

# COVID-19 Status

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## **APRIL 16, 2020**

We have confirmed 126 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 1,996. Of the total cases, (as of April 14) 115 have been hospitalized and 35 have been in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Currently, there are 44 cases in hospital, with 10 in an ICU.

It's important to look at hospitalizations over time, as well as daily hospitalizations, in order to get a sense of the severity of COVID-19 in our province. These trends are currently being analyzed and there are plans to release more related modelling in the coming days.

Please note: Due to a technology issue, we do not have the number of cases suspected to be from community transmission, nor do we have the updated number of recovered cases today. This information will be provided in tomorrow's update.

2,839 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 82,534, since the start of the pandemic. With the expanded testing criteria announced this week, which now includes any Albertan with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we can expect to see continued increases in people tested and in the number of cases.

Today, we are happy to report there have not been any deaths related to COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. The total remains at 48 Albertans who have passed away from COVID-19.

## Things You Need to Know

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### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supplies**

As we continue to ensure that all healthcare workers have access to the PPE they need to care for Albertans safely, it's important to note that our procurement may result in different brands or models of supplies being provided to the frontline. The products you receive may vary in brand or look by shipment. We are distributing what we receive with urgency, and from multiple suppliers to meet demand. Be assured that all products you receive through AHS are safe, meet standards and will protect you as per our PPE guidelines.

### **Physicians Talk PPE – New Video Series**

In the first installment of a new [video series](#), *Physicians Talk PPE*, Dr. Dominic Cave, a physician at the University of Alberta Hospital, shares his thoughts on PPE and AHS guidelines to keep him and his colleagues safe. "I have elderly parents, three children and a wife," says Dr. Cave. "I can tell them I am safe at work."



### **PPE is Reaching Albertans**

While AHS is working to connect PPE with Alberta's healthcare workers, the Provincial Operators Centre is working to connect PPE and non-AHS facilities including, but not limited to, optometrist offices, funeral homes, pharmacies, disability service providers and social service and civil society groups. Non-AHS facilities are encouraged to continue requesting PPE through the government's one-stop email address at [pessecc-logistics@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pessecc-logistics@gov.ab.ca).

In addition to regular procurement methods, government is continuing to procure PPE through the Alberta Bits and Pieces Program, which has received about 4,000 offers to date, including 400 specific offers for PPE such as masks, respirators, sanitizer and ventilators. More information about PPE distribution outside of AHS is available [here](#).

### **Fraudulent and unauthorized N95 respirators may not protect consumers against COVID-19**

[Health Canada has received reports](#) that fraudulent and uncertified N95 respirators that falsely claim to protect consumers against COVID-19 are being illegally sold to consumers online and in some stores.

In Canada, N95 respirators are regulated by Health Canada as [Class I medical devices](#) and are manufactured or imported by companies that hold a Medical Device Establishment License. Please be advised of the significant risk of relying on potentially fraudulent PPE in any setting.

### **Scientific Advisory Group Recommendation Website**

AHS COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) is a standing committee, reporting to AHS' Emergency Coordination Centre, which connects with clinicians, operations, researchers and other experts to review, synthesize and interpret emerging evidence and guidance from national and international

bodies, regarding various facets of COVID-19. The focus of these reviews is to proactively support staff and patients during COVID-19, and to support best practices in healthcare settings across Alberta.

SAG Rapid Response Reports provide recommendations pertaining to COVID-19 and its impacts on patients, providers, community and the health system, with the goal of informing clinical and public health practice, and policy and procedure development. The recommendations are intended to be used in addition to clinical judgement. As evidence evolves, SAG develops updated recommendations as needed.

### **Clinical Guidance: Predictors of Intubation**

Many clinicians have asked if there are clinical features that reliably indicate the need for intubation and mechanical ventilation, and if, among patients requiring intubation and mechanical ventilation, there are clinical features predicting probability of survival or mortality.

SAG conducted a rapid review in response. This review is based on limited literature and existing published guideline documents, and is limited to adult, non-pregnant patients with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. The report has several recommendations with regard to intubation.

For more information, please review the [Rapid Review report](#).

### **Respiratory Therapists Playing a Key Role**

Teams across AHS are responding to COVID-19 by meeting the immediate needs of Albertans, undertaking the required planning to ensure the health system is prepared to meet the anticipated demands, and supporting programs and services behind the scenes. In the midst of this pandemic, like many others, respiratory therapists are playing a key role.

Karrie Whalen, a respiratory therapy clinical educator, answers questions about how respiratory therapists are supporting patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.



This is part of the ongoing [AHS COVID-19 podcast series](#), aimed at sharing important information to Albertans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Increasing Mental Health Supports**

The impact of COVID-19 has increased the need for mental health supports across Alberta. It is anticipated that we will continue to see the need for these supports increase daily and continue to do so long after this outbreak has ended.

The Government of Alberta announced \$53 million today, to implement more online, phone and in-person mental health and addiction recovery support, to make it easier for Albertans to access services, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will improve access to existing helplines, including the [Addiction Helpline](#), the [Mental Health Helpline](#), the [Kids Help Phone](#) and the [Community and Social Services Helpline \(Alberta 211\)](#).

More information about the increased mental health supports is available [here](#).

### **Alberta Children’s Hospital Invites You to Reach for Wellness**

Teams at the Alberta Children’s Hospital (ACH) have come up with an idea to engage and encourage their co-workers to share how they are looking after their ‘wellness needs’ in these exceptional times, including nutrition, mental health, physical and social needs.

*“Reach for Wellness”* was launched at the ACH by some pediatric residents who developed the challenge. You can inspire and encourage others by simply posting a photo of how you are reaching for your own wellness on [Instagram](#), or track and share your wellness accomplishments on Twitter using **#ACHWELLNESS**.

There is no limit to the number of times you can post. So far, posts include new recipes tried, home workouts sweated out, taking a well-deserved meditation break, and much more.



## In the Zones

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### **Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – North Zone**

We continue to see appreciation across the North Zone from residents who are showing their gratitude to AHS. Last week, the sounds of highland pipes were heard at the QEII Hospital in Grande Prairie as a local piper performed in the hospital's parking lot in a show of appreciation for those working the frontline during COVID-19. A [video](#) of the piper's performance can be viewed on the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation's Facebook page.



## Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation

April 9 at 6:05 PM · 🌐

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The sound of the highland pipes in appreciation of the healthcare workers at the QEII Hospital for going above and beyond and working the frontlines during these difficult times. Thank you as well to the piper Tyler Steinke of the Grande Prairie Band District Pipes and Drums & Chewy's Welding!



Thank You boards have also popped up at the QEII hospital and Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray. Positive comments and photos are posted on the whiteboards for staff to view as they enter the buildings through staff entrances.



Your work is making a difference. Thank you for the strength and energy you have brought to this fight. Together, we are reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta.

Thank you and stay safe.

*Please Note: This message has been modified from the AHS Daily Updates.*

**\*\*\*Please share this information as appropriate\*\*\***

**\*\*\*For Alberta Health Services – Indigenous specific questions/concerns please**

**email [ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca](mailto:ahs.ecc.operations.ih@ahs.ca) \*\*\***

**\*\*\*For Indigenous Services Canada please**

**email [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca) \*\*\***

*Josipa Pavicic on behalf of Nadine McRee*