

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *May 21, 2020*



## Updates

### Updated Indigenous Awareness Resources on ISC Website:

The COVID-19 section on our [website](#) has been recently updated. This page, and the numerous resources within, can be used to learn how to prevent the spread of coronavirus and protect yourself and your community. Please visit this page frequently for new and updated information. Additionally, Dr. Tom Wong, the Chief Medical Officer of Public Health at ISC, has also been recording valuable information on the [best ways to take care of your health and well-being](#), and how to play your part in [flattening the curve](#) of this pandemic. If you are interested in distributing this information through social media to your networks, please consider sharing and retweeting the links below on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

### Health Canada Approves Trial for Potential COVID Vaccine:

On May 16, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Canadian Center for Vaccinology at Dalhousie University has been given the green light by the federal health authority to begin clinical trials. Clinical trials generally consist of three phases of studies before a vaccine is approved for general use. These studies often start with a few subjects, before they are broadened to include hundreds or even thousands of subjects. Should the trials be successful and the vaccine approved, the National Research Council of Canada will then work with the developers of the potential vaccine so that it would be able to be manufactured domestically.

## Question of the Day

**Q:** Should individuals receive routinely scheduled immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**A:** Immunization is an essential health service. Priority should be given to immunizing infants, toddlers and children who are without symptoms; they should continue to receive scheduled vaccines using the routine Alberta Immunization Schedule. If an adult has no symptoms they can also receive immunizations in the Health Center. Health Centers have adopted a number of basic measures, such as modifying appointment schedules and continuous masking, that decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission. It is preferable to offer multiple vaccines at the same visit, if indicated, as it will reduce the number of health care encounters. For these individuals, please continue to book appointments through your health center. Centers should designate one day or part of a day for immunizations to reduce risk of transmission. For PHAC's full guidance on immunization during COVID-19, click [here](#).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals with any symptoms that could be evidence of COVID-19 infection should postpone immunization appointments until they have recovered. A delay in the routine Immunization Schedule of one or two weeks is acceptable if it will decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission to the public and healthcare providers. Anyone with suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19, and those who are close contacts of a case, should not attend scheduled immunization appointments during their period of isolation.



## Alberta Cases:

as of May 20 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 20 – 19 new cases)	6,735
AB Recovered Cases	5,637
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	37
On-reserve Recovered Cases	24
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,649
Central Zone Confirmed	99
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	521
North Zone Confirmed	230
South Zone Confirmed	1,212
Unknown Confirmed	24
Deaths due to COVID-19	128

More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

## Canada Child Benefit (CCB) Payment Increase

In addition to the one-time payment of \$300 per child more in the May installment, the CCB will be increased once again in July, to keep up with the costs of living. The increase will be in place for the 2020-21 benefit year, and will raise the maximum benefit to \$6,765 per child under age 6, and \$5,708 per child aged 6 through 17. More information available [here](#).

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS Indigenous People and Communities Webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

### Telehealth Session TODAY:

- There will be a Telehealth Session from 1:30 –3:00 PM. Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to [VChelp@FNTN.ca](mailto:VChelp@FNTN.ca)

### Reminder All Chief's Call:

- The next scheduled All Chief's Call is Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

### 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.