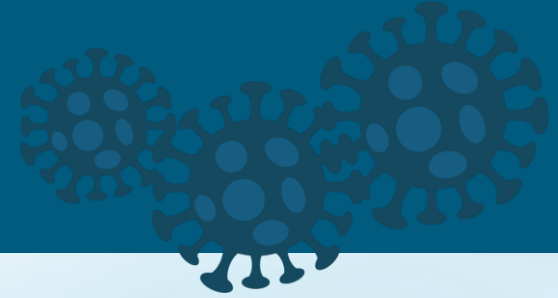


ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *May 12, 2020*



Updates

National Nursing Week:

This week, May 11-17, 2020, marks National Nursing Week, an annual celebration drawing to attention the many contributions of nursing to the well-being of Canadians. Nurses across Alberta First Nations are leading voices and their continuous commitment to nursing is of immense value. Let's use this week to express our appreciation for their dedication in providing quality care during these trying times.

CERB Eligibility:

With today's update, we have included a document to help simplify if an individual may be entitled to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or not. Please share with your communities who can follow the flow chart to determine whether or not they may be eligible. There are also links in the document where more information can be found.

By-Laws on Reserve:

As a reminder, Bands have the legal authority to make their own laws through sections 81, 83 and 85, specifically, of the *Indian Act*. Section 81, in particular, affords Bands the powers to create bylaws for overseeing a range of activities on the reserve, including those related to removal of trespassers, traffic control, residency, public health and nuisances. However, there are restrictions on what Band Councils may control through bylaws. Bylaws can be created as long as they do not contravene the *Indian Act* or the regulations outlined in Section 73 of the *Indian Act*. Once you and your Council enact and enforce a by-law it needs to be published:

- on an Internet site (such as your First Nation website) OR
- in the First Nations Gazette OR
- in a local newspaper that has general circulation within the community

There is no longer a direct role for the department or for the Minister in these cases. For more information please refer [here](#)

Question of the Day

Q: How will Treaty annuity payments be made during this time?

A: A reminder that due to the coronavirus outbreak, the department is postponing all treaty annuity payment events until further notice in order to protect communities. Those who wish to receive their treaty payment sooner, are asked to please fill out a [treaty annuity payment request form](#) and mail it to our ISC regional office at:

Indigenous Services Canada Alberta Region
Indian Moneys, Estates & Treaty Annuities
630 Canada Place, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 4G2

If requested, treaty payments will be mailed back to the individual in the form of a cheque.

More information can be found [here](#).

National Information

[Canada COVID-19 App and Self-Assessment Tool](#)
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)
[New public health videos in Indigenous languages](#)



Alberta Cases:

as of May 11 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (May 11 – 47 new cases)	6,300
AB Recovered Cases	4,659
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	29
On-reserve Recovered Cases	14
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,278
Central Zone Confirmed	99
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	511
North Zone Confirmed	228
South Zone Confirmed	1,159
Unknown Confirmed	25
Deaths due to COVID-19	117

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

Income Assistance

We have received a few questions on the Funeral Benefit that is available under our Income Assistance Program, which may be able to provide some financial support to cover basic funeral costs for Income Assistance clients and other persons who ordinarily reside on reserve who are without resources. If further clarification on this benefit is needed in your community, please direct any questions to your Nation's Income Assistance Director.

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](#)

Telehealth Session Thursday:

- There will be a Telehealth Session on May 14th from 1:30 –3:00 PM. Visit the First Nation portal at www.fnntn.ca to register. FNIHB staff will be available for questions. Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.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.

