by automated text message.

### First Nation-specific Updates

- AFN Alberta has created some COVID-19 safety infographics, you can find the updated versions of them attached to today's bulletin.
- COVID-19 in Indigenous communities has surpassed 1,000 active cases, with the majority occurring in Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.
  - Alberta has seen the most reported COVID-19 cases in First Nations

- The 2020 Assembly of First Nations 41st Annual General Assembly Registration is now open. *Full details below.*
- Alberta has reported more than 1,000 cases a day for nearly two weeks

#### **National and Regional Updates**

- The majority of the province of Alberta is now under Enhanced COVID-19 status. [Click here](#) to view the interactive map updated by Alberta Health.
- On November 20th ISC Minister Miller announced additional COVID-19 funding support for Alberta, the full details can be found in the *Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Alberta* section of the bulletin.

## **ALBERTA DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY**

On November 24, 2020 the Government of Alberta declared a state of emergency in the Province and introduced the following restrictions **Province Wide** to be in place for at least 3 weeks:

- No indoor social gatherings in any setting
- Outdoor gatherings max of 10
- Wedding and funeral services max of 10, no receptions permitted
- No festivals or events
- Grades 7-12 at-home learning Nov 30, 2020 to Jan 11, 2021
- ESC-Grade 5 at home learning after break until Jan 11, 2021
- Working from home should be considered where possible

The following additional restrictions apply to areas of the province under **Enhanced Areas** (color coded purple in the interactive map link above).

- Places of worship at 1/3 normal attendance with mandatory masking
- Restricted access to some businesses starting Nov.27

Lastly, for the Edmonton and Calgary Zones the government has introduced mandatory masks for indoor workplaces. You can find further details including which communities are included in the Calgary and Edmonton zones at [alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx](https://alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx)

## **INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS**

### ***2020 Assembly of First Nations 41st Annual General Assembly***

The AFN Annual General Assembly is being held virtually from December 8 - 9, 2020 from 8:45 am - 4:00 pm MDT both days - the registration is now open at the Assembly of First Nations website and can be accessed [here](#).

- There is no registration fee for Chiefs or proxies. Chiefs or their proxies must upload a copy of valid photo identification (front and back)
- Anyone registering as a Proxy must upload a signed Proxy Letter
- Once the meeting is complete all electronic copies of identification will be destroyed.
- The agenda for both days can be found [here](#).

### ***\*NEW\* Pre-engagement Zoom Meeting on First Nations Safe Drinking Water***

Attached to today's bulletin is the save the date and additional information for a pre-engagement session on First Nations Safe Drinking Water Legislative Reform and the First Nations Long-Term Water and Wastewater Strategy.

- December 14, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm MST

### ***\*NEW\* Indigenous Community Support Fund Round 1 Recipients***

Our office has received many requests for information regarding the Indigenous Community Support Fund and where off-reserve members can go to receive support during COVID-19. ISC has provided us the following link which shows the recipients in Alberta as well as other provinces and National organizations:

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1595249887428/1595249904867#s3>

### ***\*NEW\* AFN COVID-19 National Task Force Weekly Update - Nov 30***

Attached to this bulletin you will find the weekly C-19 Task Force Update dated November 30th.

### ***Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Alberta***

#### ***Funding update***

On November 20, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada announced \$52.15 million in additional COVID-19 funding support for Alberta Indigenous communities in response to the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases. This funding supports Nation-driven, on-the-ground pandemic response efforts. This new funding allocation is in addition to recent funding announcements including the October 2020 enhanced COVID-19 Mental Wellness Funding and ICFS Round 2 funding.

Additional details on the funding envelope distribution were provided in last week's bulletin by ISC and can be provided again upon request.

***\*NEW\* December 2 Bulletin:***

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's Bulletin (December 2nd) is attached. It includes the following information:

- Bill C-92 Update (Funding)
- Reminder - Online Flu Resources
- Combatting COVID-19 scams
- Call for Proposals: Preventing and Addressing Family Violence - the Health Perspective
- All Chief's Call with Dr.Hinshaw on Friday
- Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC)
- New Public Outreach on Staying Safe

## **CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES**

***\*NEW\* COVID-19 Task Force | December 2, 2020***

Two key presentations were made to the AFN COVID-19 Task Force:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Planning (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- First Nations COVID-19 Epidemiological Update (First Nations Inuit Health / Indigenous Services Canada)

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Planning**

The presentation outlined the current efforts regarding COVID-19 vaccine access for Indigenous populations. Recognition of the historical issues was mentioned with a need to earn trust; engage Indigenous people in planning; provide evidence informed choices; adapt based on distinct population needs; and build a sustainable approach to support Indigenous access to immunization services.

Lessons learned from previous pandemics including H1N1 include role clarity and accountability between all levels of government. The needs of urban, remote, and isolated communities are being discussed with respect to challenges faced and as a priority for immunization.

The COVID-19 immunization program is the most complex in Canada as it is occurring during an evolving pandemic. There is an "initial objective to be ready to immunize with a limited vaccine supply by January 2021".

Key objectives of this plan include: Building vaccine confidence; Partnering for Success – Focusing on Indigenous Engagement; Obtaining sufficient vaccine supply for all Canadians; Identifying priority recipients based on expert advice; Advance planning to ensure readiness for equitable vaccine roll-out; and Timely information on vaccine safety, uptake, and effectiveness. ISC and PHAC are to host regional round-tables to provide updates and outline varied steps in the roll-out process. This will require leadership engagement and participation at the

engagement sessions.

Regional Chief Poitras asked specific questions about the efficacy of two vaccines – Pfizer and Moderna, recognizing there are several vaccines currently being developed. General responses were provided about the approval process as they are ongoing.

