

COVID-19 Status

MAY 14, 2020

We have confirmed 62 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of active cases to 1,211. We've had a total of 6,407 cases in Alberta; 5,076 have now recovered. Of the total cases, we suspect 638 cases may have been acquired through an unknown source in the community (this does not include cases associated with outbreaks), 270 have been hospitalized and 53 have been in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Currently, there are 70 cases in hospital, with 11 in an ICU.

We must report the sad news of two deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 120 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families and their care teams.

4,072 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 195,402 since the start of the pandemic.

Things You Need to Know

Provincial relaunch plans

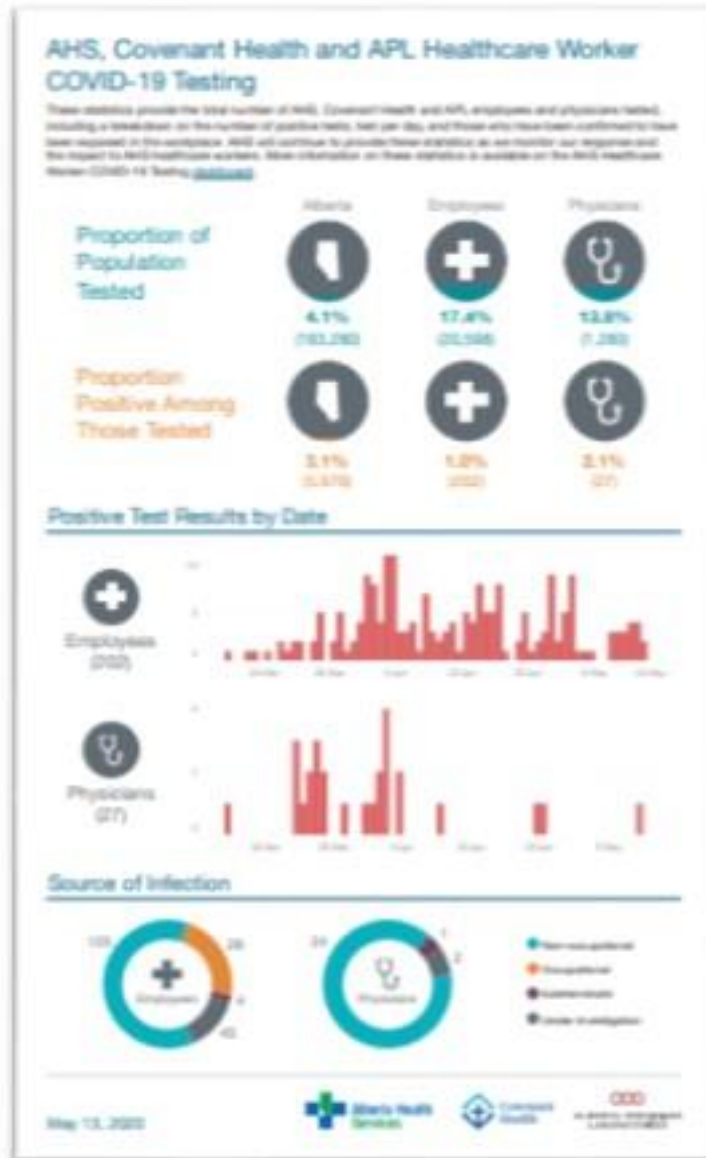
The Government of Alberta today announced plans for [Stage 1 relaunch](#). The plan places safety first, and outlines a gradual lift of restrictions. Calgary and Brooks will see a more gradual opening. There are new guidelines in place for all to maintain physical distancing to the extent possible. Complete details are available at alberta.ca/covid19.

Healthcare worker COVID-19 testing

As of May 12,

- 20,598 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 202 (or 0.98 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 202 employees who have tested positive, 28 (or 13.9 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 45 of the 202 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).
- 1,280 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 27 (or 2.11 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 27 physicians who have tested positive, none has been confirmed to have acquired infection through a workplace exposure (with two of the 27 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).

To see more details on daily testing and how these numbers compare to testing across the province, see the new Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [infographic](#). More information on our statistics is also available in the [dashboard](#).



We thank healthcare workers for their excellent attention to hand hygiene, personal protective equipment and other controls available to them, as we continue to work together to limit workplace exposure and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Social and video connection guidelines for congregate living

Guidance on the use of [Technology for Video Virtual Healthcare Delivery in Congregate Living Sites during COVID-19](#) and [Technology for Social Connection in Congregate Living Sites during COVID-19](#) is now available. The guidance documents are meant to provide information to congregate living sites about considerations for using technology to support social connection and access to video virtual healthcare delivery during COVID-19. These documents have been posted to Insite and the external health professionals resource page.

Serological testing: next steps towards antibody testing in Alberta

Yesterday, Health Canada authorized the [first COVID-19 serological test](#) for use in Canada, the DiaSorin LIAISON®. There has been much work occurring in recent weeks right across the country to find a serological test (which tests for antibodies) that is safe, effective, and can be scaled for use in testing the population. Health Canada approval of the first COVID-19 serological test is a positive step forward for Canada and for Alberta in our collective efforts to better understand this virus.

