

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Updates

### Update on Education:

As part of their [school relaunch strategy](#), the Alberta Government has announced mandatory masking for grade 4 to 12 students, in addition to other measures such as screening, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting of schools and hygiene practices which are detailed [here](#) all in order to make the return to school as safe as possible. This has led to questions about how you can safely reopen schools in your Nations. While provincial school re-openings will guide potential approaches, your Nations will make decisions on safe re-opening options reflective of input from students and parents. This could involve looking at a hybrid model of in-class and virtual instruction. That is just one example, there are several models your parents and officials could look at to make the 2020-21 school year as safe as possible for staff and students. ISC Education is also working with other ISC programs and provincial partners to support the planning and implementation of school reentry.

### FNIHB Health Needs Funding:

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, FNIHB hosted a telehealth session to provide guidance on preparing your health needs funding submissions. If you were unable to attend the session, you can view it [here](#). The updated National guidance on the Health Needs Funding included perimeter security as an eligible expense under this funding back dated to April 1, 2020. If you require supports in submitting your perimeter security requests from Q1 (April – June) or submitting an estimate of your needs for Q2 (July-September) – please contact your community liaison team (CLT) representative. Alberta region guidance documents on the operational health needs funding and perimeter security can be found on the [COVID-19 OneHealth page](#) or from your CLT

### Recalled Hand Sanitizers:

While hand sanitizer is shown to be effective in stopping the spread of COVID, it is important that you are using safe varieties. The Government of Canada has compiled a list of sanitizers pulled from the market for having adverse health affects. Please review the list [here](#). A list of accepted products can be found [here](#). Report any health product [adverse events](#) or [complaints](#) to Health Canada.

## Question of the Day

**Q: How can we combat misinformation about COVID-19 amongst our community?**

**A: The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is hosting a nationwide campaign to dispel myths and bring forward the science around COVID-19.**

**“Take Care in COVID” is the name of the campaign which will continue throughout the summer. Information in the videos are medically informed, science-driven and based on real data. The NAFC will also be putting out fact sheets about COVID-19 in the coming weeks.**

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheNAFC/> to see the videos.

## National Information

[Download COVID Alert today](#)

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

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

[Guidance for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

## Alberta Cases:

as of August 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (August 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 65 new cases)	11,146
AB Recovered Cases	9,754
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	155
On-reserve Recovered Cases	137
Calgary Zone Confirmed	6,611
Central Zone Confirmed	481
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	1,752
North Zone Confirmed	604
South Zone Confirmed	1,672
Unknown Confirmed	26
Deaths due to COVID-19	201
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

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

## Update on CERB

On July 31, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the federal government plans to transition recipients of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to the Employment Insurance (EI) program as the \$80-billion coronavirus aid program wraps up this fall. Ottawa will also create a “transitional, parallel benefit” that is similar to EI for people who don’t qualify for the unemployment benefit, such as contract and gig workers.

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

**Multiculturalism, Indigenous and Inclusion Grant (MIIG) Program-** The MIIG program fosters cultural awareness in communities across the province, including appreciation and celebration of Indigenous Peoples in Alberta. The next intake of proposals is September 1<sup>st</sup> [click here for more information.](#)

## COVID-19 resources in Indigenous languages

Did you know that there are a variety of COVID-19 resources in Indigenous languages? For example, you can download infographics on [how to properly wash your hands to reduce the spread of COVID-19](#) and on [how to physical distance to slow the spread of COVID-19](#). The page [COVID-19: Indigenous awareness resources](#) also presents other documents and videos in Indigenous languages.

