



Staff and physicians at the Royal Alexandra Hospital wore red for the National Day of Recognition of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Gender Diverse.

COVID-19 Status

We have confirmed 57 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 5,893. Of the total cases, we suspect 728 cases may be from unknown exposure (acquired in the community from unknown sources), 243 have been hospitalized and 52 have been in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Currently, there are 87 cases in hospital, with 20 in an ICU. To date, 3,219 cases have now recovered, which is more than half of the confirmed cases in our province.

There have been two additional deaths reported in the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 106 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19. We extend our condolences to anyone affected by the loss of these Albertans, including their families, loved ones and the healthcare providers who were caring for them.

2,293 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 167,015 since the start of the pandemic.

Things You Need to Know

\$4.5-million Investment in New Lab Technology and Equipment to Increase Testing Capacity

We are pleased to share that Albertans will benefit from [increased COVID-19 testing capacity](#), thanks to new technology and equipment purchased by Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) through a \$4.5-million investment from the Government of Alberta, AHS and the Calgary Health Trust.

Announced today, APL is purchasing additional equipment necessary to expand testing capacity. The capacity for COVID-19 testing performed in Alberta will increase to 16,000 tests daily, up from the current daily maximum of 7,000, as this new equipment is integrated into the province's existing testing systems.

Currently, testing is primarily done in two APL Public Health Laboratory locations in Edmonton and Calgary. The new equipment will be located at sites around the province. Testing continues to be a critical piece of Alberta's COVID-19 response. It provides data used to monitor the spread of the virus and to inform strategies designed to slow its spread. As of May 1, APL has completed more than 167,000 tests, making Alberta a national and international leader in COVID-19 testing.

We want to give thanks to our partners, Alberta Health and the Calgary Health Trust, for their support. The Calgary Health Trust's \$1.7-million donation toward this initiative is part of their [Clean Hands, Giving Hearts COVID-19 Response Fund](#), which is raising funds to support Calgary's response to COVID-19.

Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures Look Up Tool Now Available

As we continue to work to ensure that all staff have the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and guidance they need to feel safe, and protect themselves and their patients, we have developed an online tool to support the decision-making process around Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs), and related PPE requirements.

This new AGMP look-up tool is now live and available at ahs.ca/covidppe, or directly at ahs.ca/AGMP. Including a list of all procedures currently considered AGMPs, the tool provides links to related guidance which reflects current evidence. This list will evolve, as it remains under constant review, in order to consider emerging information and evidence.

