

COVID-19 Status

JULY 6, 2020

As of July 2, a provincial total of 8,202 individuals have been confirmed with COVID-19, of which 542 cases are active. The average number of daily cases confirmed this week is 52, a 32 per cent increase from the week before. In total in Alberta, we believe 797 individuals have acquired COVID-19 in the community from an unknown source, not connected to a known exposure or an outbreak. Currently, there are 44 people in hospital, with eight in an intensive care unit. 7,505 Albertans have now recovered.

There was another life lost in Alberta related to COVID-19 this week, for a total of 155 Albertans lost since the start of the pandemic. We continue to extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of these people as they grieve during this difficult time.

A total of 464,070 COVID-19 tests have been completed since the start of the pandemic.

Things You Need to Know

COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers in the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#). These statistics provide the total number of AHS, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) employees and physicians tested, including a breakdown of the number of positive tests and those who have been confirmed to have been exposed in the workplace.

As of June 30:

- 32,758 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, and of those tested, 260 (or 0.79 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 260 employees who have tested positive, 38 (or 14.6 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 30 of the 260 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).
- 1,975 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and of those tested, 32 (or 1.62 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 32 physicians who have tested positive, two (or 6.3 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with two of the 32 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).

For more information, see the AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [infographic](#) and [dashboard](#).

Verna's Weekly Video Message

Alberta Health Services has already made countless decisions related to COVID-19 and with countless more decisions to come in the months ahead. And because AHS is a learning healthcare organization, decisions are always based on the best data available and the best evidence. That's why we're so fortunate to have outstanding Analytics and Public Health Surveillance teams that, from the first days of 2020, have provided us with the best possible information which we use to shape and guide our COVID-19 response.

[In my \(Verna's\) latest vlog](#), I am joined by Dr. Stafford Dean, Chief Data and Analytics Officer; Dr. Hussain Usman and Dr. Jason Cabaj, Executive Director and Medical Officer of Health respectively for Public Health Surveillance and Infrastructure; and another Jason — Dr. Jason Scarlett, a health system engineer with Strategic Analytics. Together we talk about how they and their teams gather data, what they do with the data, and the impact their work has on population health and measures to prepare the health system for dealing with a pandemic.



Updated AHS Family Support and Visitation Guidelines

Based on valuable feedback received from our people, patients and families, we implemented enhanced family support and visitation guidelines on Thursday, July 2, which now include outdoor visits in acute care, unaccompanied outdoor access for patients, and patient off-site passes, where safe and deemed suitable by sites and care teams.

Certain site-based services will also resume for inpatient use, including AHS site-based hairdresser/barber services, specific community support groups (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous), in-person meetings with legal services and visits with community faith/religious leaders. Previous updates included ambulatory clinics, pediatrics and neonatal intensive care units, and maternity/postpartum units.

Existing guidelines for Designated Essential Visitors in continuing care environments will be maintained according to the orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Information for staff on the updated guidelines are available through [Health Professions Strategy & Practice](#), [Clinical Ethics](#), and [Engagement & Patient Experience](#).

Learn more about these new and previous updates at ahs.ca/visitation.

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.

Masking at Work

There is an extremely high-risk for transmission of COVID-19 between co-workers in small, enclosed spaces such as break rooms, charting areas, and other common areas. When [physical distancing](#) of at least two metres is not possible in these spaces, all staff are reminded to [wear a surgical/procedural mask continuously](#) and perform frequent [hand hygiene](#). Find tips and guidance to improve your comfort with continuous masking, [here](#).

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

PPE Question of the Week – Wearing a Mask in Public

Many Albertans are asking if it is necessary to wear a non-medical mask in public places. As Alberta continues to re-open, we all need to do what we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The PPE Question of the Week is also a reminder to all AHS staff, physicians and volunteers to wear a non-medical mask in public when a distance of two metres cannot be easily maintained.

In this PPE Question of the Week, Dr. Mark Joffe - Vice President & Medical Director, CancerControl Alberta, Clinical Support Services & Provincial Clinical Excellence - [explains why wearing a non-medical mask in public is important, and how we can all do it safely and effectively](#).

PPE Question of the Week

Is it necessary to wear
a non-medical mask
in public places? 



Dr. Mark Joffe answers PPE question of the week.

To learn more about the best type of fabric masks to use and how to wear/care for them, review the [World Health Organization recommendations](#).

For more information on preventing the spread, visit [AHS.ca](#).

Be Well - Be Kind

Celebrities Celebrating AHS

Musicians, models, athletes, and artists across the country keep sending messages of gratitude and support for our frontline healthcare staff.

Today's thank you message comes from [Alpine Olympian and World Cup medalist, Manny Osborne-Paradis](#).

