

# COVID-19 Status

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## OCTOBER 19, 2020

In last week's update, we shared some concerning figures from the Edmonton Zone. This week we can report the zone's recent spikes in new cases levelled off during the week ending Oct. 14, when the zone had an average of 130 new daily cases, down from 135 the previous week, a four per cent decrease. Edmonton Zone now accounts for 55 per cent of all active cases in the province, a decrease from 60 per cent last week. However, Edmonton Zone still accounted for half (51 per cent) of all new cases in the province this past week and recorded 164 new cases yesterday.

Unfortunately, across Alberta, the numbers continue to rise. The average number of daily new cases for the week ending on Oct. 14 is 257, compared to 213 cases the previous week, a 21 per cent increase. During this period, individuals ages 20 to 49 years accounted for more than half (55 per cent) of all new cases. More than a third of new cases (38 per cent) had an unknown source of transmission. There are currently 2,738 active cases of COVID-19 in the province.

Meanwhile, there are currently more people in the hospital with the virus — 101 — than at any point during this pandemic. Of those patients, 16 are in an intensive care unit (ICU), which is six fewer than the highest number reported during this pandemic.

Other notable COVID-19-related information:

- As of Oct. 14, a total of 21,443 cases of COVID-19 have occurred in Alberta and a total of 974 individuals have been hospitalized, which amounts to 4.5 individuals for every 100 cases. In all, 18,417 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19.
- Seven Albertans passed away between Oct. 8 and Oct. 14. We extend our condolences to the families of these individuals, and to all who have lost loved ones during this time. In total, since the start of the pandemic in this province, 288 Albertans have died from COVID-19. Please note: Two deaths reported last week as COVID-related have been determined to be not COVID-related and removed from the total death count.
- In the past week, 111,189 COVID-19 tests were completed, an average of 15,884 per day. The daily positivity rate for the past seven days has remained under two per cent. As of Oct. 14, a total of 1.58 million tests have been conducted.
- As of Oct. 15, **AHS** has confirmed 547 individuals with COVID-19 were present at schools while infectious. Currently, 301 out of 2,415 schools in the province have reported an individual has attended their school while infectious.

## Things You Need to Know

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### COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers — The Latest Numbers

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers in the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#). These statistics provide the total number of **AHS**, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) employees and physicians tested, including a breakdown of the number of positive tests and those who have been confirmed to have been exposed in the workplace.

As of Oct. 14:

- 55,485 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those, 673 (or 1.21 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 449 employees who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 83 (or 18.5 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 224 employees who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.
- 3,673 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those, 45 (or 1.23 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 37 physicians who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, three (or 8.1 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional eight physicians who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.

For more information, see the [AHS](#) Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [infographic](#) and [dashboard](#).

#### **COVID-19 Daily Fit For Work Screening Update**

[AHS](#) has updated the COVID-19 daily fit for work screening documents. Specific screening questions for staff working at continuing care facilities (hospice, long-term care, designated supportive living or congregate living) and visitors to continuing care facilities have been updated to meet requirements from the latest Chief Medical Officer of Health [orders](#). The online fit for work screening tool can be found at [ahs.ca/fitforwork](https://ahs.ca/fitforwork). Information related to screening for people visiting residents and patients is available at [ahs.ca/visitation](https://ahs.ca/visitation).

Please continue to check the latest updates on COVID-19 daily fit for work screening by visiting [ahs.ca/fitforwork](https://ahs.ca/fitforwork). We all need to do our part to create and maintain a safe and healthy workplace to provide quality and safe patient care. Simple actions — including completing your [fit for work screening](#) every time before coming into work, staying home when sick, [physical distancing](#), [washing your hands](#) regularly, and [continuous masking](#) — help keep everyone safe. We must all be diligent in modelling safe work practices, such as adhering to [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) measures.

Leaders are responsible for ensuring their staff complete screening before they arrive at work. Options for fit for work screening are available through our [COVID-19 Daily Fit for Work Screening Protocol](#).

Talk to your leader if you have questions about fit for work screening at your site.

#### **Verna's Weekly Video Message — [AHS](#) prepares for Connect Care's Wave 2 launch**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we do our work at [AHS](#), but it has not stopped our work — especially major projects, such as [Connect Care](#).

Connect Care provides healthcare teams a more complete picture of a patient’s health history, access to consistent information on best practices, resources at their fingertips, and the ability to communicate with patients and each other more easily.

And thanks to the hard work of countless people, the first wave of Connect Care launched at the University of Alberta campus and other sites in the Edmonton Zone on Nov. 3, 2019.

With Wave 1 in place, Connect Care has been an important tool in our COVID-19 response. Its flexibility allows us to adapt it to support the pandemic in a variety of ways, such as expanding virtual support for patients.