PPE Tip of the Day

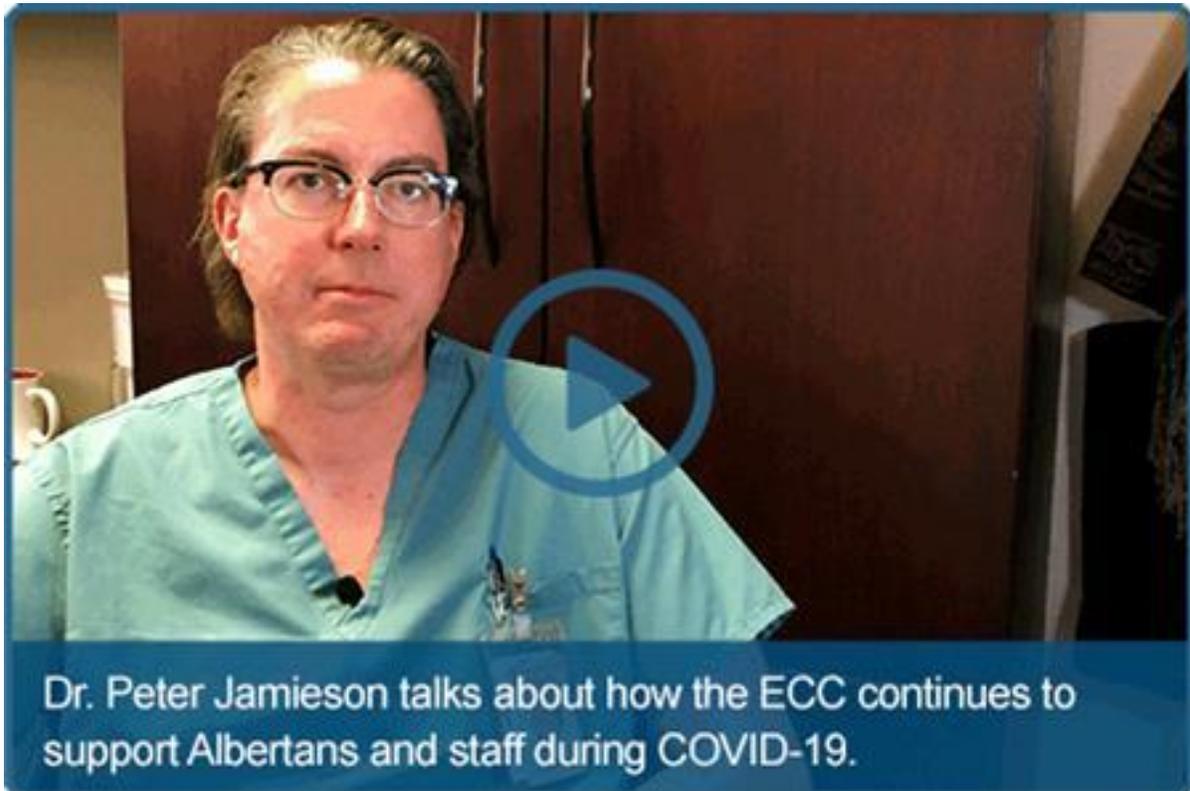
Our daily tips feature quick and simple reminders you can make part of your practice, from shift to shift.

Facial PPE:

[Remove all PPE](#) on your face, by the arms, straps, or ties at the back of your head. In order to prevent contamination of your face, **DO NOT** grab the front of eye protection, masks or any other facial PPE.

AHS COVID-19 Podcast on Frontline and Behind the Scenes Support

In [AHS' latest COVID-19 podcast](#), Dr. Peter Jamieson, physician co-lead with AHS' Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), talks about the army of frontline workers supporting Albertans during COVID-19 and the team of AHS leaders and experts working behind the scenes. Dr. Jamieson also talks about the role the ECC continues to play in helping ensure AHS and Albertans stay ahead of the curve.



International Day of the Midwife

Today, we have a special opportunity to thank Alberta's Registered Midwives for their demonstration of skill, compassion and support for their clients, colleagues and communities, during this time of uncertainty. Alongside AHS staff and care teams, Registered Midwives have displayed amazing strength in rising to the COVID-19 challenges, in a compassionate and patient-focused way.

Throughout the pandemic response, Registered Midwives have quickly and collaboratively identified solutions to support families during their pregnancies, including contributing to a COVID-19 clinic in Edmonton Zone and establishing an in-hospital midwifery service in Calgary Zone. Registered Midwives continue to play a role with maternal care teams and leadership at hospitals across the province, to support and inform local pandemic response strategies.

Thanks again to all Registered Midwives—your hard work does not go unnoticed. Today, we celebrate you.

Mental Health Week – Being Together, While Staying Apart

This week is [Mental Health Week](#) - a time to help promote behaviours and attitudes which foster well-being, support good mental health and create a culture of understanding and acceptance. As we face the COVID-19 global pandemic, we need each other now, more than ever. In these days of [physical distancing](#), we are learning that we don't have to be close to feel close. We are together, even when we're apart.

You can also check out these additional resources:

[Mental Well-being Overview](#)

[Self-Care Tactics](#)

[Mobile tools](#)

STOP! Clean Your Hands Day

[Hand hygiene is an AHS organizational priority and a critical safety moment.](#) Today, AHS recognizes May 5th – STOP! Clean Your Hands Day – a national campaign to remind us about the importance of hand hygiene.

Today, I (Laura) want to remind everyone that cleaning your hands, using soap and water, or alcohol-based hand rub, remains the single, most effective action to prevent the spread of any kind of respiratory infection, including COVID-19. It helps flatten the curve and saves lives.