"Thank you so much for working in the frontlines, working countless hours, and keeping us all safe during these uncertain times," he says. "You guys are the best."

Stay tuned and follow AHS on [social media](#) for more celebrity shout-outs.



Sharing the Love: Thanking our People

This week, we want to share the love as far and wide as we can, so we've included a whole collection of messages to show support for our teams. These messages have come to us from AHS staff and physicians who were inspired by colleagues around them. You deserve to be recognized for all you are doing each day for Albertans and each other.

AHS on the fly

COVID-19 has changed the way we travel. For Canadians abroad, it is integral they receive the information they need surrounding COVID-19 so they can keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

On May 19, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that they would be instituting COVID-19 Screening of all international arrivals into Calgary and Edmonton.

Alberta Health Services staff stepped up to help with the airport screening, with staff being deployed from their departments to provide fellow Canadians with all the information they need to navigate COVID-19 and welcome them home with a smile.

On June 30, most of the screening staff returned to their regular departments, with a few staff remaining at the Calgary International Airport. While most people enjoyed a physically-

distanced Canada Day, screening teams were working hard at the airport, showing off their Canadian pride with decorated PPE.

“Both of AHS’ airport teams have seen many Canadian citizens repatriated from abroad over the past four months. We share a “welcome home” with our fellow citizens. The smiles and sense of relief on their faces just adds to the meaning of Canada Day.”

*-Scott Fortier, Provincial Director of Accreditation
& Quality and Patient Safety Education*



Screening teams spread sunshine

I want to share a message of gratitude with the COVID-19 screening desk nurses (particularly those at the Pincher Creek Health Centre). These nurses have been a ray of sunshine through such a traumatic and unnerving time. They have become the face of the hospital, and have calmed nerves and eased the tension when entering our building.

-April

Foods Services' appreciation

The Retail Food Service (RFS) Team at the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), Edmonton, appreciates the work done by our healthcare and essential services heroes each day during these challenging times. The whole RFS Team at the UAH came together to create the collage below as a thank you note for our peers, and healthcare and essential services heroes.

-Rayan



Alberta Healthy Living MVPs

In March, when the pandemic took hold in Canada, my Alberta Healthy Living Program team were identified as staff who could be redeployed to meet the needs of the organization. In a matter of days, they were redeployed into very important pre-screening roles at both South

Calgary Health Centre and Sheldon Chumir Health Centre. One day they were working with patients in the community providing chronic disease management education, training, support and the next they were taking temperatures of patients and staff entering the building. Ensuring that staff and patients were safe was of great importance to this team. They took great pride in helping everyone who came through the door. I wanted to thank them for their incredible work. I could not be more proud to work alongside these individuals. They are my heroes. Thank you AHLP MVPs. You have made a difference in the lives of many.

-Teresa

Mental Health and Addictions helplines

Kudos to the amazing (Mental Health and Additions) team that responded heroically to COVID-19 by increasing capacity, training staff, adapting in real time to help Albertans in these challenging times. You make a difference!

-Jim

World leaders in testing

I got an asymptomatic test for COVID-19 done yesterday and I now have a new found appreciation for our frontline workers and the healthcare system. I got my test results in one day. We are spearheading the world in fighting the pandemic and couldn't be more fortunate and proud to call Alberta home. I am proud to be an Albertan. Thank you so much!

-Anonymous

Clowns who care

AHS' award winning Caring Klowns volunteers, Sunny Ray and Ducky, physically-distanced using a hockey stick, while singing "You are my Sunshine" to brighten the day of seniors and residents at the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre. "The Klowns were lots of fun. And I loved hearing them sing you're my sunshine," says Myrna, resident at Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre. Caring Klowns also visited long-term care residents outside their windows, waving, singing and smiling.

Ponoka Piston Poppers, a group of Ponoka residents who own vintage cars, drove by the staff parking lot and the front of the hospital waving at seniors. The 18-member car club thought it was a great idea to participate in this fun activity and boost the morale of seniors isolated during this difficult time. Marilyn, a resident at the hospital, was delighted to see the parade, and she spotted her favourite car, a Model T4, because her parents had one. These are some activities Volunteer Resources and the Recreation Therapy department hosted during Seniors' Week (June 1-7), to show appreciation for seniors, recognize their contributions and remember that they're an important part of our community.

-Yolanda



Thank you for your ongoing work to manage COVID-19 and protect Albertans. We know this journey has had many challenges and that we will collectively continue to face this pandemic across our province for the foreseeable future. With July underway, we hope you will find time for relaxation, summer fun and a break from the pressures of work. Celebrate all you've done to keep our patients, families and each other safe over the past months and don't forget to take a moment to read these inspiring posts and share some of your own at ahs.ca/sharingthelove.

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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