

Wednesday, August 12

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 Wednesday, August 19

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

AB Testing Results	August 4	August 12	Change
Tests Completed	720,131	785,361	+65,230
Total Positive	11,146	11,893	+747
Active	1,191	1,044	-147
Fatalities	201	217	+16
Recoveries	9,754	10,632	+878

COVID-19 Regional Data for Alberta

Calgary zone - 6,799 Edmonton zone - 2,136
Central zone - 545 South zone - 1,707 North zone - 680
Unidentified zone - 26

COVID-19 in Alberta First Nations (As of August 11)

Calgary Zone - 51
North Zone - 55 South Zone - 50
Central Zone - 3 Unknown Zone - 1
Total - 160 Recovered - 140 Active - 18 Deaths - 1

New Measures

- Dr. Hinshaw recommends all Alberta teachers and school staff to get tested before September. She says children should be tested only if they have symptoms or pre-existing conditions similar to COVID-19.
- Some pharmacies in Alberta are offering asymptomatic COVID-19 testing. [Click here](#) for the list of participating pharmacies.
- Dr. Hinshaw recommends storing clean reusable masks in a sealed and clean storage bag and placing them in a dry area. You can launder with other items, and then dry thoroughly.
- Canada's Chief Public Health Officer says if you've been exposed to COVID, and are asymptomatic, it is best to get tested around 4 to 8 days after your known exposure. If you get tested before or after that window, the likelihood your test result is incorrect increases.
- Transport Canada is now requiring doctor's notes from air passengers who say they have a medical reason for not wearing a mask. [Click here](#) for the full story.

First Nation-specific Updates

- Today, Minister Miller announced a new **\$305 million** investment into the COVID-19 **Indigenous Community Support Fund**. Additional funds will flow directly to bands, and a new call for proposals will be set up for a secondary funding pot. (*Details below*).
- Canada announced a new \$40 million fund to support Indigenous businesses with their pandemic recovery.

- FNIHB is encouraging people to have their vaccinations up to date, including the upcoming flu vaccine, because of increased negative health outcomes from contracting other diseases along with COVID-19.

National and Regional Updates

- Alberta has published a [re-entry tool kit](#) to prepare parents and students for back-to-school.
- Experts are warning about the increased risk of transmission as fall and winter hit, and people start gathering more-and-more indoors. [Click here](#) for the full story.
- The federal government released an app that notifies you if you've been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. [Click here](#) to download it.
- The province has also released a [risk assessment tool](#) to help you know if you are at a high risk of having a severe outcome if you contract COVID-19, and how to mitigate it.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR FIRST NATIONS

****NEW* New Money for the COVID-19 Indigenous Community Support Fund***

[News Release](#)

[Indigenous Community Support Fund \(About, Who it Supports, How it Works\)](#)

Today, Minister Marc Miller announced the 'second round' of funding for the Indigenous Community Support Fund "to ensure communities have the resources they need, "to weather the ongoing pandemic." The national AFN office tells us that:

- An additional \$112.5M will be made available directly to bands based on a similar formula to last time (slightly adjusted to address concerns about landless bands).
- An additional \$160M made available through calls for proposal or application – bands, tribal councils, urban and off-reserve (details are still being fleshed out on this pot)

In terms of delivery we are being told that this new funding for communities is expected to move relatively quickly (between a month to six weeks). New funding for the application process will be delivered as applications are received and approved. However, applications do not yet appear available. We will continue to provide updates on this funding announcement in this bulletin as we receive them.

****NEW* \$40 Million for Indigenous Business Recovery***

[Globe & Mail Coverage](#)

[News Release: Government of Canada invests in Saskatchewan Indigenous businesses and communities](#)

On Sunday, Economic Development Minister, Melanie Joly, announced an additional \$40 million to support Indigenous businesses through the pandemic. According to the Globe & Mail, the funding is separate from previous announcements like the \$300+ million given to Indigenous businesses for COVID-19 relief. There are 73 projects that will receive funding from this investment through federal economic development agencies. In Alberta, Western Economic Diversification (WED) is the agency responsible for distributing this funding, however, on

canada.ca WED identified only two Saskatchewan-specific projects as successful recipients of this new funding.

Updates from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

****RESCHEDULED* All Chiefs Meeting with Dr. Deena Hinshaw | Thursday, August 20***

The all-Chiefs call with Dr. Hinshaw is being rescheduled to **next Thursday, August 20 from 9 am to 10 am**. ISC-Alberta has sent Chiefs the teleconference details. if you have questions that you would like to ask Dr. Hinshaw, please text/email your specific questions to Dean Janvier (dean.janvier@gmail.com or text 780-545-6655)

****NEW* August 12 Bulletin:***

ISC Alberta Region is sending updates weekly to leadership on the current COVID-19 situation and response. Today's bulletin (August 12) is attached. It includes the following information:

- COVID-19 guide for Primary Schools
- Status Cards During COVID
- Engaging ISC on School Reopening
- Indigenous Community Business Fund

****NEW* Thursday, August 13 | 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 register for the session: <http://WWW.FNTN.CA>

To join by phone dial: 1 587 328 1099, code 98076478639#

To view the video conference: <https://fntn.zoom.us/join> Enter Meeting ID: 98076478639

Objectives

1. Medical Officer of Health Update
2. Current Priority Topic – Health and Safety of School Re-Entry
3. Community COVID-19 response Profile - Blood Tribe & Maskwacis
4. Time for additional questions from communities

Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca

CALL & MEETING SUMMARIES

No notable calls or meetings.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATES

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

- ***Federal Briefing on COVID-19 Response, August 4***
- ***COVID-19 Alert App***

- ***Alberta Update on COVID-19, August 12***
- ***Alberta Update on COVID-19, August 10***
- ***Alberta Update on Reopening Schools***

Federal Briefing on COVID-19 Response, August 11 & 12

[Press Conference](#)

[Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on August 12, 2020](#)

Dr. Tam and Dr. Njoo led a briefing on COVID-19 yesterday. In lieu of an in-person briefing, Dr. Tam also issued a statement highlighting key data. **Key Highlights:**

- As of yesterday, there are 120,000 cases of COVID-19. 8,987 deaths have been reported. 88% of confirmed cases have recovered. 4.5 million people have been tested, with an average of 43,000 tests being conducted daily. 1% of cases are returning positive for an average of 443 cases a day.
- Responding to news that Russia has approved a vaccine, Dr. Tam says she is confident in Health Canada's processes for approving a safe vaccine.
 - Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Njoo says it is unusual how fast the vaccine was approved and that there is no clear information about its safety or effectiveness.
- A COVID vaccine will be effective if Canadians are willing to get vaccinated so "community immunity" is realized. Dispensing and distributing the vaccine will be a challenge.
- Dr. Tam says if you've been exposed to COVID, and are asymptomatic, it is best to get tested around 4 to 8 days after your known exposure. If you get tested before or after that window, the likelihood your test result is incorrect increases.
- Nationally, significantly fewer new cases are being reported daily compared to the more intense weeks of COVID-19, from late March to June. The number of new deaths reported daily has remained low following a steep decline from the peak in early May.
- Canadians under the age of 40 years have comprised over 50% of cases in the previous two weeks. Since early July, the incidence of COVID-19 has remained the highest among individuals aged 20 to 29 years in particular, but is now on the decline.

Alberta Update on COVID-19, August 12

[Press Conference](#)

Today, Dr. Hinshaw provided another update about the province's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- Dr. Hinshaw is recommending that **all** Alberta teachers and school staff get tested before September, and regularly throughout the school year (though it is voluntary).
 - She says children should be tested only if they have symptoms or pre-existing conditions similar to COVID-19.
- Public health protocols are being developed if a staff member or student tests positive while in school. These are expected to be released soon.
- Dr. Hinshaw was asked why testing of teachers and staff will not be done at school? She says they are looking at "multiple options" for enhancing testing later on, but reiterated her recommendation for teachers to be tested *before* school starts.

- She also noted that NHL testing in Alberta is being done privately and, therefore, isn't burdening the public health testing done by AHS.
- Dr. Hinshaw says families should consider stopping visits with grandparents during the first month of school, or adapting how those visits happen by maintaining strict distancing and other safety measures.
- 1 in 7 Albertans have been tested for COVID-19 at least once. 316,000 tests have been done on asymptomatic people with 0.1 per cent returning positive.

Alberta Update on COVID-19, August 10

Press Conference

Dr. Hinshaw provided an update on Monday with regards to the province's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. **Key Highlights:**

- 257 additional cases were identified over the weekend, bringing the total number of active cases to 1,090. New cases were confirmed in all zones in Alberta. To date, 1,836 cases have an unknown exposure. 5 new deaths were reported over the weekend.
- There are 47 active cases and 897 recovered cases at continuing care facilities; 150 facility residents have died.
- Alberta is providing an additional \$48 million for people struggling with homelessness during the pandemic.
- Alberta has published a [re-entry tool kit](#) to prepare parents and students for back-to-school.
 - Dr. Hinshaw has been asked about reducing "[social cohorts](#)" when school re-opens.
- The province has also released a [risk assessment tool](#) to help you know if you are at a high risk of having a severe outcome if you contract COVID-19, and how to mitigate it.
- The Misericordia Hospital remains closed to new patients because of a COVID-19 outbreak.
- AHS is working closely with Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre to deal with an outbreak in the facility. An exemption was granted to allow additional staff to support the facility and ensure residents are properly cared for.
- There are two cases linked to Bright Path Richmond child care centre in Calgary. Contact tracing is happening and testing is being offered.
- Dr. Hinshaw recommends storing clean reusable masks in a sealed and clean storage bag and placing them in a dry area. You can launder with other items, and then dry thoroughly.

Some Alberta First Nations adopt separate back-to-school plans from province

CBC Calgary is reporting that some First Nations in Southern Alberta will have stricter back-to-school health measures in place than provincial schools. [Click here](#) for the full story.

Alberta Announces Additional COVID-19 Homelessness Supports

News Release

Alberta is providing an additional \$48 million for people struggling with homelessness during the pandemic. **Key highlights:**

- Funding will go to shelters and community centres to continue operating safe, health spaces for those experiencing homelessness.
- This funding is in addition to \$25 million announced in March 2020.
- Funding ensures expanded shelter spaces in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Lloydminster and Drayton Valley continue to operate.

IMPORTANT/USEFUL LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 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 for support.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Community-owned businesses can apply to the Aboriginal Business Investment fund (ABIF) for initiatives that “demonstrate social and economic benefits for their communities.” Alberta is providing up to \$500,000 in investments through this call for proposals. [Click here](#) for more information. The closing date for applications is September 30.
- 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.

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