It is important we all perform proper hand hygiene and that we clean our hands correctly, no matter where you are – at work or at home, to protect your health and the health of those around you. AHS has [hand hygiene resources](#) available online to help each of us adhere to a high standard of hand hygiene practice, for the health and safety of everyone.

In the Zones

Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – North *Flooding*

North Zone continues to recover from floods in Mackenzie County and the Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Every day we see tremendous dedication and compassion from our physicians and staff, as they care for evacuees, returning residents, and each other. Environmental Public Health and the Addiction and Mental Health teams are in communication with the municipalities to meet ongoing needs as the phased re-entry progresses in each area.

Be Well - Be Kind

Recreation Therapy

Allied Health programs throughout the North Zone are finding creative ways to offer services. Recreation Therapy, continues to play an important role in improving the wellbeing of patients and clients in various settings, including residents in continuing care facilities. The goal of Recreation Therapy is to help remove the barriers which prevent clients from participating in meaningful leisure activities. With more barriers right now than usual, many Recreation Therapy teams have gone to an expanded seven days per week schedule, to help continuing care clients stay active and socially connected. Foundation partners are also helping to combat social isolation by donating tablets to help safely connect clients and patients with their loved ones, while maintaining physical distancing.



Gloria Dolhan at the Central Peace Health Complex in Spirit River shows the Mother's Day painting she created for her daughter with the help of Recreation Therapy.

Addiction and Mental Health Youth Day Program

The team from the Addiction and Mental Health Youth Day Program (YDP) in Grande Prairie, recently spent an afternoon on the road delivering care packages to all of the youth in the program. The team travelled around the city and out to the surrounding communities of La Glace, Sexsmith, and Hythe.

Packages included cups which say "tea time", personalized with the names of the youth in the program, tea, playdough, a sunflower plant, a workbook made by YDP staff, which includes games, crosswords, information on self-care, quotes chosen by each staff, a COVID-19 time capsule and more. Parents and youth were all very excited to see the team arrive on their doorsteps with the packages. They shared waves, as well as physically-distant hellos and thank-yous!



Shout Out

AHS teams continue to draw on their skills, which extend far beyond the expertise of their AHS roles, to support the COVID-19 response in Alberta. You've found big and small ways to help your patients and each other, as we face this pandemic together. This shout out is an

example of how an APL lab assistant, Dixie, put her sewing talent to work to find a comfortable solution to continuous masking, not knowing how far her efforts would reach.

Community Acts of Kindness

Good for the Goose

We're thankful that the displays of appreciation around the province also include a sense of humour at times, because we all need to be able to laugh to get us through this pandemic. The statues of Canada geese at Bower Ponds in Red Deer have donned their PPE and are continuously masking at the entrance to the park. In addition to this effort to add a smile to the day of passersby, The Bower Ponds chalet has been brightened up with colourful lights in support of healthcare workers. Thanks to Molly, Project Coordinator, Connect Care, Central Zone for sharing this community act of kindness with us.



From the Fingertips of Babes

We also received some beautiful artwork as a thank you for all you are doing to keep Albertans safe, which came right from the fingertips of some very young Albertans. Immigrant Services Calgary Preschool students created some finger paintings and drawings to express their appreciation for your dedication to healthcare in Alberta.



Alberta's Relaunch Strategy:

Every day, we are reminded of so many reasons to be thankful for our teams across AHS, and we try to find the words and share the messages we receive, to express how much you are appreciated. You continue to demonstrate such passion for your work and the people we serve, whether you are on the frontline directly providing patient care, or in a supporting role to keep the healthcare system functioning.

We aren't alone in this. Along with our communities, the patients and families we serve are standing alongside us, doing all they can to help us manage COVID-19. We know they are facing extra burdens because of this pandemic and we want to acknowledge the fears and anxieties associated with COVID-19, which may come as they enter the health system. Dealing with an illness, injury or health concern is stressful enough, but adding separation from family and loved ones due to visiting restrictions to worries about the spread of COVID-19, can compound the stress of their experience. We are all in this together and we thank our patients and families for doing their best to help reduce the spread during these challenging circumstances.

Thank you and stay safe.

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