#### First Nations COVID-19 Epidemiological Update

Epidemiological information provided by Dr. Evan Adams included key trends:

- Compared to the “first wave” of COVID-19, First Nations communities new and active cases are about 10 and 14 times higher
- The overall death rate in First Nations COVID-19 on-reserve cases is 6.8 per 100,000 populations compared to 32.0 per 100,000 in the general population
- There have been 3,981 cases reported as First Nations on reserve to November 30, 2020
- Since early September, there has been a steady increase in the number of new on-reserve cases reported, mostly in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba

#### *Regional Cases as of November 30, 2020*

British Columbia	307
Alberta	1,235
Saskatchewan	1,106
Manitoba	994
Ontario	193
Quebec	146

A brief question and answer period followed with Dr. Valerie Gideon.

## **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES**

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

- ***Government of Canada COVID Updates***
- ***Government of Alberta COVID Updates***

### ***Government of Canada COVID Updates***

[CPAC Video Link: PM Trudeau COVID-19 Update - December 1, 2020](#)

As of 4:30 a.m. ET on Wednesday, Canada’s COVID-19 case count stood at 383,468, with 66,369 considered active. Deaths sit at 12,211. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau briefs Canadians on the federal government’s response to the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- PM Trudeau sought to reassure that his government will be ready to deploy the vaccine soon after they receive the necessary Health Canada approvals.
  - He said the independent scientists reviewing the clinical trial data submitted by the drugmakers are working hard to ensure the safety of these products.

- The government is preparing to spend up to \$100 billion to kick start the post-pandemic economy as it stares down a record-high deficit projection of more than \$381 billion for this fiscal year.
- A range of new measures were outlined in the fall economic statement tabled by Deputy Prime Minister Freeland yesterday including;
  - Boosting the Canada Child Benefit with temporary support up to \$1,200
  - Elimination of Interest on federal student loans for 1 year.
  - Small Business Salary Subsidy will be strengthened
  - Farmers will see a bolster to supply management.

### **Government of Alberta COVID Updates**

[CPAC Video Link: Premier Kenney COVID-19 Update - December 2, 2020](#)

In Edmonton, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney and Dr. Deena Hinsaw, the province's chief medical officer of health, provided an update on the provincial response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- There are 17,144 cases of COVID in Alberta. 1,685 new cases for a positivity rate of 9.2%. 904 are hospitalized with 97 in the ICU. 10 more Albertans have passed.
- Kenney spoke to development of COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution availability coming within weeks and preparing for the rollout.
  - Municipal Affairs Deputy Minister Paul Winnick has been appointed the lead of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force.
- The Alberta government will not make any mandatory vaccination rules.
  - The Public Health Act rules around mandatory inoculation that have been in place since 1910 will be removed.
- There are 30 vaccine depots located throughout the province. Phase 1 assumes that approximately 435,000 Albertans will receive the vaccination to cover approximately 10% of the population.
  - AHS Phase 1 will focus on the most at risk populations, that is, Residents of long-term care homes, On-reserve First Nations individuals aged over 65, Seniors aged 75 and older, and Healthcare workers to ensure workforce capacity.
  - Phase 2, from April to September next year aims to inoculate approximately 30% of the population.
  - Phase 3, in the fall, is likely when a vaccine will be available to the General Alberta population.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

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

- ***\*NEW\* Alberta RCMP Update: Enforcement of Bylaws and Public Health Orders on First Nations***
- ***\*NEW\* Police Act Review - Written Submissions***
- ***Information on the Nation Rebuilding Program (NRP)***

***\*NEW\* Alberta RCMP Update: Enforcement of Bylaws and Public Health Orders on First Nations***

As a follow up from last week's meeting with Deputy Commissioner Zablocki and Sgt. Mueller of Indigenous Policing Services, we have been provided with an update on some of the actions their office is taking to assist in enforcement of Nation bylaws - you can find that update attached.

***\*NEW\* Police Act Review - Written Submissions***

The province has completed its series of four engagements on review of the Provincial Police act and is now accepting written submissions with any perspective or feedback to be provided. You can reach them through [JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:JSG.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca) - **the deadline for written submissions is January 4, 2021**

***Information on the Nation Rebuilding Program (NRP)***

The Nation Rebuilding Program or "NRP" is accepting applications from Indigenous Nations and organizations to fund initiatives that will serve to strengthen and express Indigenous Nations' unity and individual national identity. The goal of the NRP is to support nation rebuilding efforts at the nation level. **The deadline for the 2021-22 call for proposals is Monday, December 14, 2020.**

More information about the Nation Rebuilding Program, including information about proposal requirements and the proposal review process, is available on [CIRNAC's website at this link](#). Examples of funding amounts granted in the most recent funding cycle are available [at this link](#).

## **IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Canadians can now apply through the Canada Revenue Agency for a new sick leave benefit and a new caregiver benefit for those forced to take time off work to care for a dependent because of the pandemic. Details on this and other Employment Insurance changes are available through the [Government of Canada](#)
- 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](mailto:ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca) for support.
- 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.
- 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](https://postpromise.com)
- 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.
- Info on public health guidance for schools, clarifications on masks/physical distancing, suggestions for preparing children for in-school learning, and more were provided by Alberta's CMO Dr. Hinshaw. Found on Alberta's school [re-entry tool kit](#) website.
- The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM) has created a series of 5 posters with sexual and reproductive health information for Indigenous communities. The posters have been translated into 4 languages (French, Plains Cree, Inuktitut, Mohawk) and are hosted on the [NACM website](#)
- The [Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic](#) (at the link provided) provides video or phone care with a family doctor in Alberta to rural and urban Indigenous communities. All physicians are either Indigenous or have experience working with Indigenous communities.