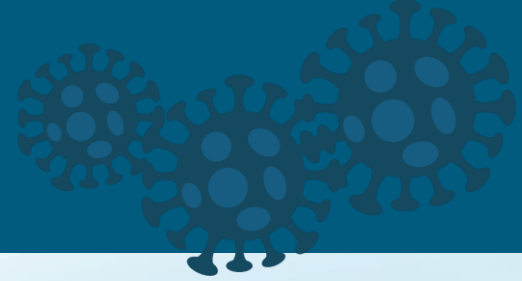


ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *May 14, 2020*



Updates

Relaunch Considerations:

Further to the relaunch considerations provided to you in the May 7th Daily Update to Chiefs, we would like to provide an update on the requirements and considerations for lifting restrictions in your communities.

It is important to remember, and to remind your communities, that the pandemic is not over. As the pandemic continues, different parts of the country are experiencing the impacts differently. This is why, as the provinces move forward with their relaunch strategies, there will be a different approach to relaunch in each ISC region, which also includes different approaches within communities. We acknowledge that Alberta First Nations communities will reopen or relaunch in different ways at different times, in accordance with decisions made by community Leadership. We remain committed to supporting your decisions by providing advice and available documents on the current public health guidance.

Any discussions on relaunch will need to include considerations in terms of testing support capacity and other prerequisites for relaunching, such as key public health measures that need to remain in place. For more information on preparedness in First Nations communities related to COVID-19, please see the presentation dated May 12, 2020 that was provided to you with today's update.

The Province has released a number of new [relaunch guidance documents](#), which you are encouraged to review and discuss with us in the context of your communities. In addition to these provincial guidance documents, the department is developing a Discussion Guide that will provide a list of key considerations, questions and indicators that First Nations communities can use to support relaunch planning. We plan to share this with you shortly.

We want to assure you that while we remain available to support you in lifting restrictions in your communities, we are also continuing to consider our own departmental return to more fulsome operations and eventual return to the workplace. All approaches will be grounded in federal and provincial public health measures and focused on ensuring the health and safety of community members and our employees.

Question of the Day

Q: What is the status of testing for First Nations communities in Alberta?

A: As you are aware, public health guidance related to COVID-19 has been changing as the evidence base and our understanding is rapidly evolving. Currently, 40 First Nations are undertaking testing in their communities and 1,308 swab samples have been collected to date. Additional First Nations testing may have occurred off reserve or through a primary care provider. We are working with communities and the province to ensure testing for all individuals who need it is available.

Alberta Health has expanded testing as of May 4, 2020 to include individuals with a greater number of symptoms including chills, pain with swallowing, muscle aches and pains, fatigue, nausea, gastrointestinal symptoms, loss of smell or taste, or conjunctivitis (pink eye). Further, on May 5, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced a \$4.5 million investment in new virus detecting equipment and technology aimed at more than doubling testing capacity, from 7,000 to 16,000 tests per day. We are continuing to support First Nations communities to expand testing capability and benefit from expanded testing announcements. If you have any questions related to testing in general, please do not hesitate to contact sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca or call one of the Medical Officers of Health for further clarity.

Alberta Cases:

as of May 13 3:30 p.m. MST



AB Total Confirmed (May 13 – 62 new cases)	6,407
AB Recovered Cases	5,076
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	30
On-reserve Recovered Cases	19
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,375
Central Zone Confirmed	97
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	512
North Zone Confirmed	227
South Zone Confirmed	1,170
Unknown Confirmed	26
Deaths due to COVID-19	120

More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Support for Seniors

On May 12, the Prime Minister announced \$2.5 billion in new measures to help seniors struggling financially due to COVID-19. Seniors who qualify for Old Age Security will be eligible for a one-time, tax-free payment of \$300, and those eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement will get an additional \$200. As well, an additional \$20 million was announced for the [New Horizons for Seniors Program](#), which is a program that Indigenous organizations can apply to for grants to help improve the quality of life of seniors and Elders. More info available [here](#)

Regional Snapshot

6,407



cases

68%



Calgary Zone

52%



males

270



Hospitalized ever

53



ICU ever

120



deaths

Useful Links

AHS COVID Information

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) FAQs for Public](#)

[Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19](#)

National Information

[Canada COVID-19 App and Self-Assessment Tool](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

Regional Contact:

Dean Janvier, Special Leadership Liaison, is available to support information sharing and to assist you in navigating questions or concerns related to COVID-19. He may be reached at Dean.Janvier@gmail.com or 780-545-6655.