## All Chiefs Meeting:

The next All Chiefs Meeting with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, will take place on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

# **Preparedness in First Nations communities related to COVID-19**

**Briefing to AFN CCOH  
August 4, 2020**



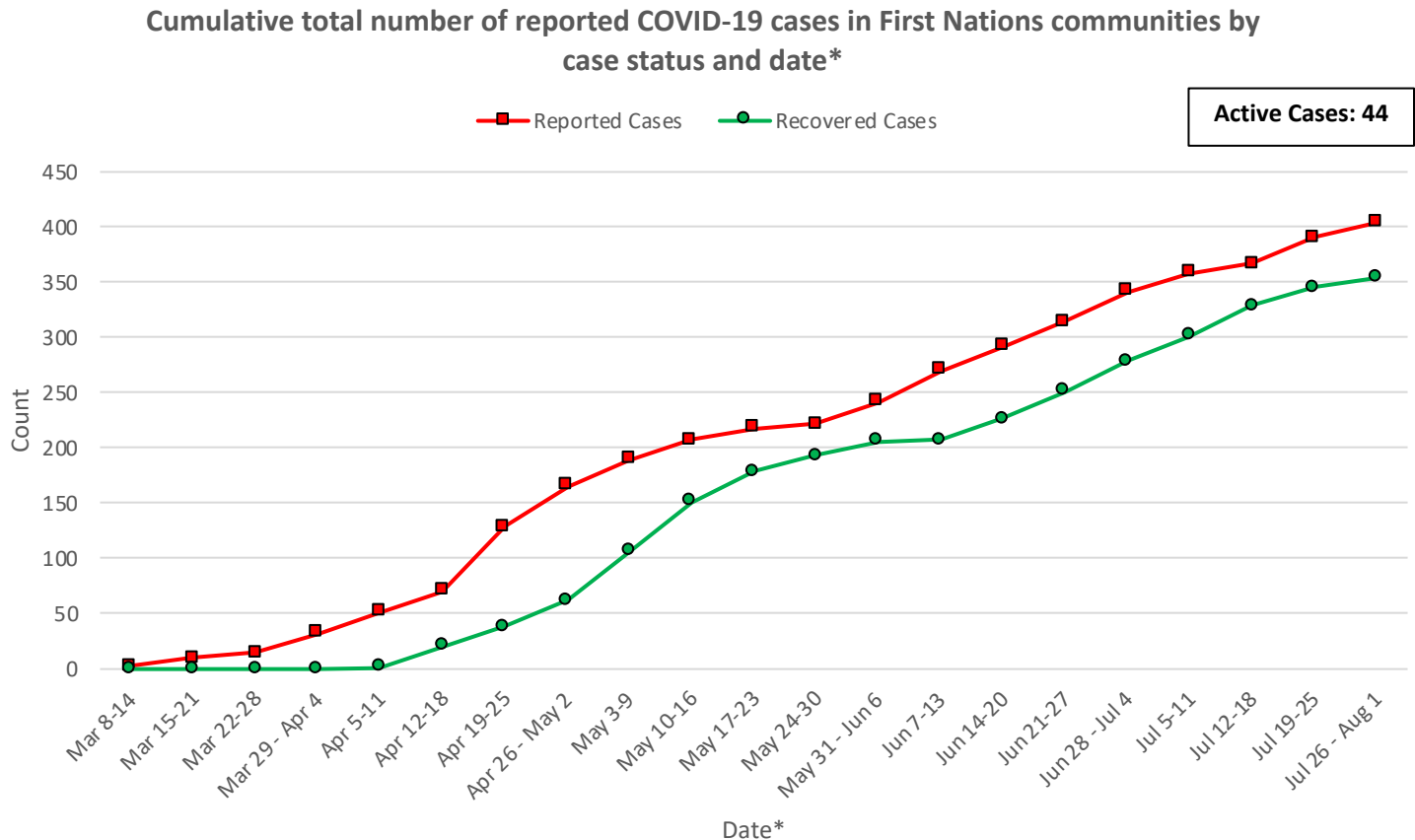
# COVID-19 – Canadian Context

- As of July 31, 2020, 115,799 cases have been confirmed in Canada, with 8,929 deaths. This compares to the estimated 3,000 – 4,000 influenza-related deaths in Canada each year.

