

AFN Alberta COVID-19 Bulletin



Tuesday, June 9

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 transitioning to providing the daily bulletin every other business day in June as we begin our slow and phased transition back to regular operations. The next bulletin will be Thursday, June 11. Critical or time sensitive information will still be provided in real time as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	June 5	June 8	Change
Tests Completed	281,979	298,696	+16,717
Total Positive	7,098	7,202	+104
Active	328	355	+27
Fatalities	146	149	+3
Recoveries	6,624	6,698	+74
<u>COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta</u> Calgary zone - 4,976 Edmonton zone - 613 Central zone - 87 South zone - 1,268 North zone - 245 Unidentified zone - 13		<u>COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations* (as of June 8)</u> Calgary Zone - 19 North Zone - 5 South Zone - 16 Unidentified zone - 13	

New Measures

- ***NEW*** Stage two of the Alberta relaunch strategy will begin on **June 12**, a week sooner than expected. Details and the list of businesses that will be able to re-open with restrictions is provided in the national and regional updates section of this bulletin.
- Alberta is now allowing anyone in the province to get tested for COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. Asymptomatic testing can be scheduled through the online AHS COVID-19 self-assessment tool [here](#).
- Alberta will now only supply PPE to critical service providers in publicly funded or contracted settings. Private organizations can continue to access PPE through the government until **June 30**, but will need to pay market price.
- Alberta Health has partnered with A&W, McDonalds, and Tim Hortons to distribute non-medical masks to Albertans at no cost.

First Nation-specific Updates .

- The Alberta government will provide each First Nation individual in community 4 non-medical masks. Those who are in urban centers will be able to get the masks through the restaurant partnership program, or through a community service agency.

- A social media campaign is encouraging celebrating 2020 Indigenous graduates through the hashtag #IndigenousGrad2020. A virtual grad celebration is planned for all Indigenous graduates on June 26. Visit <https://indigenousgrad2020.ca/> for more info.
- The #ProtectOurElders social media campaign launched to encourage people to practice physical distancing and public health measures to keep Elders safe. Visit <https://www.protectourelders.ca/> for ways you can get involved on social media.

National and Regional Updates

- ***NEW*** Dr. Hinshaw recommends all Albertans that participated in Black Lives Matter protests to get tested for COVID-19 regardless of their symptoms.
- ***NEW*** Addressing the separation of family members, the Canadian government is offering a limited exemption allowing members of the immediate family of permanent residents or citizens to come into Canada, targeting husbands, wives and/or children.
- Canada announced funding to support Indigenous peoples during COVID-19:
 - An additional \$75 million in new funding for urban and off-reserve organizations.
 - An additional \$650 million for Indigenous communities' healthcare, income support programs, and emergency shelters.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

NEW June 9 Bulletin:

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates twice weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (June 9) is attached. It includes the following information:

- First Nations COVID-19 response in Alberta - Highlights
- CERB and Income Assistance
- Other financial relief for seniors in community
- Red Cross Help Desk for Indigenous Leadership

Also attached are two tools for your information. The first is from the Red Cross, entitled Help Desk for Indigenous Leadership. The second attachment lists On-line Resources for Indigenous Communities- Food and COVID-19.

NEW All-Chiefs Meeting with Dr. Hinshaw

The next All Chiefs Meeting will take place **TOMORROW**, June 10th at 2:00pm MST. Dr. Hinshaw will be available for this call. Call in details have been provided by ISC (same information as ISC-AB treaty region updates).

