

COVID-19 Status

MAY 12, 2020

We have confirmed 47 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 6,300. Of the total cases, we suspect 682 cases may be the result of community transmission, 264 have been hospitalized and 52 have been in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Currently, there are 73 cases in hospital, with 12 in an ICU. 4,659 cases have now recovered.

2,864 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 188,157 since the start of the pandemic.

We must report the sad news of two additional deaths in the past 24 hours. Our condolences are extended to those who have been affected by these losses, including family, friends and the healthcare workers who were providing their care. The provincial total remains at 117 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19

Please note, two previously reported deaths have now been determined to be unrelated to COVID-19, and therefore the data has been adjusted to reflect this correction.

Things You Need to Know

Asymptomatic Testing in the Calgary Zone

As we continue to consider emerging evidence and our surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in Alberta, today, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced a one-week asymptomatic testing project for residents of the Calgary Zone. Effective immediately, anyone who is working outside of the home in Calgary Zone is eligible for testing for COVID-19, even if they do not have symptoms. To access testing, those eligible can go to ahs.ca/Covid and complete the online assessment, for referral.

The goal is to complete 1,000 referrals a day for the duration of this one-week enhanced surveillance project. This will allow us to have a significant sampling of the Calgary Zone population to analyze, and better understand the prevalence of COVID-19 infection among those who do not have symptoms.

Resuming Diagnostic Imaging and some Ambulatory Care Services

Over the past week, we've resumed an estimated 1,000 non-urgent, scheduled day surgeries and procedures across the zones, and this couldn't have been done without the help of so many of our teams across AHS. Thank you for the significant work and effort you contributed to make these surgeries and procedures happen safely.

AHS and Covenant Health are also resuming some ambulatory care and diagnostic imaging (DI) services beginning this week, starting today, May 11.

The incremental re-launch of ambulatory care and DI services is being done at the same time as the re-opening of other healthcare services, including some scheduled, non-urgent day surgeries, which resumed May 4.

During the pandemic, we reduced ambulatory care patient visits across the zones by up to 60 per cent, which was supported by an increase in virtual patient visits. This was done to protect patients, staff and physicians, and to minimize risk of transmission. Re-launching ambulatory services is expected to increase activity of these services by approximately 20 to 40 per cent.

Physicians will be asked to review and triage patients, with the preferred assessment completed through virtual appointment. For patients unable to be adequately assessed virtually, we will increase our ability to do face-to-face appointments, while following all infection prevention and control, and proper personal protective equipment procedures.

Patients attending a scheduled, face-to-face appointment, appointment will receive a pre-screening phone call to assess fitness to attend appointments and will be given instruction for attendance based on provincial public health guidelines. Patients attending appointments for ambulatory care or DI will also need to follow the AHS visitor guidelines.

Decisions on which exams, procedures and appointments will proceed are being made at the zone level. Patients will be either contacted by a clinic or instructed to use online assessment tools. DI will coordinate exam booking in each zone, contacting Albertans currently on wait-lists in the coming days to reschedule their exams.

The safety of staff and patients is of utmost importance. To ensure we maintain adequate resources over and above the requirements for COVID-19, we will conduct weekly assessments of the service resumption plans and adapt as required. We will maintain all current COVID-19 public health orders and infection prevention and control standards and processes, including physical distancing and visitor guidelines. At all times we will continue to reserve sufficient capacity to respond to the pandemic.

Thank you again for doing all you can to provide high-quality care and support to patients and families every day.

National Nursing Week

Our ability to work together is what helps us make a difference in the lives of patients, families and communities. Never has this been truer than during Alberta's COVID-19 response. Your commitment to caring for Albertans, no matter the circumstance, is worthy of celebrating, especially during a time like [National Nursing Week](#).

Across the world and here at home, people are acknowledging your strength and courage, and the incredible role healthcare teams play during a global pandemic. We continue to receive an outpouring of support from Albertans, including hand-drawn pictures and cards of thanks, generous donations and signage recognizing our healthcare heroes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared 2020 the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife to advocate for the professions globally and celebrate Florence Nightingale's 200th anniversary. The many challenges of 2020 have serendipitously highlighted the valuable role of these skilled professionals, as well as their hard work, commitment and compassion.