Wave 2 launches on Oct. 24, and will include suburban Edmonton sites, as well as the connected lab and diagnostic imaging locations.

With me (Verna) today to talk more about Connect Care and the Wave 2 launch are:

- Heather Durstling, Executive Director, Suburban Hospitals Edmonton Zone.
- Judith Hockney, Senior Operating Officer, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Lois Hole Hospital for Women and Sturgeon Community Hospital.
- Barb Kathol, Senior Program Officer, Connect Care.
- Dr. Stuart Rosser, Interim Chief Medical Information Officer.

Heather, Judith, Barb and Stuart [talk about what we learned during Wave 1, what we have adapted for Wave 2, and what Connect Care successes we’ve achieved so far.](#)



# AHS Review Update

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## **AHS** holds town halls on Implementation Plan release

The **AHS** [Review Implementation Plan](#) was released by Alberta Health.

The goal of the **AHS** Review is to find more efficient ways to deliver safe, quality patient care and to ensure we have the resources we need in the places we need them the most.

## Be Well - Be Kind

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### Sharing the Love

#### *Alberta senator says thanks*

Hospital workers across Alberta have garnered a bouquet of thanks from a Canadian senator for their tireless efforts during the pandemic.

“I want to thank and acknowledge the front-line workers in the hospitals throughout this province,” says Alberta senator Doug Black, who has sent his annual [Senator’s Contribution Award](#) certificates to hospitals across Alberta for their outstanding contributions to our well-being.

In an accompanying letter, Black adds: “During the COVID-19 pandemic, you and your colleagues have stepped up to take care of our community. You put yourselves at risk to help the sick in our province and did so without hesitation.

“You displayed heroism and courage and made sacrifices to protect your friends and neighbours. While this is nothing new for you — our dedicated front-line workers — it is important to recognize the tremendous community contributions that you have made and continue to make.”

Canmore General Hospital, one of the award recipients, appreciates the recognition. “To get a letter like this, to recognize what we are doing — it's very rewarding and just that pat on the back that we really need as we go into wintertime,” says Barb Shellian, Director of Rural Health in the Calgary Zone.

#### *Gratitude from Albertans*

*“My father was admitted with dementia to McConnell Place West (in Edmonton) in March of this year at the height of COVID-19. From Day 1, all the staff at McConnell Place West have made the stay for Dad the best it could be despite the extraordinary circumstances COVID-19 created for them. Furthermore, after the first month of Dad's stay at McConnell Place West, it was realized that Dad required a procedure which, in turn, would require two weeks of isolation afterwards. The staff at McConnell Place West not only facilitated the appointments necessary to prepare for the procedure, they met the challenge of Dad's isolation with grace, kindness and competence. Additionally, every effort continues to be made by McConnell Place*

*West staff to help us visit Dad in these tough times, including staff altering their shifts. More recently, my father has experienced more health challenges that McConnell Place West staff continue to respond to in a timely and very capable manner, doing everything they can to allow for his care to occur on their site. We are very appreciative of the exceptional care provided by the staff at McConnell Place West.”*

— Curtis C.

*“On March 16, I suffered a subarachnoid brain hemorrhage three days postpartum. I spent two weeks in ICU and five days in neurology — 19 days total where I was given the best care I could have possibly imagined. My son, Lucas is now seven months old today and, because of all the staff at Foothills Medical Centre, I am able to be a mom, wife, daughter. Thank you will never be enough.”*

— Ashley Oakley

### **Wrapping up — Pandemic can't stop us from looking to the future**

We have a special group of people here at Alberta Health Services. This week, our teams across the province continued to respond to the biggest public health crisis of our lifetimes, more than seven months after the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the province. We know this has been a difficult and draining time for all of us, personally and professionally, and the work involved in keeping Albertans healthy and safe is consuming. And yet this week we're reminded that a global pandemic cannot stop our teams from planning and preparing for a better future, and it cannot stop our people from doing what's needed to evolve into a higher-performing, sustainable healthcare system. Next weekend — on Oct. 24, to be precise — AHS is planning to launch Wave 2 of Connect Care. This was also the week the AHS Review Implementation Plan was released and, together, we continue the work that will help AHS find more efficient ways to deliver safe, quality patient care. You amaze us every day. Thank you, as always, for all that you do.

As always, with gratitude and appreciation.

**\*\*\*Please share this information as appropriate\*\*\***

**\*\*\*For Alberta Health Services – Indigenous specific questions/concerns please email [ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca](mailto:ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca) \*\*\***

**\*\*\*For Indigenous Services Canada please email [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca) \*\*\***

*Josipa Pavicic on behalf of AHS - Provincial Indigenous Health Hub*

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