Preparedness in First Nations communities related to COVID-19

May 12, 2020



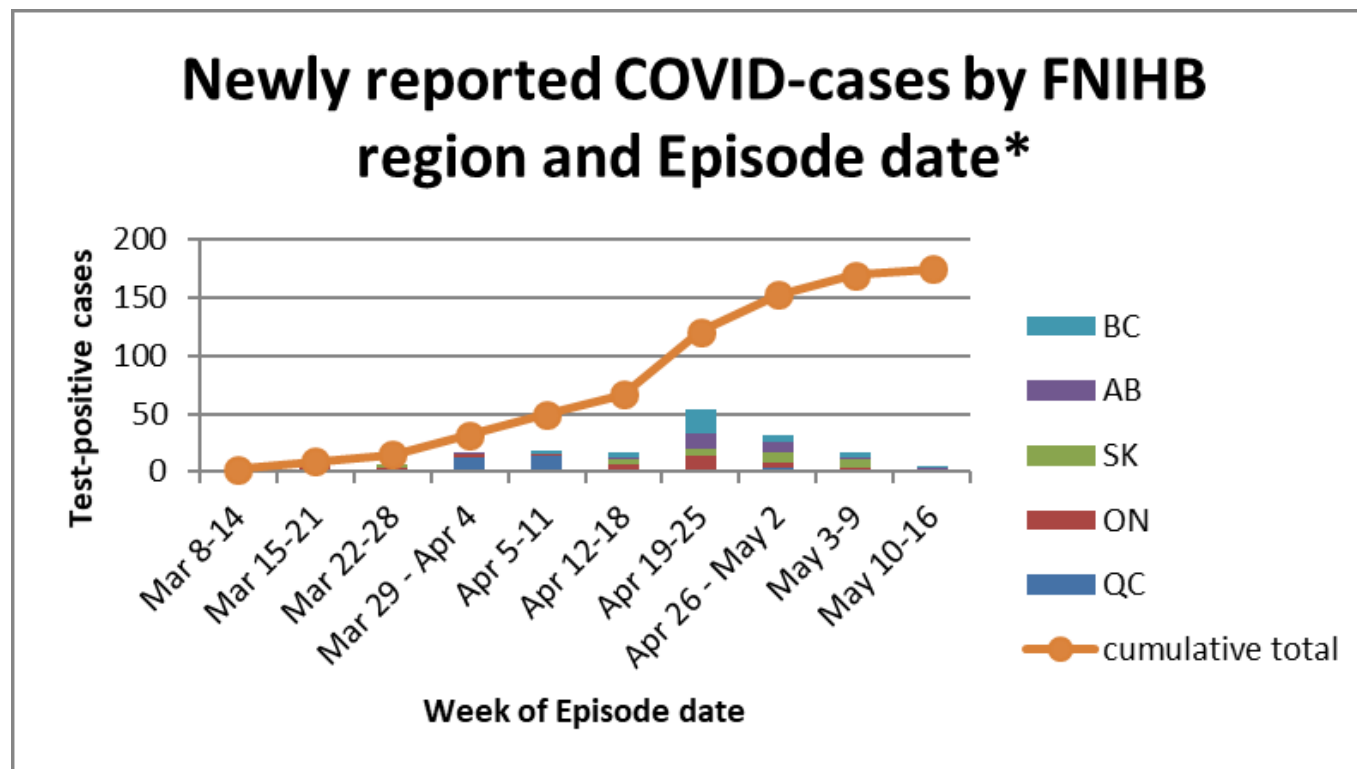
COVID-19 – Canadian Context

- As of May 11, 2020, 69,156 cases have been confirmed in Canada, with 4,906 deaths. This compares to an estimated 3000 - 4000 influenza-related deaths in Canada each year.

