

# COVID-19 Status

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## **April 2, 2020**

We have confirmed 117 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 871. Of the total cases, 94 are suspected to be through community transmission from an unknown source, 62 have been hospitalized and 20 have required intensive care. Currently, there are 29 cases in hospital with 13 admitted to ICU. 41 cases have been confirmed in continuing care and seniors' facilities. The number of recovered cases is now at 142, which is 16 per cent of total infections.

Sadly, we have also had two more deaths, both were males in their 80s – one in Calgary Zone and one in North Zone. This continues to be very difficult news to share. Our hearts are with the families of these men and the healthcare workers who are also affected by these losses.

We are reminded again today that we must take our role as individuals in this crisis, seriously. The numbers we see in these statistics are only a sampling of the illness that is circulating in Alberta. With COVID-19 now confirmed in 871 Albertans, and a growing number of cases each day, we must do all we can to reduce spread. Now is not the time to relax our measures and protocols. There is no vaccine or proven treatment for COVID-19. Our best defence against this virus is through the simple, proven actions we continue to outline: stay home if you're sick. Clean your hands regularly with an alcohol-based rub or soap and warm water. Practice physical distancing while embracing social connectedness. And continue to find ways to support those who need our help.

## Things You Need to Know

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### **Labs Lead the Way across Canada**

Today's number of confirmed cases may seem like a substantial increase over yesterday's update, and it certainly is cause for concern. We also know that our provincial labs were able to catch up a large backlog of tests in the past 24 hours, related to a shortage of reagent needed for testing, which has now been restocked. As a result, more than 4,500 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, approximately 98 per cent of which were negative. Our labs are now back to working at full capacity.

We continue to lead all provinces in volume of testing and we are among the highest tests per capita in the world. We are so grateful for the expertise and skill of our Alberta Precision Laboratory (APL) teams.

One of the reasons Alberta has led the nation in testing for COVID-19 is because we have terrific partners who have stepped up to help, in big and small ways. On behalf of AHS and APL, we want to express our gratitude for the collaboration Dynalife has displayed during these difficult times.

### **Wisdom Council Support**

Working with our Indigenous partners is vitally important to reducing the spread of COVID-19 in communities. We recently received a letter of support from AHS's Wisdom Council, which has representation from Elders and Indigenous communities across Alberta. We value the council's input and collaboration as we work together to address the unique needs of Indigenous people in Alberta.

The Wisdom Council is committed to sharing public health messaging to encourage their populations to stay home as much as possible and to practice physical distancing to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

Below is an excerpt from the letter we received. We are so grateful for their prayers and partnership, and appreciative of the acknowledgement of the work our teams are doing to care for all Albertans.

*As the number of confirmed cases continue to rise we must keep in mind to stay grounded in prayer. This pandemic we are experiencing is scary and we are afraid of not only the virus but the impact it is having on our Indigenous communities/rural and urban communities. There is fear and uncertainty as to what the outcome of this pandemic will have on our society. It is the unknown that makes us afraid but we must remain strong.*

*As the Chair and Co-Chair for the Wisdom Council we continue to support all physicians, nurses, healthcare workers, and volunteers that are working hard to ease the burden of this illness.*

*We continue to pray for the Wisdom Council, Dr. Verna Yiu and her executive team, the Indigenous Health Program staff and all Alberta Health Services health care staff. Take care of you and your families.*

*Trust and have faith in your prayers we will overcome.*

*In the Spirit of Health and Reconciliation,*

*Casey Eagle Speaker, Wisdom Council Chair and Wally Sinclair, Co-Chair*

### **Non-Urgent Ambulatory Clinic Visits**

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, all non-urgent AHS ambulatory (outpatient) clinic visits will be postponed as of April 1, until after April 30, 2020. AHS will re-evaluate the status of the pandemic in mid-April to determine if extension of this timeline is required. Essential services and urgent patient visits will continue to be accommodated.

Patients will be contacted directly by AHS if their visits are being postponed. Referring providers will be contacted directly by AHS if their patient's appointment has been postponed. Postponed visits will be rescheduled once COVID-19 activity begins to decline. New ambulatory services referrals will be reviewed to determine urgency.

### **Health Link Update**

Health Link in both Calgary and Edmonton continue to support Albertans every day with information and care advice about COVID-19 and other health concerns. Yesterday, Health Link answered a total of 5,903 calls: 2,708 in Calgary and 3,195 in Edmonton, which is three times the typical call volume prior to the COVID-19 response in Alberta.

The Health Link team has been doing incredible work to manage the high volumes of calls coming in and reduce wait times for callers. In addition to answering the 811 calls, the expanded Health Link team has been contacting everyone who completes the online assessment form, including over 4100 HCW to date, to determine if testing is needed and then referring them to the Assessment Centres.

## **In the Zones**

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### **Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – Central Teamwork making all the difference**

To help create additional bed space in our hospitals and care centres, Seniors Health has been working tirelessly to relocate patients from acute care spaces. As part of their efforts, they were able to relocate 63 patients in the course of a week -- the majority being relocated over just three days. This is an unprecedented number of moves carried out by discharge planners, the placement office, receiving sites and our partners in acute care.

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**Handheld device to support testing in rural, remote communities:**

Link: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/releases/2020/Page15450.aspx>

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**Provincial COVID Psychosocial Community Task Group Update:**

Shaw Connectivity Subsidy: Shaw shared that they are supporting a program offered federally, that subsidizes internet access to families, who access the maximum benefits of the family childcare benefit. The program is called Connecting Families. See links below.

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/111.nsf/eng/home>

<https://www.connecting-families.ca/welcome>

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Thank you and stay safe.

**\*\*\*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 Nadine McRee*