

NEW MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED

New Mandatory Restrictions in Alberta

The Government of Alberta has declared a state of public health emergency and putting aggressive measures in place to protect the health system and reduce the rising spread of COVID-19 cases.

Yesterday, Premier Kenney announced the following enhanced – and mandatory - restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- No indoor social gatherings are permitted in any setting, including workplaces.
- Outdoor social gatherings are limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- Funeral services and wedding ceremonies must follow all public health guidance and are limited to a maximum of 10 in-person attendees. Receptions are not permitted.
- Places of worship will be capped at 1/3 capacity (based on fire codes).
- Effective Friday, November 27, businesses such as banquet halls, conference centres, concert venues will be closed.
- All team and individual sport must cease unless a exemption is granted by Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Dining-in can continue if they adhere to safety measures an you only attend with members of your household.
- Masks will be mandatory in indoor workplaces in Edmonton, Calgary and surrounding areas.

Businesses and services:

- Starting Nov. 27, business and service restrictions fall under three categories: closed for in-person business, open with restrictions, and open by appointment only. Impacts by category are available here: alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx.
- These measures will remain in place for three weeks, but will be extended if needed.
- Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person visits to retail locations, shop local and use curbside pickup, delivery and online services, where possible.

More info from AHS regarding COVID-19 restrictions available [here](#).

Regarding schools, the Government of Alberta has announced:

- Students K to 6 will continue in-school learning but will begin winter break Dec. 18 and return to classes Jan. 11.
- Students Grades 7 to 12 will begin online learning Nov. 30, end Dec. 18 and return on Jan. 11.

These education restrictions may raise questions and concerns on how they may impact your Nations. Our Education staff will work with your leadership as you determine how your Nations will proceed.

These public health measures are new, and we are committed to provide you with information and updates as they come. Please know that the Community Liaison Teams are available for your questions. Together, we have worked hard and have come this far. We will work through this, together.

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *November 25, 2020*

Updates

ICSF Deadline Fast Approaching :

A reminder that applications for need-based funding for the second round of Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF) is due **November 30**, as funding must be disbursed by the department by December 31, 2020. A regional process has been established to review and approve applications as quickly and efficiently as possible. Indigenous Services Canada encourages all applicants to send their applications as needs for additional resources arise to ensure successful applicants receive funding as soon as possible. For details on how to apply for the this process, including selection criteria and examples of activities funded, please click [here](#). Nationally, an approximate \$160 million of the ICSF funds has been designated as need-based funding from which regional allocations are drawn. Applications are now open for needs-based funding for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, as well as Indigenous organizations servicing Indigenous Peoples, including those living in urban centres and First Nations living off-reserve. If you have any questions please contact your Community Liaison Team.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

As the pandemic continues, we all eagerly await news of new treatments and vaccines and there has been promising news on COVID vaccines. Initial results look promising, however, the manufactures are still collecting efficacy data and are still in clinical trials. Clinical trials are studies to find out whether a drug is safe and effective for people. Once these trials are successfully completed, they will then seek vaccine approval. Canada is working with international regulators to help fast-track clinical trials and applications for vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests. This includes Health Canada, who are expediting reviews of COVID-19 drugs, while maintaining its standards for safety, efficacy and quality. Departments including Public Services and Procurement Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), are working together to purchase and distribute COVID-19 treatments and related supplies. Indigenous Services Canada is working with the PHAC on the distribution of COVID-19 treatments and related supplies once available. First Nations are a priority group for receiving approved vaccines once ready. Regionally, we are also working closely with provincial colleagues to support the development of a comprehensive provincial distribution approach inclusive of First Nations as a priority population. Although vaccine distribution is still in the early planning stages, preparations are underway and logistics are being developed to ensure that the vaccine can be available as quickly as possible. For more information [please click here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Is Ultraviolet light useful in disinfecting against COVID-19?

A: Health Canada is warning Canadians about the risks of using ultraviolet (UV) lights and wands that make unproven claims to disinfect against the COVID-19 virus. UVC is an extremely dangerous form of UV radiation and, although it can destroy some germs, if used on the skin, there is a risk that it can cause harm or injury. Consult a healthcare professional if you have used these products on the skin and have any concerns.

- UV light products should not be used as a substitute for [prevention measures](#) such as frequent [hand washing](#), [physical distancing](#), [mask-wearing](#), and [cleaning and disinfecting](#). The Government of Canada has published a list of [hand sanitizers](#) and [disinfectants](#) that meet Health Canada's requirements.
- If you have any information on the potential false or misleading advertising or the sale of these products in Canada, [report it](#).
- Read the information Health Canada has posted on the [risks of buying health products that make false or misleading claims to prevent, treat or cure COVID-19](#).
- Report any [side effects](#) to health products to Health Canada.

More information about buying health products safely is available on Health Canada's [website](#).

Alberta Cases:

as of November 24th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (November 23rd –1,115 new cases) 49,536

AB Recovered Cases 35,695

Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases 1024

On-reserve Recovered Cases 646

On-Reserve Active Cases 373

Calgary Zone Confirmed 20,609

Central Zone Confirmed 2,175

Edmonton Zone Confirmed 19,692

North Zone Confirmed 3,343

South Zone Confirmed 3,559

Unknown Confirmed 158

Deaths due to COVID-19 492

On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19 5

Universal Broadband Fund (UBF)

The Government is working hard to connect all Canadians to high-speed Internet as soon as possible. The UBF has been designed to connect Canadians living in rural and remote communities to high-speed Internet. The program will be funding Canadian entities to extend broadband infrastructure in areas that do not currently have access this level of high-speed Internet. More information including the program guide, application templates, FAQs on the program is available on our [website](#)

Regional Snapshot



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

Indigenous Community Business Fund

The [Indigenous Community Business Fund \(ICBF\)](#) now supports costs associated with the adaptation, planning and reopening of community-owned businesses impacted by the pandemic.

Eligible costs include:

- costs required to comply with provincial health regulations
- retraining
- marketing
- technology
- professional services
- planned maintenance and repairs that the business is unable to carry out because of cash flow problems.
- other reasonable operating costs

Funding for costs outlined above is available to community-owned businesses where financial support will prevent layoffs, bankruptcy or permanent closure. Activities to be funded must demonstrate they are in response to the pandemic, be consistent with public health orders and assist the business to remain viable.