NEW Thursday, June 11th | 1:30 to 3:00 pm | Weekly COVID-19 Telehealth Call

A weekly telehealth call on COVID-19 is being held for First Nation health centre staff to talk through possible scenarios and ask FNIHB staff questions. Please note the details shared with us below:

To join by phone dial: 1 587 328 1099, code 917 0637 5288#

To view the webinar: <https://fnfn.zoom.us/join>, enter Meeting ID: 917 0637 5288

Objectives

1. Medical Officer of Health Update
2. Current priority topic
3. Let's work through some scenarios
4. Community COVID-19 response Profile – Swan River
5. Additional questions from communities

Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to

VChelp@FNTN.ca

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

June 9 | AFN National Executive Meeting

The National Executive met today with Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. **Key highlights:**

Meeting with Minister McKenna

- National Chief Bellegarde called for progress on the government's commitment to close the infrastructure gaps on First Nations. He spoke to needs on housing, clean drinking water, broadband, and for McKenna's department to accelerate collaboration with ISC to get 'shovel-worthy' projects on First Nations off the ground.
- Minister McKenna outlined her current approach to addressing the infrastructure gap in First nations communities.
 - 1) Look at existing programs and try to get provinces/territories to prioritize Indigenous projects and programs (through bilateral infrastructure agreements and other channels)
 - 2) Exploring new opportunities through COVID-19 stimulus spending.
 - 3) Work with First Nations to get provinces and territories to fund "shovel-ready" projects.
- Regional Chiefs pressed for dedicated streams in the infrastructure department for First Nations. Several, including RC Poitras, cited that the Treaty relationship is nation-to-nation. First Nations should not have to deal with provincial barriers to access infrastructure dollars outside of ISC.
- **RC Poitras advocated for the following.**
 - **Changes to the Clean Power Fund so First Nations in Alberta can access funding to build renewable energy infrastructure, in light of the Alberta government's cancellation of renewable energy programming.**

- **Chiefs are wondering what is happening with critical infrastructure projects. Progress on these infrastructure gaps is needed before another wave of COVID hits. She asked the Minister for a list of funding sources in Alberta for infrastructure, and investments made.**
- **She pressed for increased cross-government collaboration and response on infrastructure, citing broadly challenges the ISC-AB regional office has faced in advancing broadband in communities with Infrastructure Canada.**
- **First Nations who are repeatedly impacted by annual flooding want to build longer term mitigation strategies. Request made for a dedicated funding stream be created out of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund so First Nations can build long-term solutions for dealing with what are now regular natural disasters.**
- **Minister McKenna committed to having a conversation with her Deputy Minister and Minister Miller to discuss how to reconfigure funding pathways from her department because, currently, she doesn't have the tools to flow money into ISC except through some small programs. She also commits to providing the RCs a breakdown by province of infrastructure money First Nations can presently access.**

Meeting with Minister Lametti

- **The National Chief pressed for progress on establishing restorative justice models, establishing First Nations policing as an essential service, reforming policing nationally to root out racism. He also raised the delay of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) action plan, and the legislation to adopt UNDRIP as Canadian law.**
- **Minister Lametti noted the timelines for the MMIWG action plan and UNDRIP legislation were delayed because of COVID. He is committed to having UNDRIP as law by the end of 2020. Minister Bennett continues her work with the provinces/territories in finalizing the MMIWG plan.**
 - **He encouraged the RCs and First Nation leaders to be loud in the coming days and weeks about the necessity of restorative justice programs, as well as other alternative solutions to the criminal justice issues. In particular, he talked about how work is needed to treat addictions as a public health issue and not a criminal issue.**
- **The Regional Chiefs all touched on the need to redesign the way justice is administered and enforced in Canada, especially for First Nations communities. Many echoed calls to move with restorative justice models. Some supported calls by Black activists to reallocate funding from the criminal justice and enforcement system to create better crisis response services for Indigenous, Black, and other racialized people.**
- **RC Poitras addressed the following.**
 - **The Regional Chief recalled the news of Chief Allan Adam and her fierce condemnation of unjust use of force against Indigenous peoples.**
 - **Citing issues the First Nations have faced during the pandemic over the enforceability of their laws, she pressed for a commitment from Minister Lametti to expand their funding mandates for First Nations so they can access funding to build capacity in the area of law development and enforcement?**
 - **First Nations in Alberta are concerned about how Alberta's *Critical Infrastructure Defence Act*, which became law last week, will impact their**

freedoms of assembly and speech if they protest near “critical infrastructure” on their lands. She asked what Canada’s response will be to this law, which undermines First Nation’s constitutionally protected human and Treaty rights.