Province/Territory	Tested Positive	FN Community-Associated	Ever Hospitalized	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2330	39	4	1	22
AB	6253	29	3	0	15
SK	564	43	3	0	13
MB	287	0			
ON	20 546	41	6	1	25
QC	37 721	31	2	0	28
NB	120	0			
NS	1 018	0			
NL	261	0			
PEI	27	0			
YT	11	No specific FN breakdown			
NWT	5	No specific FN breakdown			
NU		No specific FN breakdown			

COVID-19 Transmission in First Nation Communities

- Total number of reported COVID-19 cases among First Nations Communities in the provinces are: 175 First Nations community test positive cases as of May 10, 2020.



*Episode date corresponds to the earliest date reported according to the following order: Symptom Onset Date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Result Date, Date Reported to FNIHB.

National Communications

Update since May 5th Briefing:

- May 7: Dr. Wong participated in an interview with Grand Chief Dumas of Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and MB Chief provincial Public Health Officer Manitoba, via ZOOM.
- May 8: Chief Nursing Officer, Robin Buckland interview with CBC regarding proactive measures to support surge HHR capacity in communities -
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/h1n1-lesson-covid-19-response-first-nations-1.5559948>
- May 9: Dr. Wong participated in PHAC press conference
- May 10: Statement on Charter flight initiative for nursing -
<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/05/indigenous-services-canada-providing-direct-air-transportation-with-strict-safety-first-health-protocol-for-essential-personnel-to-serve-fly-in-fir.html>

Website:

- Number of positive cases in First Nations Communities being posted to ISC's web Monday – Friday. Expanded information to include hospitalization and deaths.
- PPE information posted Monday – Friday
- Ongoing regular updates to ISC's website as information becomes available
- Updates to reflect the Awards of Excellence in Nursing Ceremony is delayed

National Communications – Cont'd

Social Media:

- Ongoing social media promotion of COVID-19 related information

Videos:

- Animated videos in Indigenous languages are now available on YouTube - social media underway and to continue
- 2 new videos by Dr. Wong are completed and on YouTube
- Work underway to explore options for public health videos, with Dr. Evan Adams, Adam Beach, and others

COVID-19 Email:

- Information shared out focussing on mental health and a second information notice about expired status cards are to be accepted by retailers

Personal Protective Equipment Orders

- Since the PPE request process launched February 14, 2020 – summary of requests received to access the ISC-FNIHB stockpiles are below.
- Current assessment of requests – 24 hours / request to storage facility to retrieve and package / shipment to community 2 – 7 days.
- Note – The FNIHB emergency stockpile is for the provision of health care on reserve (including for home and community care workers and family care givers).

Overview of PPE request status as of May 11, 2020				
Region	Requests Received	Being Processed at MTE	Shipped	Delivered
Atlantic	102	0	4	98
Quebec	61	0	12	49
Ontario	193	0	31	162
Manitoba	190	0	54	136
Saskatchewan	70	0	1	69
NITHA	59	0	0	59
Alberta	89	0	3	86
BCFNHA	175*	0	0	175*
Yukon	1	0	1	0
National	24	3	20	1
Total	794	3	126	665

- For FNHA PPE Requests - 5 requests are from ISC, and 170 are from the Province of BC.
- National PPE requests – ad hoc PPE requests for orgs not able to access PT stockpiles

Guidance for Re-Opening - Development Strategy

Based on public health principles and best practices

F/P/T/FN/M/I remote/isolated community working group of SAC (co-chaired by Regional Chief Adamek, Dr. Corriveau and Dr. Wong) starting to work on FN/I/M tools building on the PHAC general re-opening guidance.

Considers issues specific to First Nations communities:

- Community based measures (border control, essential/non-essential travel, staffing etc.)
- Communication (access to technology, tools)
- Personal measures (access to water, self-isolation capacity)
- Protecting populations who may be at a higher risk

Develop supplemental guidance documents specific to remote and isolated First Nations communities

Develop short-, medium-, and long-term priorities based on gaps analysis, input from regions, Remote and Isolated Working Group, and AFN Task Force

Next steps:

- Seek feedback on the draft strategy included with this presentation

Gradual Adjustment of Measures:

Overarching principles for planning & engagement

Principles for Reopening

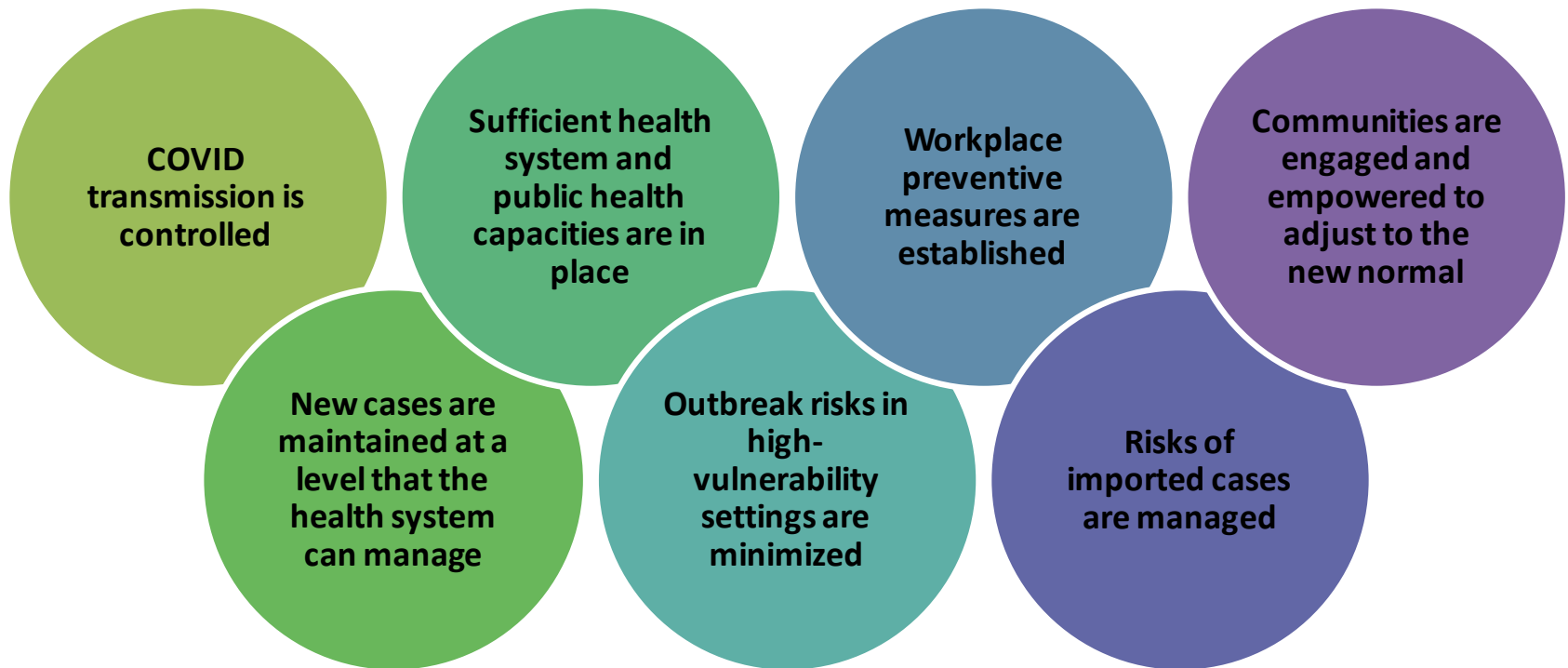
- **Community leadership** will make the decision on the basis of the community's needs.
- Decisions are **guided by science, and evidence-based**.
- **Coordination and collaboration** across all governments is critical for success.
- Public health measures are intended to be **flexible**, to meet community needs, and **proportional** to public health risk.

Gradual adjustments of measures should:

- Be culturally grounded, strengths-based and include First Nations ways of knowing and traditional practices beyond federal and provincial/territorial public health models;
- Include consideration of risk associated with remoteness, higher incidence of co-morbidities, limited access to health care;
- Take account of neighbouring health system capacities (i.e. clinics, hospitals);
- Take a gradual and step-wise approach that is flexible, sensitive to triggers, and able to rapidly respond to epidemiological changes;
- Be mindful of any outbreaks in neighbouring communities/industry work sites; and
- Ensure leadership is informed of considerations relevant to their community when assessing criteria before and when planning for adjusting measures.