Preparedness in First Nations communities related to COVID-19

**Briefing to AFN CCOH
May 12, 2020**



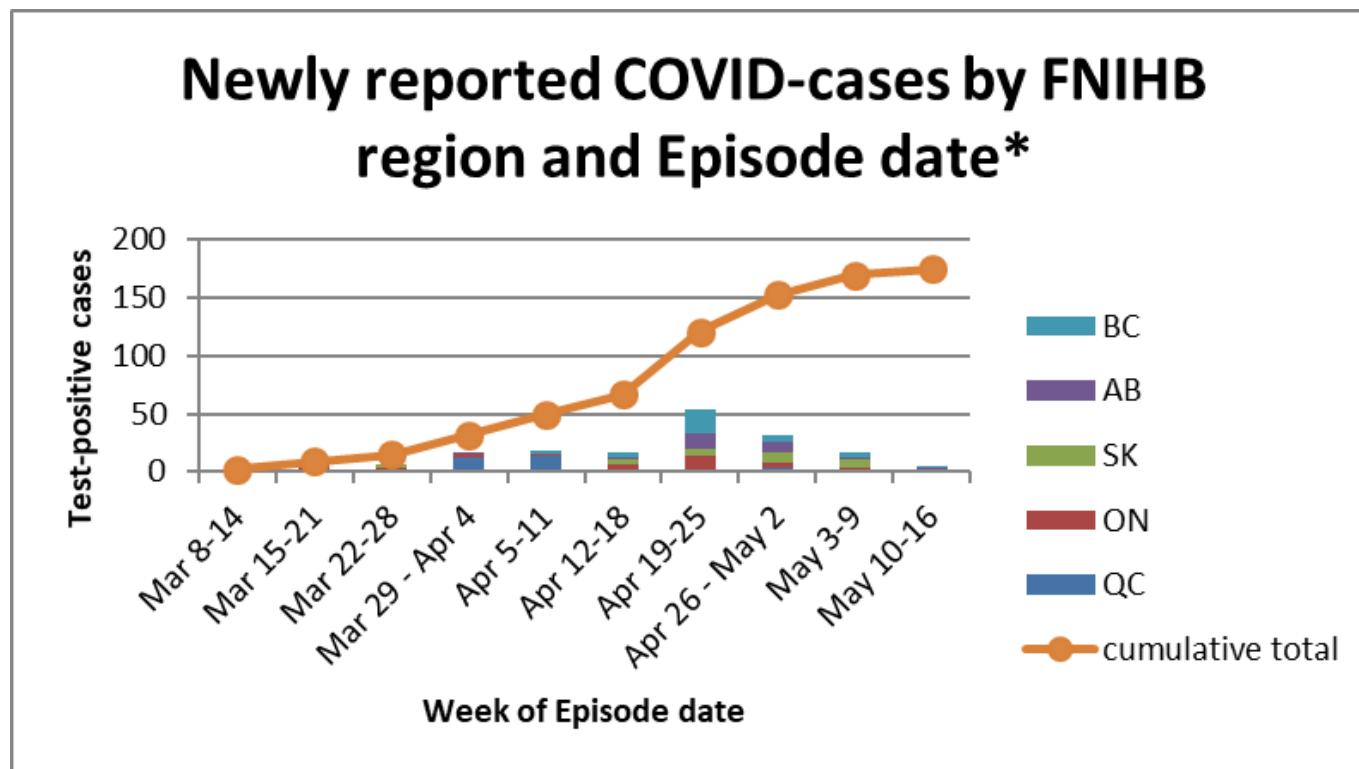
COVID-19 – Canadian Context

- As of May 11, 2020, 69,156 cases have been confirmed in Canada, with 4,906 deaths. This compares to an estimated 3000 - 4000 influenza-related deaths in Canada each year.

Province/Territory	Tested Positive	FN Community-Associated	Ever Hospitalized	Deaths	Recovered
BC	2330	39	4	1	22
AB	6253	29	3	0	15
SK	564	43	3	0	13
MB	287	0			
ON	20 546	41	6	1	25
QC	37 721	31	2	0	28
NB	120	0			
NS	1 018	0			
NL	261	0			
PEI	27	0			
YT	11	No specific FN breakdown			
NWT	5	No specific FN breakdown			
NU		No specific FN breakdown			

COVID-19 Transmission in First Nation Communities

- Total number of reported COVID-19 cases among First Nations Communities in the provinces are: 175 First Nations community test positive cases as of May 10, 2020.