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) is now in the final stages of evaluating and validating various serology tests, including the DiaSorin test. Even with Health Canada approval, APL must always independently validate any serological test before it is used in Alberta; other jurisdictions are doing similar independent evaluations. All this information will be used to inform which are the best tests to use.

APL is expecting to conclude their evaluations of various tests by tomorrow (May 14). A provincial serology advisory group has been established and is meeting tomorrow to discuss next steps. In the coming days, we look forward to sharing the conclusions of the advisory group and how its plans will be linked to recommendations and advice from the national task force that has also been established to help guide this important work. While there is no definitive timeline for when widespread serology testing may be available for Albertans, we anticipate an initial testing strategy could be in place by the end of May.

Serological testing is important because it enables us to see who within the population has antibodies to this specific virus and, therefore, who has had previous exposure. It will be a crucial part of our COVID-19 response efforts moving forward because it enables us to observe how COVID-19 has been behaving and transmitting in our communities.

Serological testing can help determine who within our population may have partial immunity; will be useful in further study of the virus and in clinical research into potential treatments and vaccinations; will provide critical data for public health officials in evaluating how well our public health strategies have been working thus far; and will inform future public health advice for our policymakers.

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.

Cleaning hands before putting on PPE:

[Cleaning hands](#) before [putting on PPE](#) is critical to prevent contamination of the equipment and the patient.

Please note there was an error in yesterday's PPE Tip of the Day. This has been corrected.

High-Touch Surfaces

After providing patient care, immediately [clean your hands](#), [remove your mask](#) and [clean your hands](#) again. Doing so reduces the risk of spreading the virus to others, or contaminating high-touch surfaces such as door handles and knobs, keyboards or your computer.

To see previous PPE Tips of the Day, please visit the PPE Tips archive, [here](#).

Inside the University of Alberta's designated COVID-19 unit

Dr. Stephanie Smith, Director of Infection Prevention and Control at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, hosts an eight-minute [informational video that takes viewers inside the facility's designated COVID-19 unit](#) to show its set-up, approach and principles.

"We recognize that every AHS unit at each facility is unique," Dr. Smith says in the video. "But we hope you can take some of the principles that we have learned and adapt them to your facility to provide optimal care for patients and to protect healthcare workers."



In the Zones

Calgary Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) — Appreciation for Clifton Manor team

Today at noon, East Calgary Health Centre (EHC) staff and community partners stood outside the neighbouring Clifton Manor continuing care facility in the city's southeast, waving and displaying signs of support. There was also a small parade with cars displaying signs of appreciation.

Clifton Manor is home to about 250 residents.

EHC site manager Sean McIntyre says his staff wanted to acknowledge "the challenges all care homes are facing with the pandemic."

The event was organized by ECHC site secretary Tasha McLean, former site manager Sue Ramsden and the centre's culture committee in an effort to show support "in a simple but very visible way," McIntyre adds.

Several community partners also participated in the show of support, including:

- The Calgary Police Service
- 12 Communities Service Initiative
- Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
- Forest Lawn United Church
- City of Calgary Parks and Recreation
- Clifton Manor staff and the Brenda Strafford Foundation (the parent organization of Clifton Manor)
- Clark Builders (which is building a new seniors residence for Brenda Strafford Foundation next to the ECHC)
- Forest Lawn 55 Plus
- The Forest Lawn Library
- Children's Health Clinic (housed within ECHC)
- Community residents

"There has been collaboration and co-operation between ECHC and Clifton Manor for many years," says McIntyre. They partner on seniors' health issues from a variety of perspectives, and have worked together during a recent water outage as well as to deal with roof repairs at the Manor.



Staff at the East Calgary Health Centre were involved in a public display of support and appreciation for the teams and residents at the neighbouring Clifton Manor continuing care facility.

Be Well - Be Kind

We continue to give during COVID-19

Thank you to everyone for their continued commitment to the COVID-19 response. We cannot do it without you.

