

# Provincial response COVID-19 pandemic

Information for Indigenous communities – March 31, 2020

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We are doing everything possible to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health. This work involves everyone, from government officials making policy decisions to people in their homes who are keeping themselves and their loved ones safe.

Here is some of the latest information to keep yourself safe and to connect you with provincial support you may need.

## Service changes

When people are doing their best to stay safe and prevent the spread, they may be creating some other challenges.

Students are studying out of school, some services have moved online. Here are some details to help you keep track of temporary changes in Alberta:



- **Registries.** The Alberta government has extended expiry dates for Alberta driver's licenses, identification cards, vehicle registrations and other permits and certificates. If you have any expiring permits or certificates in March or April, you now have until Friday, May 15 to renew them.
- **Courthouses.** The Provincial Court of Alberta has postponed many youth criminal, criminal and family matters, the Court of Appeal is using video or teleconferencing, and the Court of Queen's Bench allows lawyers to e-file documents.
- **Provincial parks.** Provincial parks are open. People are prohibited from using park facilities like toilets, picnic areas and park warm-up shelters and automobile access is temporarily

suspended at access points.

Visit <https://albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/news-events/alberta-environment-and-parks-response-to-covid-19/> for the latest details.

- **Road tests.** Alberta commercial and passenger road tests have been suspended for at least four weeks. Anyone who has scheduled a road test can rebook online starting April 17, 2020 for a test on April 20, 2020. There will be no additional charge.

## Stay connected

Your best source of information about Alberta's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is [alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID).

- **Childcare.** Licensed childcare facilities in Alberta are closed, including daycare, out-of-school care and preschool programs. Some centres will reopen to help health care practitioners and critical infrastructure workers have quality care for their children. Approved family day homes are still open.
- **Post-secondary.** Many classes have already moved online. All institutions are following their emergency response plans.

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Prevent the spread. Visit [Alberta.ca/COVID](https://alberta.ca/COVID)

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- **Provincial schools.** Teachers are providing lessons remotely and look to these resources to help children with their learning: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=69874B5C32DE7-C7B9-FAFF-518A0FF91DCFD41D>

- **Seniors care.** Only one person can visit any continuing care, long-term care or seniors lodge in Alberta. The resident or guardian will designate who that person is.



The visitor will go through a health screening.

- **Cultural centres.** All historic sites and museums are temporarily closed.

## Making life better

The Alberta government has made the following changes to help more people who are facing a health or financial crisis because of COVID-19:

- **Emergency isolation support.** A one-time payment of \$1,146 is available for any working adult in Alberta who qualifies. That person either needs to self-isolate because they have the conditions listed on <http://alberta.ca/COVID> or is the sole caregiver for a dependent for someone who does. They also do not have another source of pay or compensation while self-isolated. Find details about how to apply at <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-isolation-support.aspx>
- **Social services support.** \$60 million will help adult homeless shelters, women's emergency shelters and charities, non-profits and civil society organizations. \$30 million of that goes to Family and Community Support Services in communities across Alberta.
- **Student loans.** The Alberta government is pausing all repayments of Alberta Student Loans for six months interest free starting on Monday, March 30, 2020. There is no need to apply for this loan repayment pause.

- **Utility deferrals.** You can defer electricity and natural gas utility payments for your home, farm and small business for 90 days if you have been laid off or had to leave work to care for an ill family member. Read more at <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid19-90-day-utility-deferral.pdf>.

- **Loans and mortgage deferrals.** ATB Financial and Alberta credit union clients can seek a deferral on loans and mortgages if they have been affected by COVID-19.

- **Corporate income tax.** Government will not collect corporate income taxes until August 31, 2020.

- **Rental support.** No one will be evicted in April for non-payment of rent. No rent increases will happen during Alberta's state of public health emergency. No one will pay late fees for missing rent payments for residential properties or mobile homes between April 1 - June 30, 2020. Learn more at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx> under Info for Renters.

## Resources

### COVID-19 supports for Albertans

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>

### File a consumer complaint against a business

You can file a complaint for an unfair business or tenancy transaction.

<https://www.alberta.ca/file-consumer-complaint.aspx>

### COVID-19: Temporary office closures

The following Alberta government offices are closed to the public.

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-temporary-office-closures.aspx>