*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.

National Communications

Update since May 5th Briefing:

- May 7: Dr. Wong participated in an interview with Grand Chief Dumas of Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and MB Chief provincial Public Health Officer Manitoba, via ZOOM.
- May 8: Chief Nursing Officer, Robin Buckland interview with CBC regarding proactive measures to support surge HHR capacity in communities - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/h1n1-lesson-covid-19-response-first-nations-1.5559948>
- May 9: Dr. Wong participated in PHAC press conference
- May 10: Statement on Charter flight initiative for nursing - <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/05/indigenous-services-canada-providing-direct-air-transportation-with-strict-safety-first-health-protocol-for-essential-personnel-to-serve-fly-in-fir.html>

Website:

- Number of positive cases in First Nations Communities being posted to ISC's web Monday – Friday. Expanded information to include hospitalization and deaths.
- PPE information posted Monday – Friday
- Ongoing regular updates to ISC's website as information becomes available
- Updates to reflect the Awards of Excellence in Nursing Ceremony is delayed

National Communications – Cont'd

Social Media:

- Ongoing social media promotion of COVID-19 related information

Videos:

- Animated videos in Indigenous languages are now available on YouTube - social media underway and to continue
- 2 new videos by Dr. Wong are completed and on YouTube
- Work underway to explore options for public health videos, with Dr. Evan Adams, Adam Beach, and others

COVID-19 Email:

- Information shared out focussing on mental health and a second information notice about expired status cards are to be accepted by retailers

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 May 11, 2020				
Region	Requests Received	Being Processed at MTE	Shipped	Delivered
Atlantic	102	0	4	98
Quebec	61	0	12	49
Ontario	193	0	31	162
Manitoba	190	0	54	136
Saskatchewan	70	0	1	69
NITHA	59	0	0	59
Alberta	89	0	3	86
BCFNHA	175*	0	0	175*
Yukon	1	0	1	0
National	24	3	20	1
Total	794	3	126	665

- For FNHA PPE Requests - 5 requests are from ISC, and 170 are from the Province of BC.
- National PPE requests – ad hoc PPE requests for orgs not able to access PT stockpiles

Guidance for Re-Opening - Development Strategy

Based on public health principles and best practices

F/P/T/FN/M/I remote/isolated community working group of SAC (co-chaired by Regional Chief Adamek, Dr. Corriveau and Dr. Wong) starting to work on FN/I/M tools building on the PHAC general re-opening guidance.

Considers issues specific to First Nations communities:

- Community based measures (border control, essential/non-essential travel, staffing etc.)
- Communication (access to technology, tools)
- Personal measures (access to water, self-isolation capacity)
- Protecting populations who may be at a higher risk

Develop supplemental guidance documents specific to remote and isolated First Nations communities

Develop short-, medium-, and long-term priorities based on gaps analysis, input from regions, Remote and Isolated Working Group, and AFN Task Force

Next steps:

- Seek feedback on the draft strategy included with this presentation

Gradual Adjustment of Measures: Overarching principles for planning & engagement

Principles for Reopening

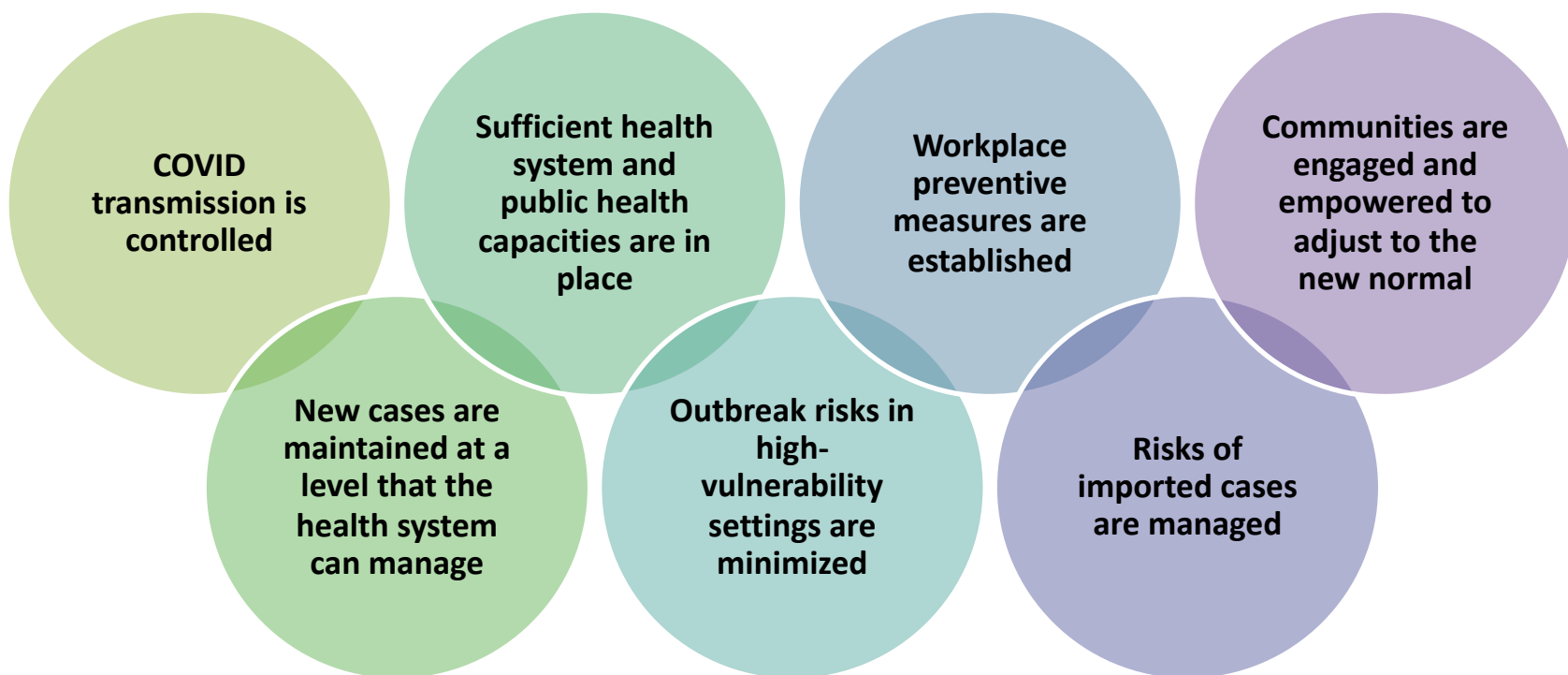
- **Community leadership** will make the decision on the basis of the community's needs.
- Decisions are **guided by science, and evidence-based**.
- **Coordination and collaboration** across all governments is critical for success.
- Public health measures are intended to be **flexible**, to meet community needs, and **proportional** to public health risk.

Gradual adjustments of measures should:

- Be culturally grounded, strengths-based and include First Nations ways of knowing and traditional practices beyond federal and provincial/territorial public health models;
- Include consideration of risk associated with remoteness, higher incidence of co-morbidities, limited access to health care;
- Take account of neighbouring health system capacities (i.e. clinics, hospitals);
- Take a gradual and step-wise approach that is flexible, sensitive to triggers, and able to rapidly respond to epidemiological changes;
- Be mindful of any outbreaks in neighbouring communities/industry work sites; and
- Ensure leadership is informed of considerations relevant to their community when assessing criteria before and when planning for adjusting measures.