- Regarding Treaties, she reminded Minister Lametti that Treaty was never an agreement by First Nations to give up their sovereignty, laws, forms of governance or right to self determination over their lands and their people. Going forward, First Nation laws must be implemented, and be seen at least equal to common law and civil law. She asked what Canada is doing to ensure First Nation laws are as enforceable as provincial and federal laws.
- Minister Lametti was unable to provide a substantial response to the Executive as he had to attend the House of Commons. He agreed there are major, fundamental changes needed because the system we have in place is inherently racist, and it is working in that regard. Minister Lametti committed his staff to following-up with responses to all the questions asked by the Regional Chiefs.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Canada’s COVID-19 Update - June 8 & 9***
- ***Alberta’s COVID-19 Update - June 8***
- ***Alberta outlines plan for Stage 2 of reopening***

Canada’s COVID-19 Update - June 8

Relevant Links: [PM’s daily briefing](#)

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

On Monday, Prime Minister Trudeau addressed Canadians to provide an update on the federal government’s response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Following this, Dr. Tam and colleagues including the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino provided the Federal Ministers and Health Officials daily update **Key Highlights:**

- As of end of day, Sunday June 7th, there were 95,699 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 7,800 deaths. Numbers are now updated once daily (evenings) at Canada.ca/coronavirus.
- Trudeau began his address by reflecting on the videos surfacing of violence towards Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) in Canada. Stating he was here to listen to the concerns of marginalized Canadians in speaking out against systemic racism and unconscious bias.
 - PM Trudeau has committed to raising the adoption of body cameras on police forces with the provinces this week.
 - Minister Blair has also reaffirmed his commitment to improve Indigenous Policing.
- Addressing the separation of family members, the government is offering a limited exemption allowing members of the immediate family of permanent residents or citizens to come into Canada, targeting husbands, wives and/or children.

- Those who enter are still subject to a 14 day quarantine period, as are any repatriated Canadians.

Canada's COVID-19 Update - June 9

Relevant Link: [PM's daily briefing](#)

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

This morning, the Prime Minister again addressed Canadians on the ongoing federal government response to COVID-19. Following this, Deputy Prime Minister Freeland, Dr. Tam and colleagues provided the daily Federal Ministers and Health Officials Update for June 9th.

Key Highlights:

- As of the end-of-day Monday, there were 96,244 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 7,835 total deaths. 54,833 individuals (57%) have now recovered. Labs have tested over 1,930,000 individuals with about 5% returning positive overall. Testing currently occurs at an average of 33,000 daily. The numbers are updated in the evening at canada.ca/coronavirus.
- Labs are working hard to increase testing capacity, there is the capacity in place to test more than 60,000 across the country daily and laboratories will continue to build on this to prepare for any possible surges.
- The Prime Minister began by updating Canadians on contracts made with industry for supply of chemicals that allow for testing and contact tracing, allowing the country to administer and analyze a greater number of tests going forward.
- Much work has been done to further increase the access of PPE to Canadians, and today the federal government announced a PPE supply hub website to connect businesses looking for PPE with suppliers. [It can be accessed at this link.](#)
- Entrepreneurs and small business owners, including those of Charities, nonprofits and NGOs with pressing financial needs can call the Canadian government's hotline at 1-866-989-1080 to speak with an accountant or business advisor.

Alberta's COVID-19 Update - June 8th

Relevant Link: [Chief Medical Officer's Update](#)

News Releases: [Non-medical masks available to Albertans](#)

[Virtual physician visits to become permanent](#)

Minister Shadro and Dr. Hinshaw provided the provincial update on COVID-19 for the province of Alberta on Monday, June 8th, **Key Highlights:**

- The Monday provincial update reflects the last 48 hours. 6,698 cases have now recovered with 355 active cases. 44 of these are hospitalized with 6 in ICU. Alberta has now tested over 300,000 individuals. In 11,025 tests, 64 new cases were identified in the last 48 hours. The total number of lives lost now sits at 149.
- Announced by Minister Shandro, virtual codes for physicians are being made a permanent option, allowing Albertans to speak with doctors from the comfort of their homes. Prior, this option was only going to exist for the duration of the public health

emergency. In person visits are not suspended, this is another option for Albertans, responding to their changing needs.

