

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *June 23, 2020*

### Updates

#### Environmental Public Health Officers:

As relaunch planning is underway in many First Nations, we would like to remind you that Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHOs) continue to be available to assist your community. EPHOs are certified public health inspectors, who have undergone specialized training in public health and are therefore able to provide public health guidance, education, risk assessments, inspections, and recommendations to First Nations. EPHOs have been actively involved in the region's COVID-19 response, by directly supporting communities in reducing the risk of disease transmission through activities such as 1) inspections of isolation facilities 2) inspecting facilities in communities to ensure they meet public health considerations for re-opening 3) providing advice and recommendations on how to safely hold gatherings/community events. EPHOs continue to work collaboratively with First Nations to ensure the safety and continuity of critical community infrastructure, such as provisions for safe drinking water. COVID-19 has presented many public health risks and unique challenges, however the EPHOs are always available to work with and support your Leadership and public health teams on COVID-19 relaunch by ensuring that appropriate health protection measures are implemented within the community and facilities. Please contact your community EPHO to assist in the relaunch planning and guidance for facilities such as schools, daycares, food establishments, administration offices and for events such as community gatherings.

#### ICSF Assessment:

Please note that the Community Liaison teams sent an Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) assessment to your Administrative contacts (DEM, Health Director, and/or Administration Manager) recently. This assessment is being conducted nationally and it is our hope this assessment will provide further information to the funding needs faced by your Nations to help fight and plan for the continued COVID-19 response. Surveys are due tomorrow, June 24, if you have any questions please contact your Community Liaison Team or [ab.emergency@canada.ca](mailto:ab.emergency@canada.ca)

### Question of the Day

**Q:** How can we ensure that gatherings on our Nations occur safely?

**A:** The Government of Canada has released a [Risk mitigation tool for gatherings and events operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) that we encourage you and your health teams to review. It contains useful and strategic questions and proposals to help keep any gathering as safe as possible. As a reminder, in Alberta indoor gatherings are limited to 50 people and outdoor gatherings to 100. The provincial guidelines are found [here](#) and ISC Environment Public Health Officers (EPHOs) are available to help support your Nations in gathering planning. The tool contains greater detail, but as a quick reference, when planning a gathering:

- Discourage people who are ill from accessing/attending the gathering/event.
- Develop plans for dealing with attendees who become ill and/or are suspected of having COVID-19 while at the gathering/event.
- Promote and facilitate personal preventive practices.
- Promote physical distancing (keeping a distance of 2 metres)
- Create physical barriers between attendees and/or staff when physical distancing is not possible
- Increase ventilation
- Mitigate risks from exposure to high-touch surfaces
- Mitigate risk for people at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19
- Modify practices and programming to reduce how long attendees are in contact with each other and how many attendees come into contact with each other
- Consider whether a policy about attendees wearing masks is required for your gathering/event

## Alberta Cases:

as of June 22<sup>nd</sup> 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (June 22– 32 new cases)	7,736
AB Recovered Cases	7,041
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	74
On-reserve Recovered Cases	50
Calgary Zone Confirmed	5,208
Central Zone Confirmed	89
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	857
North Zone Confirmed	279
South Zone Confirmed	1,288
Unknown Confirmed	15
Deaths due to COVID-19	153
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

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

## Reminder: Relief measures for Indigenous Businesses

Many Indigenous businesses have been affected due to COVID-19. The Government of Canada will provide up to \$306.8 million in financial support for Indigenous businesses via short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions. These federal support measures should complement support offered by the provinces and territories and Indigenous businesses can now apply for support through their local Aboriginal Financial Institution. More information available [here](#).

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

### Government of Canada Resources

- [GCIndigenous Twitter Page](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)
- [Reduce the spread of COVID-19: Hygiene for kids](#)

### 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](mailto:Dean.Janvier@gmail.com) or 780-545-6655.