

## COVID-19 Status

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### **JUNE 4, 2020**

We have confirmed 19 new cases of COVID-19 in Albertans over the past 24 hours. To date, the provincial total confirmed cases of COVID-19 is 7,076. Of the total people who've been confirmed with COVID-19, we suspect 671 cases may have been acquired in the community from an unknown source (these cases are not included in outbreak data). Currently, there are 48 people in hospital, with six in an ICU. 6,587 people with COVID-19 have now recovered.

Two additional deaths occurred in the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 145 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19. We stand alongside those who are grieving these losses today. We know they were loved and valued people and we extend our condolences to their families and loved ones, who are facing loss during these especially difficult times.

4,997 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 271,298 since the start of the pandemic.

## Things You Need to Know

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### **Asymptomatic Testing Video**

AHS is now encouraging every Albertan to get tested for COVID-19, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms or not. By getting tested, you're helping AHS and the province better understand the extent of the disease. This supports AHS and the Alberta government in monitoring and planning as Alberta re-opens. To show how easy the process is, [AHS Communications put together this video](#).



### New COVID-19 Expedited Testing

Alberta Precision Laboratories testing and results times have been excellent, with routine turnaround times between 12 and 24 hours, but there may be circumstances when quicker testing and results are helpful. However, expedited testing with turnaround times less than six hours is a limited resource. Please see the [following guidance](#) for clinicians and laboratory staff intended to clarify when expedited testing is most likely to have an impact on clinical management, resource utilization, and follow-up actions (such as rapid response activities to an outbreak). Please share this information with your teams, as appropriate.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Tip of the Day

The daily series - *PPE Tip of the Day* – features quick and simple reminders you can take forward into your practice, from shift to shift.

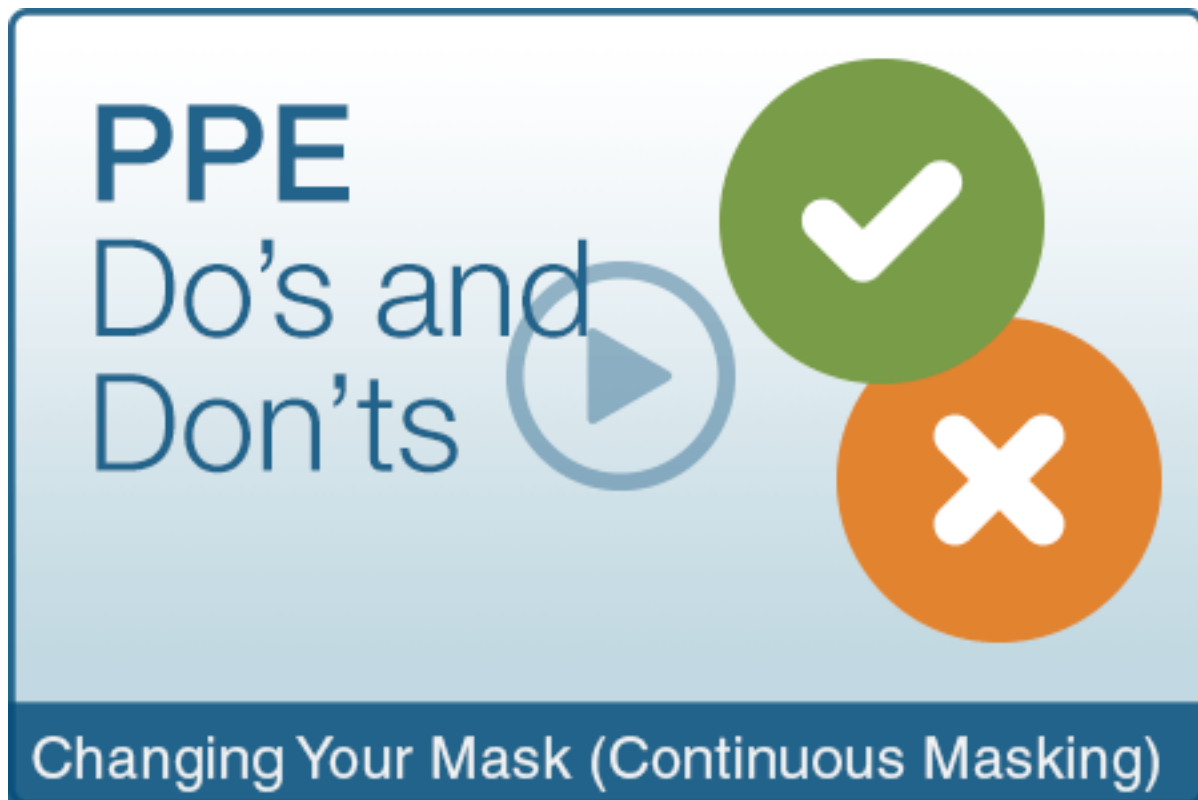
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#### Changing Your Mask (Continuous Masking):

When wearing your [mask continuously](#), be sure to change it when the mask becomes wet or dirty, and dispose of it when you go for meals. [Wash your hands](#) immediately, before and after, [removing your mask](#). [Remember to discard your mask, gloves and other disposable PPE in appropriate receptacles after use.](#)

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To see previous PPE Tips of the Day, please visit the PPE Tips archive, [here](#).



