

# COVID-19 Status

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## **MAY 26, 2020**

We have confirmed 19 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 6,879. Of the total cases, we suspect 624 cases may have been acquired in the community from an unknown source (these cases are not included in outbreak data). Currently, there are 45 cases in hospital, with five in an ICU. 5,979 cases have now recovered.

In the past 24 hours, there have been three additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 138 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19. We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of these Albertans. We know they are suffering deep losses today and we stand by them in their grief.

3,010 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 239,799 since the start of the pandemic.

## Things You Need to Know

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### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update**

AHS continues to work with all facilities and units to ensure that all PPE is available and appropriately accessible. All areas can help to maintain accessibility and flow of reusable gowns, by using their current unit supply first and by checking their supply before ordering extra gowns. It's important that unnecessary stockpiling not occur on units, as stockpiling makes it more difficult to manage the flow of the gowns through the system. Both reusable and disposable gowns are safe and effective PPE.

The Alberta government announced today that the supply of critical PPE will now be focused on organizations at the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19. This includes hospital workers, first responders, and those working in publicly funded or contracted homeless shelters, seniors care facilities, and disability agencies.

As of July 1, businesses and non-AHS organizations will be required to access PPE directly through suppliers. For more information, visit the [Alberta Emergency Management Agency web page](#).

### **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.

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#### **Frequent Hand Hygiene:**

Practice frequent **hand hygiene**. **Clean your hands** at every stage of **PPE removal** or after leaving a patient's room, as well as before and after using high touch objects such as a keyboard, mouse or phone.

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



### **National Paramedics Service Week**

May 24 to 30 marks National Paramedics Service Week this year. We want to be sure to take some time each day of this week to honour our EMS teams, who make an incredible contribution to healthcare in our communities throughout the year, and especially during the past months of this pandemic.

In our latest [AHS COVID-19 podcast](#), Darren Sandbeck, AHS EMS Chief Paramedic, talks about the significance of recognizing National Paramedic Services Week during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In addition to this, you can follow #YourEMS on AHS' social media channels to experience virtual ride-alongs and find out what it's like to be a paramedic.

## In the Zones

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

#### *Screening for Fun in High Level*

At the Northwest Health Centre in High Level, staff are greeted and screened every day by Debbie Juckes and Cathy Goodbie. The duo has made the task fun by picking different themes and dressing up to conduct their screening. First, they were COVID-19 angels as a play-off of Charlie's Angels. Then one Friday, they had a tropical vacation theme and had Star Wars theme on May 4 - May the fourth be with you - which included a Darth Vader Mask, light sabers, and the Star Wars anthem playing in the background. The very next day, May 5, was Cinco de Mayo, and they had Day of the Dead decorations to celebrate at their station. Staff have been enjoying the fun and light tone the screeners have been setting each day, making this pandemic just a bit easier.



*Area 8 Celebrates Mental Health Week*

A big thank you goes out to all the AHS sites and community partners that helped us celebrate Mental Health Week on May 4-10. During this time when we must remain physically apart, it is great to see the many ways we continue to come together to maintain and celebrate our mental wellness.



*Fort McMurray Rocks*

A painted rock gratitude garden has blossomed in front of Fort McMurray's Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Emergency Department, lovingly planted by the surrounding community. It started small and grows every day, bringing joy to those coming and going from the site.



### *Nursing Week Recognized in Fort McMurray*

Volunteers in Fort McMurray put their artistic skills to work to thank nurses in this community. One volunteer from Northern Lights Regional Health Centre celebrated Nursing Week with a special painting, while another created a special stone artwork in honour of the hard work of healthcare workers. With the flood in Fort McMurray, some of our nurses were also displaced from their homes, but still showed up for our patients. Volunteers were inspired by their commitment and dedication and wanted to show them their efforts had not gone unnoticed during the personal and professional challenges of the pandemic and flooding.



*Lightening the Mood in Whitecourt*

Jessica Hein and Ashley McKinney from the Physiotherapy department at the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre have been brightening the site by decorating our windows with colourful, appreciative, and encouraging words for their fellow healthcare workers. To show their determination to reduce the spread of COVID-19, team member Meghan Hagen created #NOTTODAYCOVID t-shirts for all the site's healthcare workers, which are being enthusiastically modelled below, next to the decorative windows.