Criteria for Assessing Readiness to Reopen

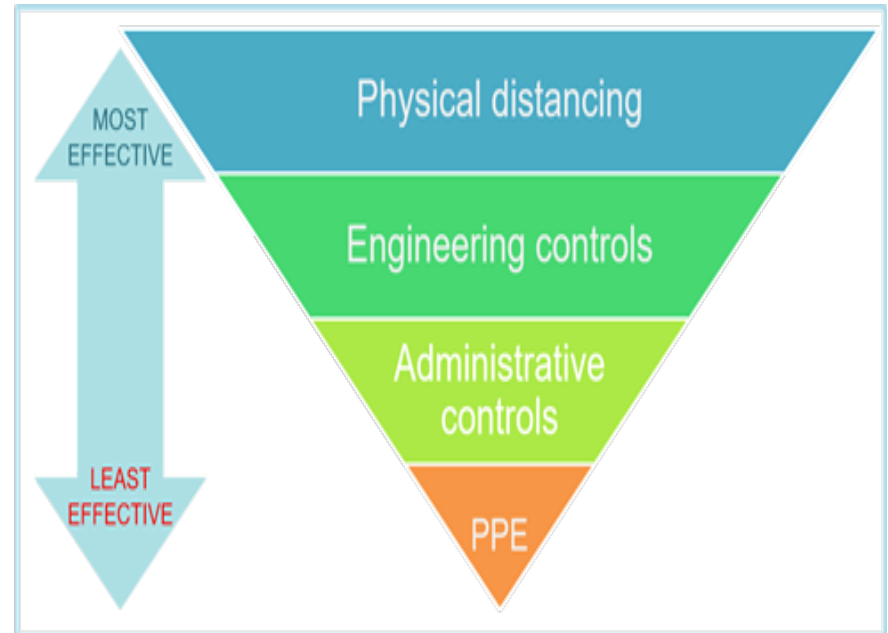
- The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed a set of seven criteria that can be used to assess when a community is ready to begin a phased reopening



Phased Re-opening

Based on an assessment of the seven criteria listed, First Nations leadership can consider stage re-opening or restarting activities in the community

- Some non-essential businesses able to open
- Daycare and education settings/camps to operate/open
- Additional outdoor activities/ recreation to resume
- Non-urgent health care services to resume
- Small critical cultural ceremonies (such as funerals) to take place



Core Personal and Community Public Health Measures: Specific considerations for First Nations communities

- **Hand hygiene**
 - Reliable access to water in a household
 - Access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer outside of a household
- **Physical distancing**
 - Routine/traditional ways of living
 - Ways to adjust cultural ceremonies, events, and on the land activities as deemed appropriate by each community
- **Self-isolation and quarantine**
 - Overcrowding and housing condition
- **Essential travel**
 - Medical appointments, both inside and outside the community
 - Supply chain/food
 - Essential workers coming from outside
 - Community members leaving for work outside community

For more information contact:

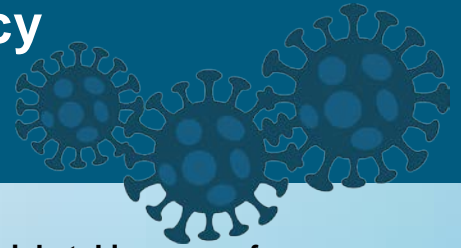
Valerie Gideon, PhD, Senior ADM

valerie.gideon@canada.ca; 613-219-4104

Tom Wong, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Public Health

Tom.wong@canada.ca; 613-797-8710

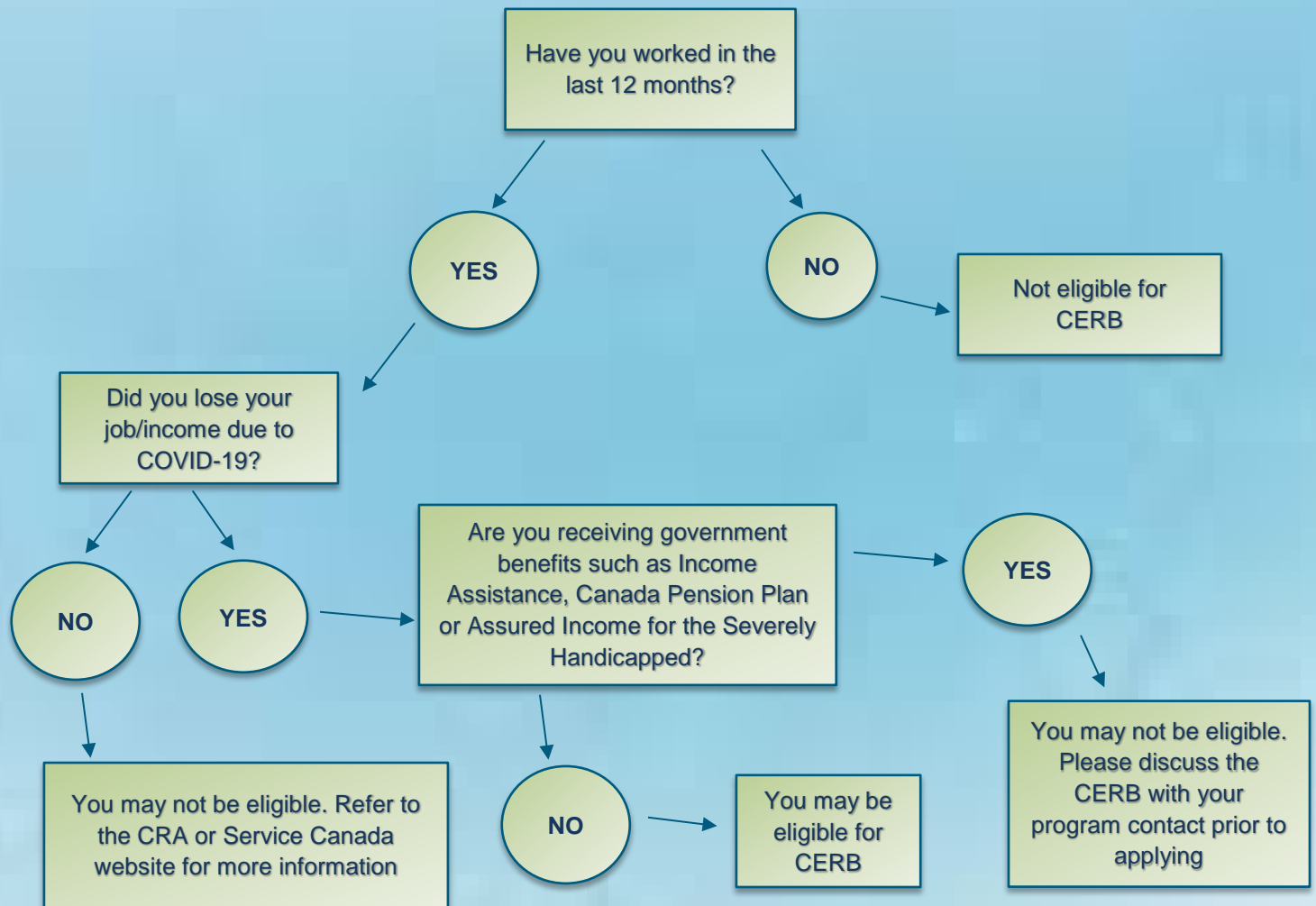
Are you eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)?



If you have stopped working or lost your income, in quarantine or sick, taking care of others in quarantine or sick and/or taking care of children or dependents because their care facility is closed due to COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support.

It is your responsibility to review the eligibility criteria on line as you apply. For eligibility criteria, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

Please refer to the following chart to help determine if you are eligible for the CERB:



If you have already received the CERB and realize that you are not eligible, the funds can be sent back in order to continue to be eligible for income assistance benefits. For further information on how to do this, please refer to <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>

This guide has been prepared by Indigenous Services Canada - Alberta Region to support First Nations communities in providing guidance to their members regarding their eligibility under CERB.