

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Daily Update for Chiefs: *April 23, 2020*



## Updates

### Further Guidance on Funerals and Wakes:

It is difficult to lose a loved one under normal circumstances, and is more difficult given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. We understand that the need to gather, to recognize, to mourn, to support each other, is human. Not being able to have a funeral, memorial or other traditional/cultural ceremony following the death of a loved one, can be heartbreaking.

Funerals and wakes, however, like all other public gatherings, are very risky at this time and should be limited to less than 15 people, regardless if they are indoors or outdoors. Even small gatherings can increase the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus. It can be particularly dangerous for Elders and people with pre-existing medical conditions to attend events such as funerals and wakes. It is essential that public health directives regarding public gatherings and physical distancing continue to be followed under all circumstances.

The following guidance outlines how to ensure COVID-19 is not transmitted during this time.

- Consider the use of virtual technologies in place of in-person services and gatherings.
- Limit the number of people involved in the ceremony to only members of the immediate family/same household.
- Physical distancing of all individuals should be at least 6 feet at all times.
- Wear a homemade facial covering that covers your mouth and nose.
- Individuals who are ill, or have high-risk medical conditions must not attend. Friends, family and other visitors should not touch or kiss the body.
- Recognizing the sacredness of ceremony and the use of ceremonial objects, we recommend that ceremonial objects not be shared amongst participants.
- Maintain a list of all participants, in the event that tracing needs to be done.

## Question of the Day

**Q:** How can someone care for a relative who has been diagnosed and is isolating at home?

**A:** Limit Contact: Only one healthy person should provide care and personal items should not be shared with the ill person.

Protect Yourself: People with higher risk of serious illness should not provide care. The person providing care should wear a mask, eye protection and use disposable gloves and wash their hands frequently, using disposable paper towels.

Keep your environment clean: Throw out used medical masks and gloves in a secure container, wash contaminated laundry with hot water, clean and disinfect surfaces regularly.

Monitor yourself for symptoms: Ensure you self-isolate at home for 14 days if in contact with an ill person and if you develop symptoms, isolate and contact your local public health authority immediately. In Alberta, you should contact 811, your physician or your local Health Center for further guidance.

More information on this from the Public Health Agency of Canada can be found [here](#)

## National Information

[COVID-19: First Nations Community Guide on Accessing Additional Supports](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#)



## Alberta Cases:

as of April 22 12:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (April 22 – 306 new cases)</b>	<b>3401</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations on-reserve Cases</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Calgary Zone</b>	<b>2396</b>
<b>Central Zone</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>North Zone</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>South Zone</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>66</b>

## Breakfast Club of Canada

Food security is a long-standing issue for many communities and has been made even more critical by the current situation. If you are seeking additional funding for your food distribution activities, the Breakfast Club of Canada is issuing special grants for community organizations to help ensure children and families have access to food during the crisis. To learn more about their COVID Special Grants, visit: <https://www.breakfastclubcanada.org/covid-special-grant-application/>

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS COVID FAQs

- [novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) FAQs for Public](#)

### Virtual Town Hall Session TODAY

- FNHMA will be offering a weekly Virtual Town Hall Session every Thursday at 11am. Live stream at [www.ihtoday.ca](http://www.ihtoday.ca). Questions can be submitted to [fnhma@ihtoday.ca](mailto:fnhma@ihtoday.ca)

### Physical Distancing Animated Video

- [Physical distancing: Stop the spread of COVID-19 in Indigenous communities](#) Also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

## 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](mailto:Dean.Janvier@gmail.com) or 780-545-6655.