Province/ Territory	Tested Positive	FN Community- Associated	Ever Hospitalized	Deaths	Recovered
BC	3,591	64	5	2	44
AB	10,716	152	10	1	131
SK	1,306	90	5	1	85
MB	409	0			
ON	39,075	63	10	2	59
QC	59,131	35	2	0	35
NB	170	0			
NS	1,067	0			
NL	266	0			
PEI	36	0			
YT	14	No specific FN breakdown			
NWT	5	No specific FN breakdown			
NU		No specific FN breakdown			

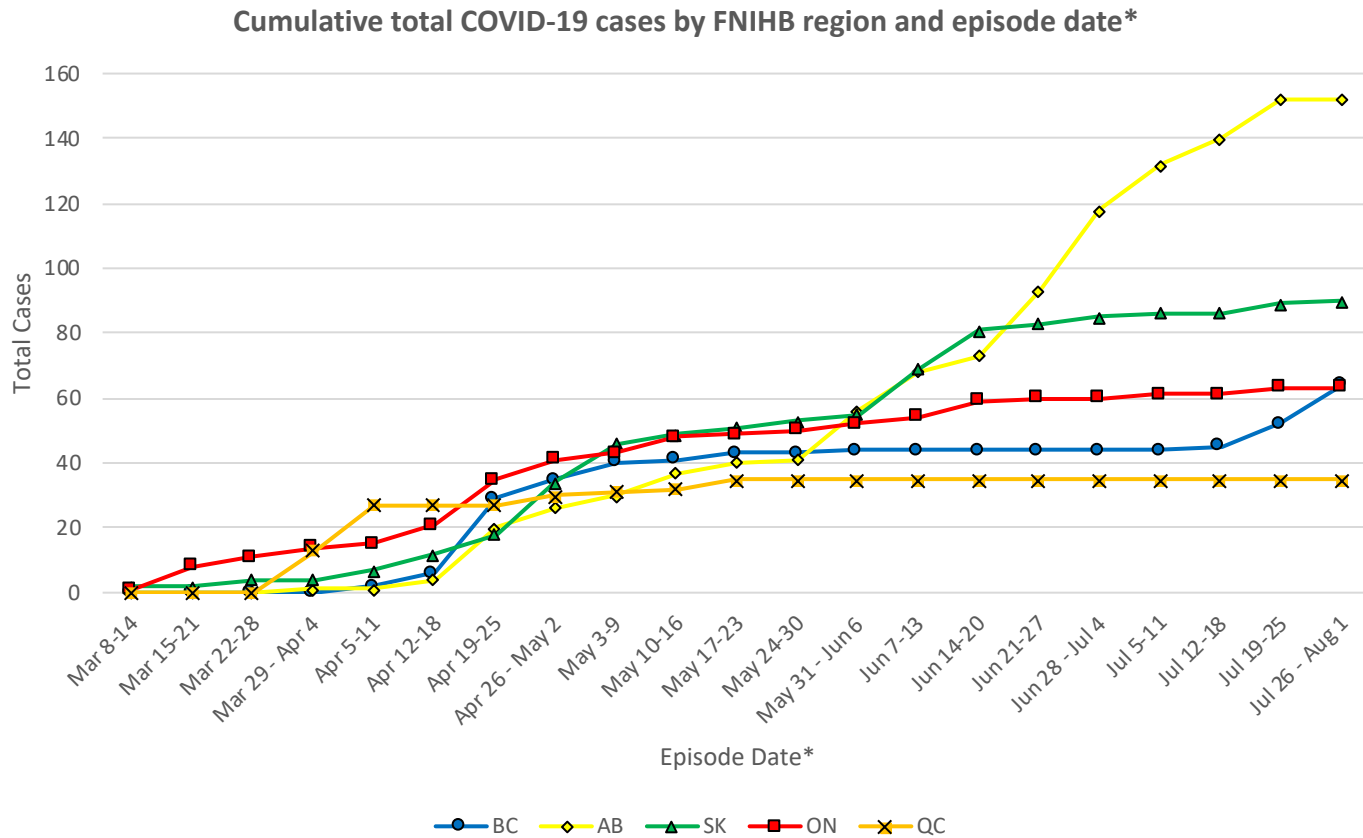
# ISC Epidemiological Information

Total number of reported COVID-19 cases among First Nations Communities in the provinces are: 404 First Nations community test positive/active cases and 354 recoveries as of July 31, 2020.