Criteria for Assessing Readiness to Reopen

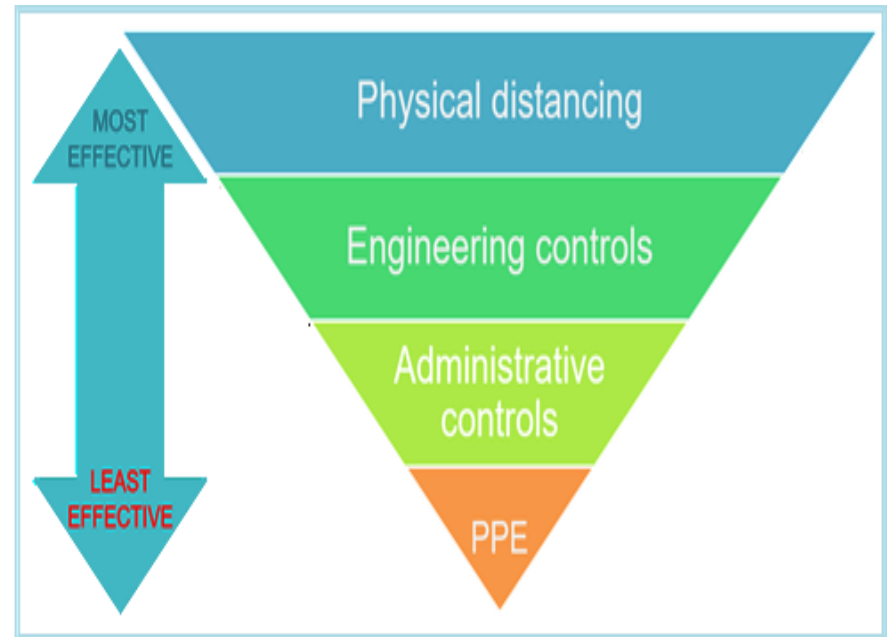
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed a set of seven criteria that can be used to assess when a community is ready to begin a phased reopening



Phased Re-opening

Based on an assessment of the seven criteria listed, First Nations leadership can consider stage re-opening or restarting activities in the community

- Some non-essential businesses able to open
- Daycare and education settings/camps to operate/open
- Additional outdoor activities/ recreation to resume
- Non-urgent health care services to resume
- Small critical cultural ceremonies (such as funerals) to take place



Core Personal and Community Public Health Measures: Specific considerations for First Nations communities

- **Hand hygiene**
 - Reliable access to water in a household
 - Access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer outside of a household
- **Physical distancing**
 - Routine/traditional ways of living
 - Ways to adjust cultural ceremonies, events, and on the land activities as deemed appropriate by each community
- **Self-isolation and quarantine**
 - Overcrowding and housing condition
- **Essential travel**
 - Medical appointments, both inside and outside the community
 - Supply chain/food
 - Essential workers coming from outside
 - Community members leaving for work outside community

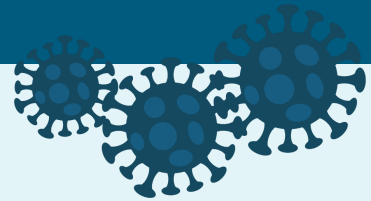
For more information contact:

Valerie Gideon, PhD, Senior ADM

valerie.gideon@canada.ca; 613-219-4104

Tom Wong, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Public Health

Tom.wong@canada.ca; 613-797-8710



Ongoing Services

Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region - What's Open *Regional Operations*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) aims to keep you informed on the department's operations. Each department holds a business continuity plan, and ours was enacted on March 15, 2020. This prompted a partial closure of the Alberta offices and operations. Currently, we ask for your understanding as we move through our response. We will update you on available services as they resume, and ask for your patience as the regional office adjusts to reduced staff capacity, alternative work arrangements, and new systems. This list will be reevaluated on a monthly basis. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Team representative (information below).

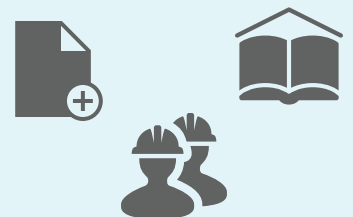
Ongoing Services



- Funding services (funding agreements, G&C's, vote 1, year-end)
- Distribute COVID-19 announced funds
- Payments to First Nations
- Emergency Management
- Support ongoing infrastructure projects
- Environmental emergencies response
- Community Liaison Teams
- Child & Family Services
- Woman's Emergency Shelters
- Income Assistance
- Indian Moneys (trusts)
- Individual Moneys (dependent adults)
- Information Technology (internal)
- Information Management (mail)
- Regional Director General's Office