- The health quality council of Alberta is inviting people over the age of 16 to take part in an online survey to understand the holistic impacts of the province's response to COVID-19 and how the health system can improve to meet Albertans needs as response continues. The survey can be found at [this link](#).

Additional Information

- Dr. Hinshaw commended those at the BLM protests who practiced social distancing and wore masks, stating that the freedom to protest is a critical one, but the challenge is not to create a “superspreader” event. Dr. Hinshaw recommended all participants get tested for COVID-19 regardless of their symptoms.
- As of this morning, Dr. Hinshaw announced that the Calgary Flames and Edmonton Oilers have been allowed to resume practice in home arenas with public health measures in place.

Alberta moves to stage two of relaunch

Press Conference: [Alberta Premier Jason Kenney to Announce Next Phase of Reopening Plan](#)

News Release: [June 09, 2020 - Alberta moves to stage two](#)

Alberta's Premier Jason Kenney held a press conference today, June 9, 2020 to outline its strategy for moving towards stage two of its relaunch strategy, the full news release and press conference are linked above, and below are some **Key Highlights:**

- Strong testing data shows active COVID-19 cases in Alberta are lower than expected, meaning stage two of the relaunch strategy can safely begin on **June 12**, a week sooner than expected.
- A list of openings, with restrictions, follows:
 - K-12 schools, for requested diploma exams and summer school, following guidance.
 - Libraries
 - More surgeries and wellness services such as massage, acupuncture and reflexology.
 - Personal services (esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatment, and artificial tanning)
 - Indoor recreation, fitness, and sports, including gyms and arenas. Pools for leisure swimming.
 - Movie theaters and community halls, Instrumental concerts.
 - VLTs in restaurants and bars, casinos and bingo halls (but not table games).
- Additionally, the 50 per cent capacity limit for provincial campgrounds is being lifted. Over the coming days, the online reservation system will be updated and sites will come online in phases with all sites open by July 1.

- Events and gatherings can now also be larger, 50 person limits for indoor social gatherings, and 100 person limits for outdoor events and indoor seated events
 - There is no limit on people in worship gatherings, restaurants, cafes, lounges and bars, casinos and bingo halls - but public health measures and physical distancing requirements remain.
- Regular in-school classes will resume in September 2020. Major festivals and concerts as well as large conferences, trade shows and similar events are still prohibited.
- Nightclubs, Amusement parks, major sporting events will continue to be prohibited until Stage 3.
- Non-essential travel outside the province is still not recommended.

IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Alberta is providing \$25 million for projects and services that will improve community mental health and addiction recovery supports and services. **First Nations are eligible and encouraged to apply.** The second call for proposals closes on August 21, 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The Red Cross is operating a help desk for First Nations to get dedicated, personalized support on pandemic planning. It is available 7 days a week from 7 am to 7 pm MT. Call 1-833-937-1597.
- First Nation health directors, leaders, and technicians can contact “[InfoPoint](#)” to request information about their COVID-19-related questions at 1-855-446-2719 or InfoPoint@fnhma.ca from Monday to Friday, 6 am to 6 pm MT
- 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.
- Service Canada has a dedicated toll-free phone line for First Nations members needing help with their CERB applications. Call 1-877-631-2657
- Applications for the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#) are available through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The CECRA consists of forgivable loans for landlords to subsidize lost rent from small businesses, nonprofits and charitable organizations.
- The [Business Resilience Services Hotline](#) is available to small businesses for the next month to provide free, customized financial guidance from navigating tax regulations and government support to planning a path to recovery.
- 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.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous rights is calling for input into a global report about how COVID-19 is impacting Indigenous peoples. [Click here](#) for the full details of the request. **Deadline for submissions is June 15.**