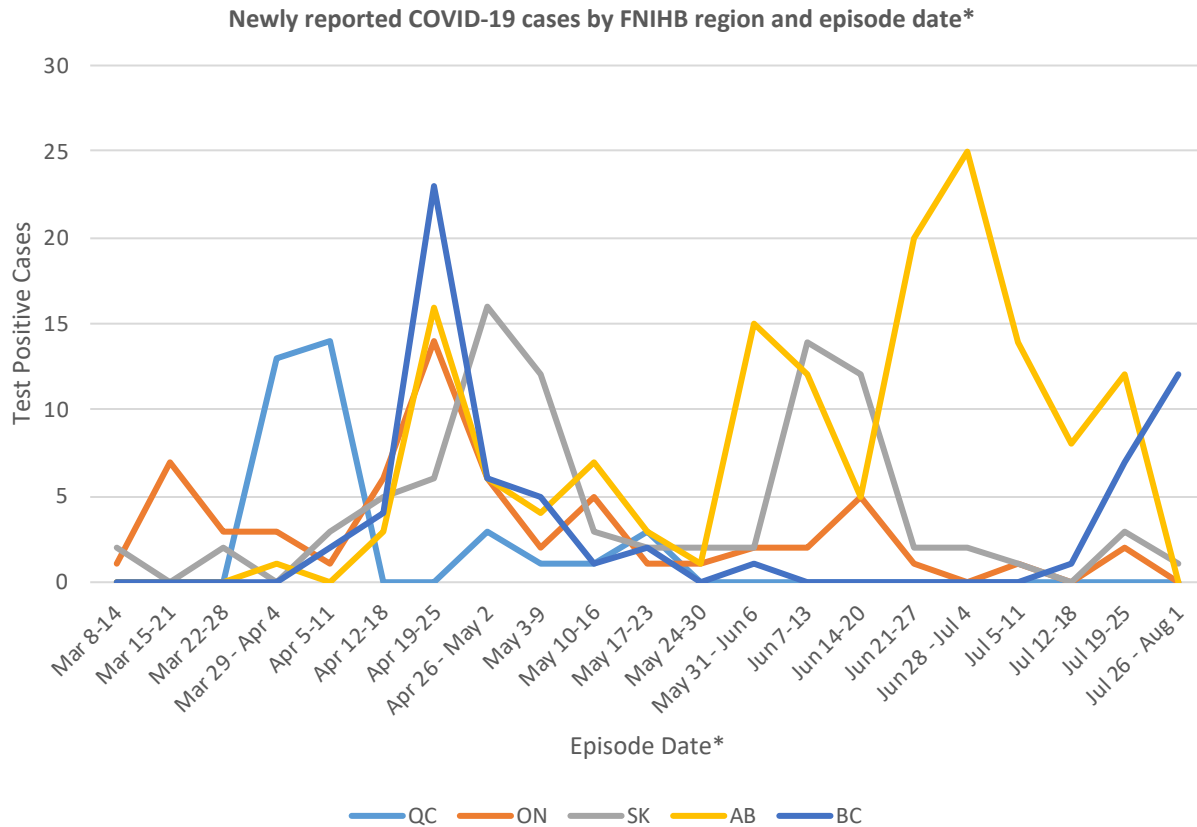
\*Date corresponds to Episode date\*\* for Reported Cases and date of recovery for Recovered Cases.  
 \*\*Episode date corresponds to the earliest date reported according to the following order: Symptom Onset Date, Specimen Collection Date, Laboratory Result Date, Date Reported to FNIHB

# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...