In the Zones

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## **Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – South**

While the work of some frontline healthcare workers is often in the spotlight, public health Inspectors are working hard behind the scenes to prevent disease transmission in various settings.

Since March, the South Zone Environmental Public Health (EPH) team has seen the creation of a number of task forces and strike teams assigned to meet the objectives of keeping our population safe. These strike teams visit grocery stores and essential businesses to help them remain safely open during public health restrictions, and supported them with risk-mitigation measures. They work with seasonal agricultural workers, consult with day care operators as they re-open, and visit Hutterite colonies, to provide support so measures are in place to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

The EPH taskforce is very active across the zone. Their work has included meeting with congregate care operators to ensure outbreak management measures are available and so they can mobilize quickly should the need arise. Supporting shelters and group homes is another area of their work, to provide information and management for infection prevention. They meet with drinking water operators and regulators to put emergency response plans in place for drinking water incidents during COVID-19. They make site visits at large processing facilities to minimize the impact of COVID-19 to the industry.

Taskforce work requires ongoing communication and collaboration with EPH partners, to ensure co-ordinated efforts and accountabilities.

“It is very inspiring to see the different teams come together to accomplish tasks, including teams that we may not normally engage with,” says Pam Hodgkinson, Director of EPH in the South Zone. “Emergency management is about leveraging relationships, which strengthens team work to accomplish a ton of work in a fast-paced response.”

The work in EPH scans a broad variety of areas, but the principles are consistent for all - to establish controls in the environment to prevent transmission, educate operators and clients, and work collectively to prevent illness.

“During a pandemic, we don’t change the work to do, but we do more of it, in a shorter time span,” Hodgkinson says. “Each day, it is impressive to see the variety of inquiries EPH receives, the diversity of the work and the positive approach our team has been utilizing to accomplish the tasks.

“This requires a strong team, from our administrative support who receive and triage calls and ensure the supply chain is intact so our staff are protected; to the front-line inspectors who are in the community working with operators; and the managers who are supporting staff, while balancing the demands of Emergency Operation Centres. As the COVID-19 related work takes on new direction in the coming months, EPH will continue to refine the role and work with our teams and partners to minimize the burden of illness to the health system.”

We send out heartfelt gratitude to these EPH heroes.



Public Health Inspector Subhendra Dharampaul at Cardston Save on Foods with a member of their security team.



Public Health Inspectors Ken Ast, left, and Gail Williamson, right, with the operator of Cardston's Save on Foods.

## Be Well - Be Kind

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### **Mental Wellness Moment — Cannabis safety during COVID-19**

In this Mental Wellness Moment, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell provides advice on how to monitor cannabis use while spending more time at home during COVID-19. He explains the [risks of sharing cannabis and consuming edibles, and corrects misinformation that cannabis can be used as a treatment for coronavirus.](#)



### **We Continue to Support our Communities during COVID-19**

Thank you for your dedication to the COVID-19 response. Due to this pandemic, many families and individuals are in even greater need of support. By working together, we can help those that need it most.

If you are interested in [donating to a COVID-19 relief fund in your community](#), you can do so through the [United Way](#), or one of our [69 foundation partners](#) who raise funds for healthcare across Alberta. Thank you for all you are doing to fight for and support your families, patients, and all Albertans.

### **Celebrities Celebrating AHS**

We continue to receive messages of support for AHS staff and physicians from celebrities in our local communities and beyond.

“This is a message of gratitude and love,” says Brazilian cowboy [Filipe Masetti Leite](#), the honorary Calgary Stampede parade marshal for 2020. When he rides into Calgary in a month, Masetti Leite will become the third person in the world to cross the Americas on horseback. “I’m dedicating the final stretch of my journey to you. You guys are heroes without capes.”



Follow AHS social media for more celebrity shout outs.

### **Shout Out**

AHS staff have not only been resilient and dedicated throughout this pandemic, they've also managed to be energetic and entertaining in these challenging times. Foothills Medical Centre's Allied Health team has provided [weekly dance routines at the site to keep their colleagues smiling, no matter the circumstances](#). Thank you for finding some fun in your day and for sharing it across your site and AHS.



### **Community Acts of Kindness**

Zuri is eight and the daughter of two AHS nurses in Central Zone. Over the months of this pandemic, she has been inspired in her words “to grow and be a good person someday”. This aspiration comes from the dedication she’s observed in her parents and frontline teams across the province. She is passionate about singing and hopes one day to become a “singing nurse” for AHS. [She’s dedicated this song to those working hard to protect Albertans and especially to all AHS staff.](#) Thank you, Zuri, for helping us rise up. We can’t wait to have you on our team!





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Today, more than ever, we see how important it is for us to stand together, united in our work and our appreciation for each other. We know the days and weeks of this pandemic have been long and arduous. We know that AHS teams and all Albertans have experienced stress and pressure connected to the changes and uncertainty of this pandemic. As we look around the country, North America and the world at the events unfolding around us, we want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of kindness, especially in these trying times. Support each other and your loved ones, and practice empathy and compassion. Don't forget how much we value and respect you for who you are as members of the AHS team and as human beings.

*Please Note: This message has been modified from the AHS Daily Updates.*

**\*\*\*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*

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