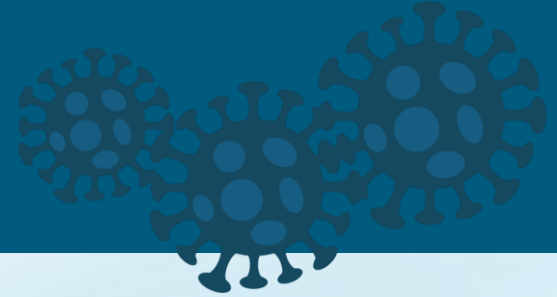


ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *May 26, 2020*



Updates

Importance of Testing:

Testing for COVID-19 is a key pillar to decrease the impact of this disease, particularly as we enter into the relaunch period. Testing enables early detection and effective isolation of cases and supports contact tracing and outbreak control. There are multiple strategies for testing in community e.g. drive-through testing and home visit testing and mobile testing. The most appropriate strategy is best determined by consulting with community nurses and Health Directors. The FNIHB Nursing and CDC team, including MOHs, are working with community health staff to ensure all communities can access testing locally. Testing is private and confidential and personal health information is not disclosed outside of the circle of care. Stigma and privacy concerns are two barriers that leadership can support Health staff in addressing.

First Nation Ceremonies:

Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller has made it clear that the Government of Canada will not prohibit First Nations ceremonies in the face of COVID-19, as the banning of such ceremonies in the past has been a dark stain on Canada's history. We recommend working with your knowledge keepers, ceremonial leaders and Elders to continue ceremonial practices in a way that considers the probable continued circulation of the COVID-19 virus in Alberta. Environmental Health Officers and Medical Officers of Health are here to support Nations with suggestions, safety protocols, and public health messaging as the Province of Alberta continues to have public health orders in place related to mass gatherings.

Question of the Day

Q: What supports are there for our members living off reserve?

A: In addition to the Indigenous Community Support Fund which earmarked \$15 million in support for Indigenous organizations that provide services to Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and off reserve, the government has committed \$75 million in new funding. This additional funding will support more community-based projects that address the critical needs of Indigenous populations during this crisis, including food security, mental health support services, and sanitation and protective equipment. It could also help with other needs, such as support for Elders, transportation, and educational materials for Indigenous children and youth. More information about this funding will be available soon.

National Information

[Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities](#)

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

[Use of non-medical cloth masks or face coverings in community settings](#)

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: hopeforwellness.ca



Alberta Cases:

as of May 25 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 25 – 19 new cases)	6,879
AB Recovered Cases	5,979
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	40
On-reserve Recovered Cases	28
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,764
Central Zone Confirmed	99
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	524
North Zone Confirmed	235
South Zone Confirmed	1,233
Unknown Confirmed	24
Deaths due to COVID-19	138

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

FNHMA launches Covid-19 sharing resource – InfoPoint

The First Nations Health Managers Association ([FNHMA](#)) has launched its newest initiative – InfoPoint, an information sharing initiative developed for First Nations health managers. InfoPoint is a help line where First Nations Health Managers may call if they have questions or are searching for resources around COVID-19. They can be contacted by phone at 1-855-446-2719 or by email at InfoPoint@fnhma.ca. More information available [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



Useful Links

AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

Telehealth Session Thursday:

- There will be a Telehealth Session on May 28th from 1:30 –3:00 PM. Visit the First Nation portal at www.fntn.ca to register. FNIHB staff will be available for questions. Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca

There will be no All Chiefs call this week. Minister Miller has committed to meeting with Treaty 6, 7 and 8 separately. The calendar appointment for the meetings will be sent out shortly.