

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *June 9, 2020*

Updates

First Nations COVID-19 response in Alberta – Highlights

Alberta Health Epidemiology and Surveillance reporting team is tracking all cases of COVID-19 among First Nations individuals in Alberta on and off reserve. As of June 3, 2020, this report showed 170 cases among First Nations people on and off reserve, as compared to 7,091 cases among all Albertans. First Nations in Alberta have a COVID-19 case rate of 0.10% compared to non-First Nations with a case rate of 0.16%. There have also been 11,108 tests performed on First Nations out of the 229,369 people tested in Alberta. First Nations have a testing rate of 7.75%, a higher rate than the rest of the population at 6.03%. The comprehensive response in First Nations helped prevent the first COVID-19 case from arriving on-reserve until April 20, 2020, over six weeks after the first positive case in Alberta. To date, only seven First Nations have reported cases.

CERB and Income Assistance :

As a reminder, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and Income Assistance are separate programs and individuals may not be eligible to receive Income Assistance if they receive CERB. CERB may provide temporary income support to an individual member who has worked in the last 12 months and has stopped working or lost 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. Individual members receiving federal or provincial benefits such as Income Assistance, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped or Canada Pension Plan should check with their specific program caseworker to determine what impact receiving CERB may have on their benefits. It's the individual applicant's responsibility to review the CERB [eligibility criteria](#). If an individual has already received CERB and realizes they are not eligible, the funds can be [sent back](#) in order to continue to be eligible for income assistance benefits. Examples of how COVID-19 supports can help Indigenous individuals have been shared on our [website](#). For information on all COVID-19 supports available click [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: What further financial relief is available to the seniors in our communities?

A: The Prime Minister has announced that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will receive their special one-time, tax-free payment during the week of July 6. Through this measure and others, the government is providing nearly \$900 more for single seniors and more than \$1,500 for senior couples, on top of their existing benefits, to help with extra costs during the pandemic. Seniors eligible for the OAS pension will receive a payment of \$300, and those also eligible for the GIS will receive an additional \$200, for a total of \$500. Allowance recipients will also receive \$500. More information available [here](#).

National Information

[Predictive modelling of COVID-19 in Canada](#)

[Government of Canada announces interest relief for First Nations through the First Nations Finance Authority](#)

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: [hopeforwellness.ca](https://www.hopeforwellness.ca)

Alberta Cases:

as of June 8th 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (June 8– 64 new cases)	7,202
AB Recovered Cases	6,698
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	54
On-reserve Recovered Cases	37
Calgary Zone Confirmed	4,976
Central Zone Confirmed	87
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	613
North Zone Confirmed	245
South Zone Confirmed	1,268
Unknown Confirmed	13
Deaths due to COVID-19	149
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

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

Help Desk for Indigenous Leadership

The Canadian Red Cross has launched a Help Desk resource for Indigenous Community Leadership. The Help Desk has been established in coordination with other Indigenous help desks, such as First Nations Health Managers Association's InfoPoint. It provides information and referrals on areas including health guidance, planning for health emergencies and community wellness and protection, with the goal of helping leaders in Indigenous communities in their own planning activities related to COVID-19. The Help Desk is available from 7 am to 7 pm, 7 days a week and can be reached at **1-833-937-1597**.

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:

- Novel Coronavirus Update –Scenario & Discussion. **June 11th, 1:30-3:00pm**. Key FNIHB staff will be available for questions. Questions can be submitted in advance or at the end of the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca, visit <http://WWW.FNTN.CA> to register.

All Chiefs Meeting:

- The next All Chiefs Meeting will take place on June 10th at 2:00pm. Dr. Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, will be available for this call.