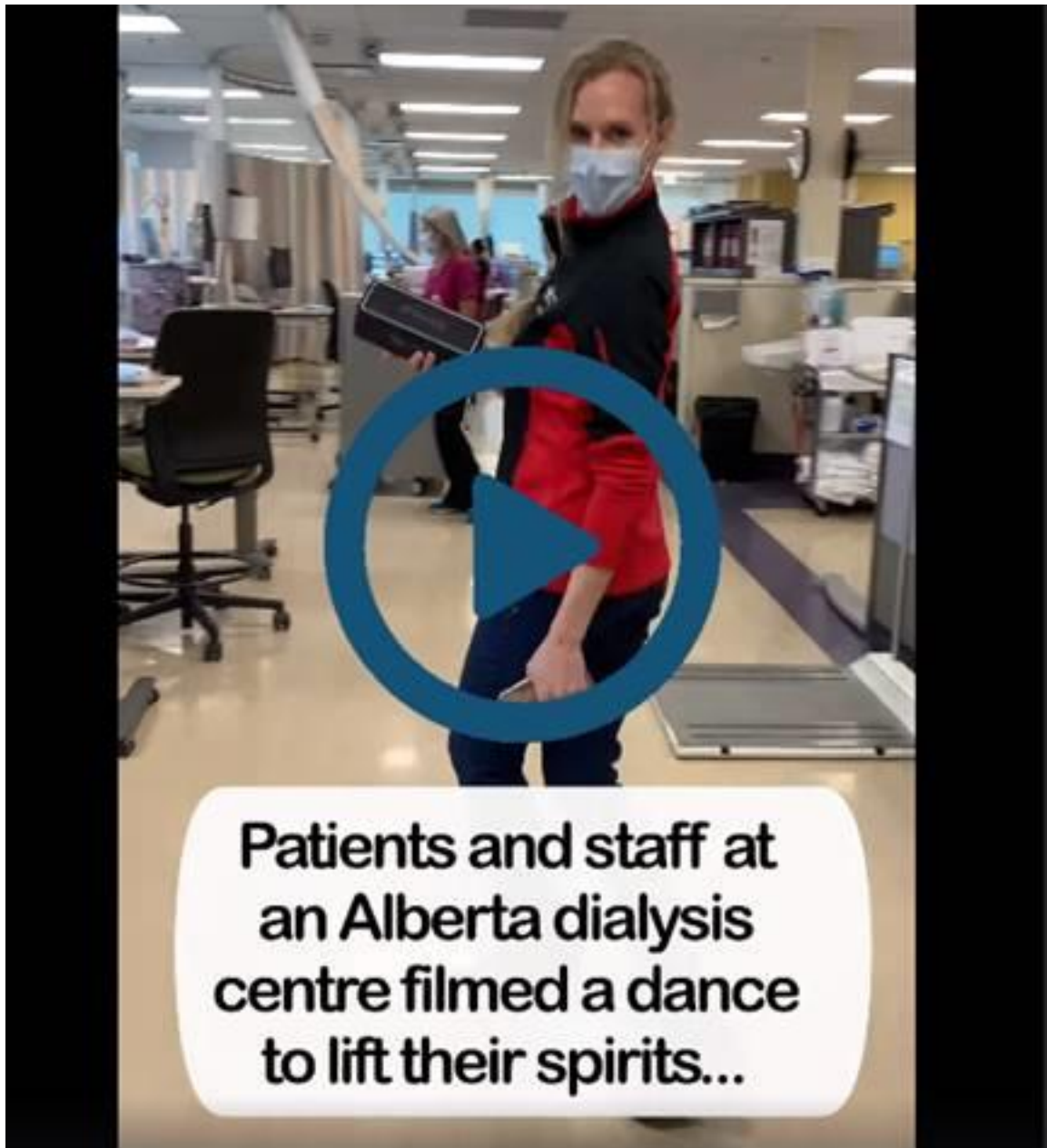
If you are interested in [donating to a COVID-19 relief fund in your community](#) you can do so through the United Way, or one of our [69 foundation partners](#) that raise funds for healthcare across Alberta.

We know many of you are also facing challenging situations at this time, both at work and at home. We understand that you may not be able to donate and that's OK. Thank you for all you are doing to fight for and support your families, patients and all Albertans.

Dialysis dance at South Calgary dialysis unit

Patients and staff at the South Calgary dialysis unit [recorded a dance](#) to raise spirits during the COVID-19 pandemic — and this fun, uplifting video was recently posted on the AHS Facebook page. We thought you'd like to see it.

We are Family is such an appropriate song for our unit," says nurse clinician Heather Dean. "We often refer to each other as our dialysis family.



Closing message

As noted, Premier Jason Kenney announced Stage 1 of the province's staged relaunch will go ahead on May 14th as planned, except in Calgary and Brooks, where a more gradual relaunch is planned over the next 18 days due to a higher number of active COVID-19 cases.

The province is able to relaunch because the actual numbers of cases, hospitalizations and ICU usage are below even our most recent low modelling projections. This is a credit to Albertans, of course: you have made sacrifices required to flatten the curve. But it's also a credit for getting the message out to Albertans, for stepping in to manage outbreaks, for carefully monitoring the spread of the virus across the province, for our nation-best testing and the contact tracing, and for everything else we've been doing during this public health emergency.

Our first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Alberta was announced 10 weeks ago today — and we've come a long way since then. Public health surveillance will be absolutely critical during these stages of relaunch to ensure that the gains we've worked for are not lost; that the health and safety of Albertans, and each other, are not jeopardized. Alberta is starting its relaunch, yes, but please know Albertans still need you as much as ever.

Thank you for your sacrifices, and for all you do each and every day.

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

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