Limited Services

- Education program
- Band governance (elections; by-laws)
- Field services (on-call)
- Support & monitoring for Solid Waste program
- Registration of documents in Indian Land Registry
- Environmental reviews
- Economic Development program & projects
- Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples
- Planning & initiation of new infrastructure projects
- Community Infrastructure funding requests (e.g. O&M funding)
- Administration of Ministerial Loan Guarantees
- Incoming correspondence



Monitored



- Land leases & permits
- Additions to Reserve
- Engagement on Treaty based funding
- Claim implementation
- Estates services
- Housing capacity building projects
- Community Comprehensive Planning
- Audits

Delays Without Penalty

- Delays in submissions of audited financial statements
- Debt recovery delays
- Delays in submitting reporting requirements




On Hold Until Further Notice

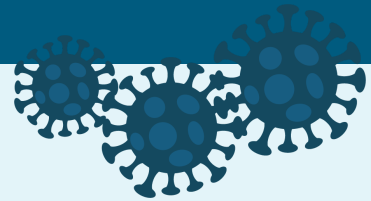


- Treaty Annuities (payment events)
- In person reception in Edmonton for registration & status cards (available by mail)
- Indigenous Cultural Center activities
- Access to Information requests
- Land designation referendums

For More Information:



Community Liaison Teams (CLTs) were created to ensure that First Nations have streamlined access to ISC information and support during the pandemic. CLTs include representatives from Regional Operations and the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, and work with subject matter experts to answer operational questions relating to COVID-19.  sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca



Ongoing Services

Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region - What's Open *First Nations and Inuit Health Branch*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) aims to keep you informed on the department's operations. Each department holds a business continuity plan, and ours was enacted on March 15, 2020. This prompted a partial closure of the Alberta offices and operations. Currently, we ask for your understanding as we move through our response. We will update you on available services as they resume, and ask for your patience as the regional office adjusts to reduced staff capacity, alternative work arrangements, and new systems. This list will be reevaluated on a monthly basis. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Team representative (information below).

New or Increased Capacity



- Community Liaison Teams
- Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) inbox & request management system
- Pandemic planning support
- Emergency Management preparedness & response
- Funding request reviews & distribution of new COVID-19 health funding
- Capital & Infrastructure to support assessment/isolation facility, retrofits & other
- Surveillance
- Communicable Disease Control (CDC) case & outbreak management support
- Environmental Public Health Services (EPHS) (assessment/isolation facility inspections)
- Telehealth
- Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
- Nursing Support Teams (provide education, training, screening, testing & tracing)
- PPE for COVID-19 response

Ongoing Services

- Jordan's Principle
- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) (all)
- EPHS
- Mental Wellness
- Nursing (routine education, orientations, & other regular support has been reduced)
- CDC- non-COVID-19
- Home & Community Care (HCC) (routine education, orientations & other regular support has been reduced)
- Health Funding Arrangement (HFA)
- Regional Executive Office & Executive Secretariat



Monitored



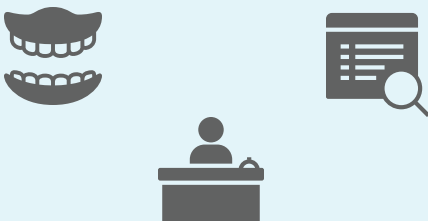
- Nutrition
- Transformation Team (Nursing Transfer initiatives (new communities) on hold)
- Audits
- Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP)
- NNADAP treatment centers and access to provincial treatment centers

Delays Without Penalty

- Delays in submissions of audited financial statements
- Debt recovery delays
- Delays in submitting reporting requirements



On Hold Until Further Notice



- Children Oral Health Initiative (COHI)
- NIHB in person reception in Edmonton
- Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF)
- Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)
- Accreditation
- Community Health Promotion (CHP), including: Maternal Child Health Program (MCH); Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP); Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program (FASD); First Nations & Inuit Component of the Federal Tobacco Strategy (FTCS)



The Hope for Wellness Help Line offers immediate counselling and crisis intervention support to all Indigenous peoples across Canada. It is available 24/7 and the toll-free Help Line is 1-855-242-3310 or connect to the online chat at hopeforwellness.ca

For More Information:



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