

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Daily Update for Chiefs: *April 20, 2020*



## Updates

### Support for Indigenous Businesses:

On Saturday, April 18, 2020, as part of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, the Prime Minister announced \$306.8 million in funding to help support small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions, which offer financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses. These measures will help 6,000 Indigenous-owned businesses get through these difficult times. The news release can be found [here](#). We will provide you with more information on this funding as it becomes available.

### Guidance on Funerals:

Recognizing the need to honour those who pass away during this time, and that burials should take place in a timely manner, it is recommended that funeral ceremonies not involving the burial be postponed. If a ceremony does occur, the following procedures are recommended:

- Consider the use of virtual technologies in place of in-person services and gatherings.
- Limit the number of people involved in the ceremony to only members of the immediate family/same household.
- Physical distancing of all individuals should be at least 6 feet at all times.
- Wear a homemade facial covering that covers your mouth and nose.
- Individuals who are ill, or have high-risk medical conditions must not attend. Friends, family and other visitors should not touch or kiss the body.
- Do not share bowls, utensils, pipes, or ceremonial objects.
- Maintain a list of all participants, in the event that tracing needs to be done.

## Question of the Day

**Q: How can Nations employ Income Assistance clients for security or other purposes during the COVID crisis?**

**A: The ISC-AB Income Assistance (IA) Policy allows for an Income Support Transfer (IST). First Nation Social Directors can transfer an eligible clients' monthly IA Basic Needs benefit to an employer (such as the Band), to act as a wage subsidy instead of the benefit going directly to the client (for up to one year). The employer would then pay the client the transferred benefit plus a salary top up. This gives the IA client the opportunity to gain work experience and earn more than their normal monthly IA benefit. The First Nation benefits as the wage subsidy reduces overall salary costs and provides employment opportunities for their members. The IST can be used for any positions required at the Nation such as security, administrative, or general labour. Eligible IA clients must have been receiving IA benefits prior to the start of the employment project.**

## National Information

[COVID-19 Guidance for High-Risk and Essential Workplaces](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#)  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)



## Alberta Cases:

as of April 19 12:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (April 19 – 241 new cases)	2803
Confirmed First Nations on-reserve Cases	0
Calgary Zone	1997
Central Zone	76
Edmonton Zone	429
North Zone	137
South Zone	142
Unknown	22
Deaths due to COVID-19	55

## Security Costs under COVID-19 EMAP

A reminder that incremental wage costs, including temporary hires and overtime, would be a reasonable expenditure from your Community Support Fund allocation. Examples include security staff and additional administrative and coordination personnel.

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS COVID FAQs

- [novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) FAQs for Public](#)

### Mental Health and Addiction COVID-19 Community Funding Grant

- [Organizations can apply for funding for projects that enhance community mental health and addiction recovery](#)

### Community Highlight

- [A story on the emergency preparedness efforts of Stoney Nakoda](#)

## 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.

# Novel coronavirus (COVID-19): Notification and Follow-Up Process for a Confirmed Case

Office of the Senior Medical Officer of Health

*The following process applies should a case of COVID-19 be confirmed by the province of Alberta's public health laboratory for an individual with a First Nation identified as the place of residence.*

## Notification

- A member of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Alberta Region (FNIHB-AB) Medical Officer of Health (MOH) team is informed of the positive test result directly by the provincial lab or Alberta Health Services Zone MOH.
- The FNIHB-AB MOH informs the FNIHB-AB Communicable Disease Control (CDC) team of the positive case.
- The FNIHB-AB CDC team immediately notifies the Nation's Community Health nursing team.
- The client is informed of the positive test by the Nation's public health team or by a primary health care provider, whoever ordered the COVID-19 test.
- The ISC-AB Executive Team will inform the Nation's leadership that a case has been confirmed in the community while ensuring that health information privacy guidelines are respected. The Executive team will be available to connect directly with leadership throughout the notification and follow-up process as requested.

## Initial Follow-up

- The FNIHB-AB CDC team will obtain client background information from NetCare and work with the health centre's public health nursing team to review the public health follow-up measures and ensure the health centre has the required documentation associated with a confirmed case.
- The health centre's Community Health Nurse will follow-up directly with the client to review isolation requirements and collect the relevant information to initiate public health follow-up measures with any close contacts.

## Public Health Measures

- The health centre's Community Health nursing team will initiate the contact tracing process and complete the close contact information list. Information about close contact exposure to the case and an assessment of symptoms will take place.
- The FNIHB-AB MOH and CDC teams will work with the health centre's public health nursing team to review appropriate isolation and testing requirements for close contacts of the positive tested individual and ensure public health measures are in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

**Anyone with specific questions or concerns about their health is encouraged to call Health Link at 811 for assessment and health advice.**

This Bulletin was prepared by the Office of the Senior Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Region. Should you have questions about this document, please do not hesitate to email: [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca)

