

# COVID-19 Status

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## **April 8, 2020**

We have confirmed 25 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 1,373. Of the total cases in Alberta to date, 199 are suspected to be through community transmission from an unknown source, 90 have been hospitalized and 31 admitted to intensive care units (ICU). Today, there are 42 cases in hospital, with 15 in ICU. The number of recovered cases is now at 447.

Today, we must report two additional deaths related to COVID-19 - a man in his 60s and a man in his 90s, both from the Calgary Zone. We extend our condolences to the loved ones of these men and to the teams who were caring for them. In total, 26 Albertans have now passed away from COVID-19.

## Things You Need to Know

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### **Modelling for COVID-19 in Alberta**

Today, Premier Kenney addressed Albertans and shared information about modelling for the course of COVID-19 in Alberta. Current predictions outline two scenarios: one is what is most likely, based on the experience of other countries and what we know in Alberta today; the other is more extreme. In the first scenario, the peak of infections would be in mid-May, with as many as 800,000 Albertans contracting COVID-19, and between 400 and 3,100 deaths. The more dire predictions indicate the peak could be earlier in May, with more than one million infections and between 500 and 6,600 deaths.

We know that in Alberta, we already have lower hospitalization rates than other large provinces, and the rate at which infections are spreading is lower than other countries have experienced. These are both positive, but to maintain these lower rates, we are absolutely dependent on compliance with public health orders. The severity of COVID-19 in Alberta rests with Albertans.

We must continue to wash our hands frequently and thoroughly, stay home when sick and avoid being in public as much as possible. If you must be in congested public locations, wearing a mask may help reduce the spread of infection.

We should expect the public health orders and guidelines to remain in effect until at least the end of May, according to Premier Kenney's update.

Dr. Yiu, will be participating in a media conference tomorrow with Premier Kenney to further address the modelling scenarios.

### **Hospital and Continuing Care Visitor Restrictions**

The difficult decision has been made to enhance visiting restrictions in hospitals, long-term care, supportive living, congregate living, lodges, licensed group homes and residential addiction treatment programs, given the increasing spread of COVID-19 in Alberta.

At this time, no visitors will be allowed unless a resident or patient is dying, or the visitor is essential for delivering care which cannot be delivered by staff. Exceptions will also be made for pediatric patients and maternity care.

All approved visitors are now required to wear a mask when visiting a patient in a healthcare facility, including, maternity, pediatric and dying patients and residents.

Visitors who are permitted under these exceptions must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility. This may include a temperature check or a [questionnaire](#). They will be escorted by staff to their family member's room and must remain there; they are not permitted to visit other residents, patients or move about within the facility.

People will NOT be allowed to visit if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Have an illness that can be transmitted (symptoms including fever, cough, or feeling unwell);
- Are immunocompromised
- Are on self-isolation for COVID-19
- Are being tested for COVID-19;
- Have tested positive for COVID-19. They will not be allowed to visit until they have recovered and receive clearance from medical officials.

We continue to make these difficult decisions in order to keep our most vulnerable citizens safe from illness. We encourage Albertans to look for other ways to reach out to their loved ones. Even spending just a few minutes on the phone can go a long way toward reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation.

More details can be found [here](#).

### **Guidance for Healthcare Workers who are Pregnant or have Risk Factors**

AHS is committed to keeping our people healthy and safe. During this time, healthcare workers who have underlying medical conditions and potential risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease, or are pregnant, may be concerned about their personal risk. To protect the health and safety of those healthcare workers with respect to COVID-19, AHS has released the following position statements for general guidance:

- [Healthcare Workers with Underlying Medical Conditions and Potential Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 Disease](#)
- [Pregnant Healthcare Workers and COVID-19](#)

If you have any questions, please speak with your supervisor or medical staff leader.

## In the Zones

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

#### **Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) Day Hospital Provides Virtual Mental Health Services**

To meet the needs of their clients during this time of social distancing, the FMC Day Hospital is now able to provide mental health services via Zoom. The Day Hospital at FMC provides intensive daily group therapy to individuals struggling with mental health concerns.

## Be Well - Be Kind

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### **Green Shirt Day for Organ Donation Awareness**

April 7 is "Green Shirt Day" across Canada, which aims to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage people to register as organ donors. The day is held in honour of Humboldt Broncos' crash victim, Logan Boulet, who died as a result of the tragic bus crash on April 6, 2018, which also took the lives of 15 other players and support staff. Prior to the crash, Logan, who was from Lethbridge, told his parents he wanted to be an organ donor. As a result of that conversation, Logan's organs went to six other people who were awaiting transplants. It inspired the "Logan Boulet Effect", which saw more than 100,000 Canadians register as organ donors in the days and weeks that followed.

This year, because of COVID-19, his family hopes that green shirt photos will be posted on social media to support this effort. We hope that in spite of our physical distancing, you remember the lives lost and those injured in the crash, and wear your green shirt to encourage organ donation in Logan's memory.

### **Acts of Community Kindness**

We know that sometimes laughter can be the best medicine. As we have been forced to focus on some very serious topics lately, it was nice to see that even the cars at our sites are donning their PPE! This car was spotted in the University of Alberta and Stollery hospitals' parkade. Thanks to the owner of this car for taking the time to make us all smile.



Please find moments to smile. Reflect on the support and encouragement Albertans provide every day. Remember that you are doing amazing things. Know that we appreciate your tireless work to care for those who need us. Stay safe and well.

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COVID-19 – FAQ's for public:

Link: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-public-faq.pdf>

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Thank you and stay safe.

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