

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Daily Update for Chiefs: *May 5, 2020*



Updates

Announcement on Virtual Care, Mental Health Tools and Canada Child Benefit:

This past weekend, the Prime Minister announced an investment of \$240.5 million to develop, expand, and launch virtual care and mental health tools to support Canadians. This will be used to create digital platforms and applications, improve access to virtual mental health supports, and expand capacity to deliver health care virtually, including projects to reach vulnerable Canadians. You can learn more [here](#).

Additionally, all families receiving the Canada Child Benefit will get \$300 extra per child in May to help them deal with the added pressures of COVID-19. Eligible families will automatically receive this one-time increase as part of their scheduled Canada Child Benefit payment in May. Those who already receive the Canada Child Benefit do not need to re-apply for this one-time increase. More information available [here](#).

Update on Spartan Test Kits:

While the Spartan test worked in a laboratory setting, it became clear that the test did not perform as well with patients to detect the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, the manufacturer has now voluntarily withdrawn the product from the market. Health Canada has now only authorized the sale of this product for research use only.

The Government of Canada will continue to work with Spartan as they address the regulatory requirements to enable utilization of this test.

Question of the Day

Q: What supports are available for seniors and Elders?

A: Through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, several programs have been included to aid Seniors and Elders through this pandemic, including reducing the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25 per cent for 2020. As well as contributing \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community supports. The Government also announced that organizations who received funding under the 2019-2020 [New Horizons for Seniors Program](#) community-based stream will be able to use their funding to provide immediate and essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

National Information

[Canada COVID-19 App and Self-Assessment Tool](#)

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

New PHAC videos on [hand washing](#), [disposable gloves](#) and [physical distancing](#)



Alberta Cases:

as of May 4 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 4 – 70 new cases)	5,836
Confirmed First Nations on-reserve Cases	26
Calgary Zone	3,905
Central Zone	89
Edmonton Zone	503
North Zone	221
South Zone	1,085
Unknown	33
Deaths due to COVID-19	104

COVID-19 Scams

Please note that the Government of Canada never uses text messages or instant messaging such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to communicate with Canadians. Highly publicized events such as this pandemic can make individuals and organizations the target of email, telephone and cyber scams. If an individual believes they have encountered a scam message, they are encouraged to report the incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501

Regional Snapshot



Useful Links

AHS COVID FAQs

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

GCIndigenous Twitter

- <https://twitter.com/GCIndigenous> includes updates, news releases and links for resources

Weekly Virtual Town Hall Sessions

- FNHMA will be offering a weekly Virtual Town Hall Session every Thursday at 11am. Live stream at www.ihtoday.ca. Questions can be submitted to fnhma@ihtoday.ca

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 or 780-545-6655.