

COVID-19 Status

APRIL 22, 2020

We have confirmed 187 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 3,095. Of the total cases, we suspect 281 cases may be the result of community transmission. Currently, there are 64 cases in hospital, with 18 in an ICU, and 1,273 cases have now recovered.

3,698 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 109,015 since the start of the pandemic.

Two more Albertans have passed away in the last 24 hours. We want to offer our sympathies to the families and friends of these two individuals. To date, there have been 61 deaths in Alberta related to COVID-19.

Indigenous Specific Information

Message of gratitude from the Piikani Nation

Representatives from Aakom-Kiyii Health Services in the Piikani Nation today sent this note of gratitude to Dr. Katherine Chubbs, Chief Zone Officer in AHS South Zone, thanking her and her team for sending daily “meaningful and informative” COVID-19 updates.

“We thank you so much for your support and encouragement during these challenging times,” the card reads.

Dr. Chubbs points out liaison officer Cai-lei Matsumoto, many South Zone leaders and members of the Indigenous Health Program play an integral role in supporting the Piikani Nation. She is also grateful to the Piikani Nation for their COVID-19 efforts and willingness to collaborate to achieve mutual goals.

“We have close relations and work together very well,” says Dr. Chubbs. “Our usual collaborative success continues to serve us well in the midst of COVID-19. As I told their Chief (Stanley) Grier earlier today, their team have been impressive in their response and we are here to help them however we can.”



April 21, 2020

Hi Katherine,

We wanted to let you how much we appreciate your hard work and your dedication. The COVID-19 updates each morning are so meaningful and informative. We thank you so much for you support and encouragement during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Aakom-Kiyii Health staff/Piikani



Things You Need to Know

Information on active outbreaks at continuing care, acute care sites now online

Starting today, the Government of Alberta is posting online the location and facility name of active outbreaks in the province. The information can be found at alberta.ca/covid19.

The outbreaks being posted are at any sites where there have been two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19. This is usually an indication that a transmission has occurred within a facility.

Public health is involved in facilities even before this happens. All congregate care sites in the province are required to report to public health if they have even one resident or staff member with any COVID symptoms. An outbreak is declared if even one staff or resident is confirmed to have COVID. Having a

low threshold for reporting and outbreak measures ensures public health is immediately involved to support the facility to protect residents and staff from spread of the virus.

An outbreak is declared over only when four weeks have passed with no new cases.

Right now, the province has only listed outbreaks in continuing care and acute care facilities but the goal is to expand to other settings in the weeks to come.

PPE Tip of the Day

The daily series - *PPE Tip of the Day* – features quick and simple reminders you can take forward into your practice, from shift to shift.

Putting on your surgical mask

[Place earloops/secure ties](#) snugly to your head. Next, form the strip around the bridge of your nose. Finally, pull the bottom of the mask down below your chin.

In the Zones

Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) — Edmonton Zone

After three weeks of operation, the Secondary Assessment Centre in Edmonton has assessed and treated nearly 1,000 referred patients.

The University of Alberta's Butterdome, normally a 5,500-seat, multi-use arena, was transformed into an assessment centre for patients exhibiting respiratory or ILI (influenza-like illness), or have COVID-19. The site offers short-term treatment or medical support for people who are unable to visit an emergency room or physician's office due to the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Patients are referred to the site after calling Health Link (811), being assessed by a Health Link nurse, and getting a referral. Up to 60 people are assessed daily at the site, which operates up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week, depending on demand.

About 30 AHS staff work at the site in a day, including physicians, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. They look after patients who don't need to go to an emergency department or be admitted to hospital, while identifying those who may be in the early stages of illness. Managing patients in the community using assessment criteria has allowed for a safe reduction in emergency department visits, while maintaining a process for rapid, co-ordinated transfer to inpatient care, if needed.

The Butterdome assessment centre is made possible through collaborations between AHS Community Health and community physicians and nurse practitioners, which have ensured family physicians receive followup information for their patients.

The Edmonton Zone ZEOC wishes to highlight:

- The collaboration between Community Health educators and University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing to provide nurse education.
- The SCOPE Program (for colorectal cancer screening) supporting referrals from Health Link and booking patients accordingly.
- The redeployment of several community health service staff members, who have been flexible and amazing to work with.
- The use of respiratory therapists to support registered nurses with respiratory assessment and oxygen therapy.

“Clinical and support staff from AHS Community Health Services, along with community family physicians and nurse practitioners, have shown great communication and innovation in the midst of constant change to serve the health needs of Edmontonians,” says Aleem Rajani, Program Manager for Primary Care and the SCOPE Program. “Our staff truly exemplify our central motto: be excellent!”

Be Well - Be Kind

AHS COVID-19 Podcast — Chronic Respiratory Illness

The threat of COVID-19 can create anxiety for Albertans living with chronic respiratory illness. AHS respiratory therapist Rena Sorensen shares some important information and advice to help better understand the impact COVID-19 is having on these patients.

Excerpts from the interview can be watched in this video, and the full interview can be heard in this podcast.

Hear other interviews on the [AHS COVID-19 Podcasts page](#) on the AHS website.



Shout Out

Message from the AHS Board

Staff and physicians at Alberta Health Services are once again demonstrating extraordinary effort, dedication and resiliency — this time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We want all of you to know that members of the AHS Board join Albertans from across the province to thank you for your hard work and effort.

As you likely know, AHS/Alberta Health modelling projections show the province is still a few weeks away from reaching peak demand on the health system. This means pressures on the health system — and on all of you — will increase throughout April and May. This will be a difficult time — for all of us in the health system, especially our heroes on the front lines, and for all Albertans. Excellent planning and preparation have put AHS in a good position to deal with the expected surge in patients. We have increased our acute care capacity, our ICU capacity and our number of ventilators. We have sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment to keep our front-line workers safe. We've provided support to continuing care facilities to help protect the vulnerable populations who live there. And the number of COVID-19 tests we're completing is helping us monitor the spread of the virus and develop strategies for containment.

Our planning, our preparation and our ongoing support of our patients and partners have been made possible through your coordinated efforts within our integrated, provincewide health system. Members of the AHS Board have always been proud of your achievements; we are humbled by all you are doing now for Albertans and for each other.

On behalf of the AHS Board: Thank you. Be safe. Be well.

Shout out to Lacombe EMS

“I wanted to email you and show appreciation to your Lacombe EMS team. On April 15, I was in contact with Kelvin [in EMS], he gathered his teammates and they did a drive by with their ambulances honking and sounding their sirens for my niece’s birthday — social-distancing style.

“This was so special. We just want them to know how much we appreciate this. It shows they are working with their hearts and that, in this different and disappointing time, they are still doing whatever they can to help their community get through. We can only imagine how busy they must be and just the fact they took 10 minutes to do this will be something we will never forget and something my nieces and nephews will never forget.

“When we look back and think about the coronavirus, instead of thinking about how difficult and uncertain this time was, this is what we will think of — and, for that, we can’t thank you enough!”

*Blessings,
Emily Mena*

We’ve received some excellent feedback from staff and physicians about a video in last night’s all-staff in which Dr. Mark Joffe answered questions about newly procured personal protective equipment (PPE). Many of you accepted Dr. Joffe’s invitation to share your feedback about PPE, and we’re pleased so many of you have taken the time to reach out. This is information we need to know — and we are listening. We are in this together, and together we will find solutions to this and other issues we will face during our response to COVID-19.

Thank you for your candour, your hard work, your sacrifice and for everything you do, each and every day, on behalf Albertans and each other.

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 *****

*****For Indigenous Services Canada please email sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca *****

Josipa Pavicic on behalf of Nadine McRee