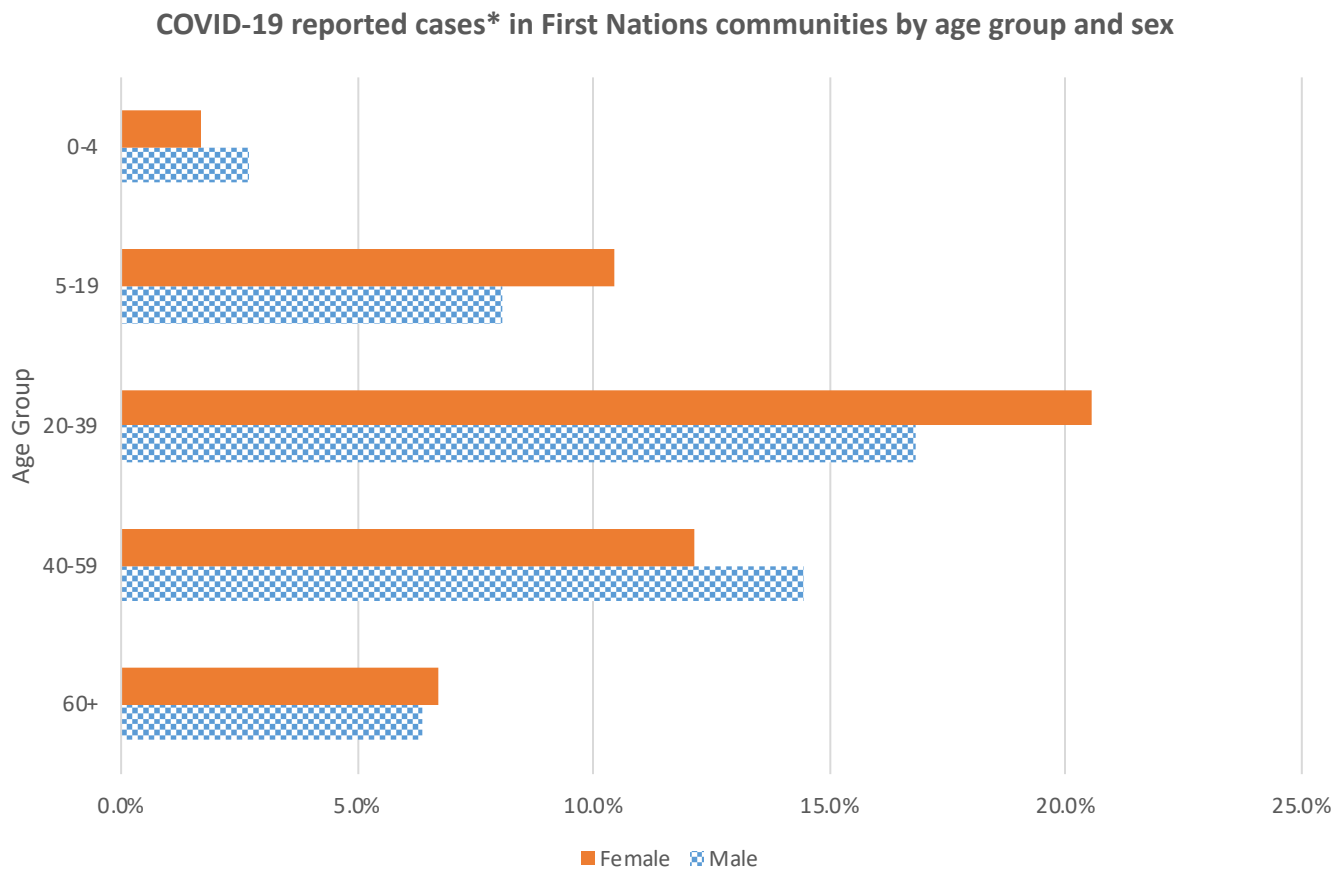
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# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...



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# ISC Epidemiological Information cont...





# National Communications

## Update since July 7<sup>th</sup> Briefing:

*Note – First Nations Health Managers Association Town Halls are being re-run over the summer*

- July 14 - First Nations Health Managers Association – Valerie Gideon
- July 21- First Nations Health Managers Association - Valerie Gideon
- July 28- First Nations Health Managers Association – Dr. Evan Adams

## News releases & Press Conferences

- July 7 - Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities
- July 17 - Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities
- July 21 - Government of Canada is providing support to urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations in Manitoba through the Indigenous Community Support Fund
- July 24 – Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities
- July 24 – PHAC Press Conference – Dr. Wong participated
- July 31 - Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities

## Website:

- Ongoing regular updates to ISC's website as information becomes available including links to additional awareness resources and videos either in Indigenous languages or developed by Indigenous organizations.