## Be Well - Be Kind

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### **Mental Wellness Moment— Dealing with Worries about Re-launch**

Alberta has started the first stage of re-launch, which means some people are returning to work, others are staying home. In the latest Mental Wellness Moment, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell offers advice to those who might be worried about re-launch.





### **Celebrity Celebrations of AHS**

Thank you messages from Canadian actors, musicians, athletes and artists keep coming in as a gesture of gratitude for our frontline healthcare providers and AHS teams.

Today, Reuben Bullock, frontman for the folk-rock band Reuben and the Dark, shares his support for AHS staff and physicians, and those beyond Alberta, too.

"Thank you sincerely to all the healthcare workers in Alberta and around the globe," he says. "It's crazy what you're doing and we appreciate it. All the hard work is not going unnoticed and we value it so much. We'll get through this together."



### **Sharing the Love: Thanking Our People**

Messages of gratitude keep pouring in from across the province and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a moment to celebrate your accomplishments, read the inspiring posts shared over the past weeks and share some of your own at [ahs.ca/sharingthelove](https://ahs.ca/sharingthelove).

### **Shout Outs**

#### *Recognizing paramedics From EMS Chief, Darren Sandbeck*

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much of what we do. It's no surprise then that we are marking National Paramedic Services Week (NPSW) virtually this year. While we may need to maintain physical distancing and reschedule the gatherings we've enjoyed in previous years, we're still doing our very best to recognize and honour the crucial role paramedics play in delivering high-quality healthcare to Albertans.

This year, due to the pandemic, we'll be recognizing as many of you as we can through social media posts and more informal measures, so please watch for these posts and share them. Our Public Education Teams in Calgary and Edmonton are also set to share a 'day in the life' as a paramedic on two social media virtual ride-alongs. Last year was the first time we did this and the response has been overwhelmingly positive, so we're pleased to do it again—albeit from a safe physical distance.

One week hardly seems enough to properly recognize the work you do 365 days each year, but please take a moment to enjoy the spotlight and know that you are an important and valued member of Alberta's healthcare community. Thank you for your work, your professionalism and dedication to Alberta patients.

### *Coffee and Connection*

With ambulatory clinics resuming in the province, people are now returning to hospitals for outpatient treatment. Often those outpatients are transported by a family member or friend who waits outside in their vehicle, due to the current visitor restrictions. Nutrition Services teams at Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), were inspired to make the wait a little more comfortable and joined forces with FMC's retail food services team to offer visitors a hot cup of free coffee.

*Together, they worked through FMC's Site Command Post (SCP) to provide this gesture of kindness, while ensuring infection prevention and control measures were met. The group received the green light from the SCP and set up its inaugural 'Coffee Connection' station at the south entrance of the Tom Baker Cancer Center at FMC on Friday, May 22. FMC's Retail Food Services estimates the team served approximately 120 cups of coffee over the three hours the station was in operation. They're hoping to host more Coffee Connections at various points throughout FMC throughout the time visitor restrictions remain in place. Thanks to those who supported this act of kindness which put a smile on visitors' faces when they needed it most.*

*Shawna Syverson, Senior Operating Officer  
Foothills Medical Centre*

### **Community Acts of Kindness**

Just in time for our recognition of paramedics this week, we received this letter from Grade 8 student, Cole. In it, he shares his appreciation for frontline workers who are protecting Albertans. We're so thankful that so many of Alberta's students have taken the time to express their awareness for all you are doing to keep our province healthy.

We share the same hope as Cole: that by limiting the spread of COVID-19 we are protecting our most vulnerable Albertans, and bringing this pandemic to an end, sooner than later. As we start week 12 of Alberta's full-on pandemic management we know the time has both flown by and been exceedingly long, depending on your perspective at the moment. We know it's been filled with highs and lows as we do all we can to care for and support Albertans. Thank you for being part of the coordinated and connected team. We are completely certain that our success to date is grounded in our ability to work together. We continue to be amazed by you.

*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](mailto:ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca) \*\*\***

**\*\*\*For Indigenous Services Canada please**

**email [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca) \*\*\***

*Josipa Pavicic on behalf of Nadine McRee*