

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



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.