We're filled with pride to see the passion and dedication of staff and physicians to care for Albertans impacted by COVID-19 and to keep Albertans safe and healthy during the pandemic.

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.

Mask Use:

Do not carry around soiled masks in your hands while engaged in other activities (speaking on the phone, talking with others, etc). Immediately dispose of soiled items and [wash your hands](#) for 30 seconds.

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

Supporting Alberta's Businesses through Re-launch

To support businesses reopening during stage one of Alberta's phased relaunch, the Government of Alberta is launching a new resource to help them keep their staff and customers safer.

The new alberta.ca/bizconnect webpage will provide business owners with information on health and safety guidelines for general workplaces and sector-specific guidelines for those able to open in stage one of re-launch, to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The site outlines guidance on public health orders for many services and businesses, including homeless shelters, non-essential health services and disability service providers.

More information is available, [here](#).

In the Zones

Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – Edmonton

Amazing work has been done since the start of COVID-19 from AHS workers at every level. With that in mind, the Edmonton Zone ZEOC has come up with a way to recognize those who have been doing outstanding work in the zone with the #COVIDLegend Awards.

Colleagues have the opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals who go above and beyond in the workplace. Recognition could include individuals who:

- Do something small that made a big difference
- Spread joy and optimism or bring their best “go-getter” attitude
- Keep calm in the eye of the storm
- Bring their best sense of humour

The awards will take place weekly, with the winner being announced at the ZEOC Edmonton Huddle. Winners will receive a signed #COVIDLegend certificate and well-deserved bragging rights.

Be Well - Be Kind

Shout Out

Sharing the Love for Nurses during National Nursing Week

Today, as we celebrate National Nursing Week, we have a dedicated song just for you. The song, [*"Your Nurse"*](#) is by Susan French, a registered nurse at Kelowna General Hospital. She was born and raised in Calgary, and her mother, Dianne Dyer, a registered nurse and provincial initiatives consultant with provincial Addiction and Mental Health at AHS, wanted to share her special song with all of our AHS nurses. Susan hopes this helps inspire nurses in the great work they do every day.



Surgery Re-launch Appreciation

Relaunching non-urgent scheduled day surgeries has required significant effort across AHS. Part of this effort included reviewing multiple resumption plans from Chartered Surgical Facilities (CSF), and ensuring they are aligned with AHS policies and procedures to ensure consistent care and support for Albertans during the pandemic.

Community Acts of Kindness

Rosemarie Bailleul knew her family would be coming to visit her at the Royal Alexandra Hospital on Mother's Day, since they asked where they could stand outside so she could see them from her hospital room. But it might not have been exactly the kind of visit she was expecting!

When she got the call to come to the window, she was delighted to look outside and find that her two daughters, two granddaughters and her grandson had dressed up in inflatable dinosaur costumes. The stunt brought smiles and laughter to not only the Spruce Grove grandmother, but also to nurses and healthcare staff on the unit. Being away from her family is challenging at this time, but it is a Mother's Day gift she will never forget.

The picture below provides a snapshot of the event, but the video of the visit, which includes Rosemarie's commentary in reaction to the prehistoric antics, is even more entertaining. Take a look, [here](#).



Once again, we want to offer our appreciation to nurses and nursing teams across our organization. Your work is the foundation of the care we provide. We want to celebrate you especially this week to recognize your incredibly valuable contributions to AHS.

With some restrictions being lifted, it's more important than ever to maintain the health protocols which are now part of our everyday practice, including routine hand-washing, physical distancing when at work or in public, proper use of PPE, and most importantly, staying home when we're sick. These are the steps that will prevent restrictions from being reinstated over the coming weeks and months. By working together, we have been able to flatten the curve as hoped and keep more Albertans safe from the spread of COVID-19. We are so proud that our teams have led the way in these efforts.

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 ***

*****For Indigenous Services Canada please**

email sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca ***

Josipa Pavicic on behalf of Nadine McRee

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