# National Communications cont...

## COVID-19 Email:

- Accessing additional public health support for First Nations and Inuit communities during COVID-19 - <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1584819394157>
- COVID-19 preparedness and response in the territories, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut - <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1593462516903>

## Social Media:

- Ongoing organic social media content regarding COVID-19 and related information, including:
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Epidemiological curve
  - Non-medical face masks
  - Resources for Seniors and Caregivers
- Ongoing social media amplification of messages by other departments, partners, etc. regarding COVID-19, including:
  - Federal ministers and health officials live COVID-19 updates
  - Health Canada and PHAC

# Vaccines

## Flu Vaccine:

- Each year, PTs send allocation of flu vaccines to communities to be administered
- FNIHB - HQ supports with flu campaign and national reporting for cases on-reserve
- FNIHB has launched a survey on flu reporting to Regions, to plan for flu season reporting – based on PT testing and reporting plans
- FNIHB working to develop flu and pneumococcal vaccine messaging to help promote the uptake of these flu vaccine's this year

## COVID Vaccine Planning:

- The Public health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is currently rolling out a survey, engaging stakeholders, on vaccine strategies based on epi/modelling scenarios. Targeting to wrap up the survey by the end of July/mid-August. From there, the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations will work on a framework, taking into account feedback gathered from the survey
- FNIHB working with PHAC to advocate for the prioritization for First Nations communities; and, working to identify needs to roll out a vaccine safely once available (i.e. PPE needs, medical supplies, training, etc.)

# Treatment

- There is still no universally effective treatment for COVID-19.

## Remdesivir:

- Health Canada has authorized with conditions the drug remdesivir for the treatment of patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19 who have pneumonia and require extra oxygen to help them breathe. Remdesivir is the first drug that Health Canada has authorized for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Remdesivir is authorized for use in adults and adolescents (aged 12 years and older with a body weight of at least 40 kg). The manufacturer did not seek authorization for use of remdesivir to treat children or pregnant women.
- Health Canada completed an expedited six-week review of the available safety, efficacy and quality data to determine that the drug's benefits outweigh its risks when used for the authorized indication. This expedited review was made possible in part through international regulatory cooperation with comparable regulators.

## Treatment cont...

- Remdesivir has also been granted emergency or conditional authorization in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Singapore and Australia. In Canada, the authorization included a full scientific review.
- Health Canada will continue to closely monitor the safety of remdesivir in Canada and will take prompt action should any safety concerns arise.
- Based on the authorization information, ISC has identified the following considerations:
  - Product is for patients who are experiencing severe symptoms (require extra oxygen).
  - Clients experiencing severe symptoms would be transported out of a R/I community for treatment at a hospital setting.
  - Product is administered intravenously over multiple days
  - For use in facilities where continuous monitoring and reporting on the product will be undertaken (i.e., most likely limited to hospital setting at this time)
  - Reports in the media have indicated that supply/availability of the product may be limited and therefore distribution will likely be limited to hospital settings

# Personal Protective Equipment Orders

- Since the PPE request process launched February 14, 2020 – summary of requests received to access the ISC-FNIHB stockpiles are below.
- Current assessment of requests – 24 hours / request to storage facility to retrieve and package / shipment to community 2 – 7 days.
- Note – The FNIHB emergency stockpile is for the provision of health care on reserve (including for home and community care workers and family care givers).

Overview of PPE request status as of July 31, 2020				
Region	Requests Received	Being Processed at MTE	Shipped	Delivered
Atlantic	111	0	1	110
Quebec	122	0	8	114
Ontario	236	0	10	226
Manitoba	267	0	20	247
Saskatchewan	96	0	1	95
NITHA	60	0	0	60
Alberta	100	0	0	100
BCFNHA	340*	0	0	340*
Yukon	1	0	0	1
National	39	0	2	37
Northern	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1000</b>

- For FNHA PPE Requests - 9 requests are from ISC, and 320 are from the Province of BC. Table totals show total shipments deployed via the ISC stockpile.
- National PPE requests – ad hoc PPE requests for orgs not able to access PT stockpiles

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