

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *September 23, 2020*

Updates

Update on Education Funding:

On August 26, the [Government of Canada announced \\$2 billion](#), through the Safe Return to Class Fund, in support for provinces and territories for a safe return to school. An additional investment of \$112 million was also announced to support a safe return for elementary and secondary First Nations schools on reserves. The \$112 million was broken down as follows:

- \$87.5 million for First Nations as a percentage increase to the existing education funding formula,
- \$9.4 million for self-governing First Nations,
- \$3.1 million for Federal Schools and other legal obligations, and
- \$12 million for minor capital support to implement the necessary retrofits following public health guidelines and physical distancing.

The funding will be adjusted for the specific context of First Nations school's size, number of students, grade composition and geography. Indigenous Services Canada is in the process of finalizing allocations and will be distributing the funding directly to your Nations to keep your children safe, based on your specific needs – be it a safe return to classrooms, a transition to an online education model, or a combination of both. In addition to the \$112 million in new funding to support the safe return of First Nations students to school, First Nations are also provided flexible supports through the [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#), which could include costs related to public health measures for reopening schools and other supports for children.

Travel to Communities:

One of the true joys of our work is the ability to come to your Nations, to meet with you and your members in person to work on our shared priorities. However, safety of your Nation members and our staff must come first, and therefore the department's national restrictions on non-essential travel remain in place. Travel of essential employees continues including those occupying health service delivery and safety positions that are actively engaged in community health service delivery and/or COVID-19 response efforts (e.g. nursing staff, environmental public health officers, emergency response coordinators). Internally, ISC will continue to monitor and establish internal guidelines with input from public health officials to ensure our important work can continue but with a focus on health for both our First Nations partners and our staff. Please be assured, we will continue to keep you apprised of the action and outcomes in the coming weeks and months. We thank you for your understanding and very much look forward to the day where we can meet together again, in-person, in a safe way.

Question of the Day

Q: What happens when a school student or staff member tests positive?

A: As a follow up from our Question of the Day from last week, FNIHB has developed protocols around COVID cases in schools. Attached to this email is an FAQ document about the return to school. This document includes a flow chart to show the process of notification if a case is confirmed at a school. Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Medical Officers of Health (MOH) are informed of positive results directly by the provincial laboratory or AHS Zone MOH. The FNIHB Communicable Disease Control staff will then notify the community public health staff at the local Health Centre. The staff member or student (and/or their parent/guardian) is informed of their positive test result, and provided with guidance by community health staff.

The positive case is required to isolate at home. They cannot attend school or attend any public place until public health determines that they are no longer infectious.

National Information

[PHAC Poster - People who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of September 22nd, 3:30 p.m.
MST

AB Total Confirmed (Sept. 21st– 150 new cases)	16,889
AB Recovered Cases	15,066
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	274
On-reserve Recovered Cases	199
Calgary Zone Confirmed	8,460
Central Zone Confirmed	660
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	4,572
North Zone Confirmed	1,343
South Zone Confirmed	1,813
Unknown Confirmed	41
Deaths due to COVID-19	258
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	4

Online Flu Resources

As flu season quickly approaches, it is imperative that we stay diligent with our physical distancing and cleaning measures. Many steps to avoid the flu are similar to those in place for the COVID-19 pandemic: wash hands frequently, cough and sneeze into your elbow, and stay away from others if sick. In order to protect yourself and your family from the flu, it's important to also get your flu shot. We would invite you to please share these posters and links with your networks and with communities to raise awareness on the flu and the flu shot.

[ISC's seasonal flu page](#)
[Flu factsheet](#)

[NEW flu resource for seniors](#)
[NEW flu resource for families](#)

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

We Matter

A national suicide prevention organization for Indigenous youth, has adapted their COVID-19 outreach. Visit the site [here](#).

AHS COVID Complaint Line

Following up from last week's call with Dr. Hinshaw, please find below the website for submitting a complaint to AHS for inspection of sites not following COVID-19 public health orders. The online complaint tool is found at:

<https://ephisahs.albertahealthservices.ca/create-case/>

Allen Willier replaces Dean Janvier

Allen Willier has agreed to take on the role of the **Special Leadership Liaison**. Allen is available to support information sharing and to assist you in navigating questions or concerns related to COVID-19. He may be reached at **780-446-8969**.