

COVID-19 Status

May 19, 2020

We have confirmed 58 new cases of COVID-19 over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 6,515, with 1,011 active cases. Of the total cases, we suspect 630 cases may have been acquired in the community from an unknown source (these cases are not included in outbreak data). Currently, there are 62 cases in hospital, with 9 in an Intensive Care Unit. 5,317 cases have now recovered.

We must report the sad news of four additional deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 125 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19. We want to extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of these four Albertans. We know this is a very difficult time for you and we stand alongside you in your grief.

4,505 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 204,723 since the start of the pandemic.

Early results from the asymptomatic testing in Calgary, which started this week, have identified 50 COVID-19 cases who are reported as having no symptoms. More information about this testing will be shared next week.

Things You Need to Know

Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers in the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#). These statistics provide the total number of AHS, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories employees and physicians tested, including a breakdown of the number of positive tests and those who have been confirmed to have been exposed in the workplace.

As of May 14,

- 21,053 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, and of those tested, 206 (or 0.98%) have tested positive.
- Of the 206 employees who have tested positive, 27 (or 13.1%) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 46 of the 206 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).
- 1,296 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and of those tested, 27 (or 2.08%) have tested positive.
- Of the 27 physicians who have tested positive, none have been confirmed to have acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 2 of the 27 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).

For more information, see the Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [infographic](#) and [dashboard](#).

Weekly Video Message from Verna, with Special Guest, Laura

In my weekly [video message](#) to AHS staff and physicians, I (Verna) want to encourage all of you to find time to relax during the Victoria Day long weekend. I also want to thank our nurses for their commitment to patients as National Nursing Week winds down and I want to let you know about the

new email address we've created for you to share your COVID-19 innovations, which could continue to help the organization after the pandemic is over. (More about that is also noted in this update, just below my video message.)

I am thrilled that this week, Dr. Laura McDougall joins me in the video message. We know there is so much to be learned from the experiences and challenges we are going through with COVID-19. Dr. McDougall is so very passionate about continuing to support those groups at the highest risk of poor outcomes from this illness. Many of you may wonder why we see such high incidence of spread in shelters, processing plants and long-term care centres, to name a few of the places there have been outbreaks. We know that COVID-19 can pose special challenges in these environments and we want to work more closely with these groups to better understand the factors which contribute to their vulnerability. Ultimately, we want Albertans to be as healthy as they can be. We could have spent much longer discussing these challenges in our video update, but for this week we have focused on Dr. McDougall's background, her insightful perspective on AHS' response to the pandemic, and her pet bird.

You can find out more about our conversation in this week's video.



Launching Beyond COVID – Share your Ideas for Lasting Change

COVID-19 has unquestionably changed the way we work. In some cases, the changes will be temporary, and in others, they could have a lasting impact. We want to hear about amazing, innovative solutions and problem-solving that can serve us well beyond our COVID-19 response.

That's why we are launching [Beyond COVID](#) as a way for our people to share the creativity and innovation they continue to demonstrate at AHS. We encourage you to share how you and your

teams have adapted during the pandemic and how it could improve our practices in the future. You can send your ideas to BeyondCOVID@ahs.ca where they will be reviewed to see how we can adopt what we've learned into other areas of AHS.

PPE Question of the Week

Every week, members of the PPE taskforce answer questions submitted by staff and physicians about personal protective equipment (PPE).

In this week's instalment of the [PPE Question of the Week](#), Janet Barclay, Director of Infection Prevention and Control in AHS North Zone, addresses staff questions about why different isolation gowns are arriving at AHS sites across the province and whether they are safe. Barclay explains the gowns are being procured through different vendors and may be blue instead of yellow, but are all fluid resistant and safe to use for all interactions with COVID-19 patients.



The graphic features a teal border and a teal footer. At the top left, the text 'PPE Question of the Week' is displayed, with 'PPE' in a larger font and 'Question of the Week' in a smaller font, both underlined. To the right of this text are three vertically stacked icons: a pair of gloves, a face mask, and a gown. The central text reads 'Why do we have new gowns, and are they as safe?' in a large teal font, followed by a play button icon. The teal footer contains the text 'Dr. Mark Joffe answers PPE question of the week.'

AHS COVID-19 Podcast Series with AHS Public Health

The COVID-19 pandemic is considered a public health emergency. In this episode of [AHS's COVID-19 podcast](#), Dr. Jason Cabaj, AHS Medical Officer of Health, talks about what public health is, its important role during the COVID-19 pandemic, and exactly how the AHS Public Health team have been supporting Albertans.



In the Zones

Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – North

In an effort to keep staff updated, North Zone executive leader Greg Cummings, along with Medical Officers of Health, Dr. Albert de Villiers, Dr. Kristin Klein and Dr. Kathryn Koliaska, with the help of a number of other managers in various sectors including Infection Prevention and Control, Human Resources and Workplace Health and Safety, to name a few, have been hosting weekly COVID-19 Skype Update meetings over the lunch hour every Friday.

Between 300 and 500 North Zone staff and physicians regularly join the presentation for the latest information and to have their questions answered. The presentations have been very well-received and plans are in place to continue to host the weekly meetings for the foreseeable future.

With the assistance of the Community Engagement team, North Zone executive leader, Greg Cummings, Senior Operating Officer, Sandra Herritt, and Environmental Public Health Director, Shane Hussey recently hosted a special meeting for business leaders via Zoom, in the hamlet of La Crete, to address their concerns around COVID-19. In addition to this, three more public Town Halls are currently being planned for the North Zone in the next few weeks.

Since the beginning of COVID-19 visitation restrictions, recreation staff have helped residents at Mackenzie Place in Grande Prairie stay in touch with families with the use of iPads. Three to four times a week, residents have had the opportunity to Facetime, Zoom, Google Duo, and Skype call

family members. It has been a great way to keep residents in contact with what is going on outside of their facility.



Staying connected at MacKenzie Place during quarantine using social media and technology.

Recreation teams also hosted seven small parties, for five residents or less, to celebrate Mother's Day at Mackenzie Place. Each mother received a handmade corsage, a plate full of sweet treats and fruit, and a steaming hot cup of tea. Each party took time for residents to reminisce on what is it to be a mother, and laugh and share memories of motherhood.



MacKenzie Place enjoy a Mother's Day tea.

Be Well - Be Kind

Mental Health Supports: Managing Stress and Anxiety

As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, we all experience [stress and anxiety](#) differently. You may be working long work hours, caring for your [family](#) and [yourself](#), or feeling [fatigued](#). Regardless of what's happening in your life right now, more than ever, taking care of yourself is key.

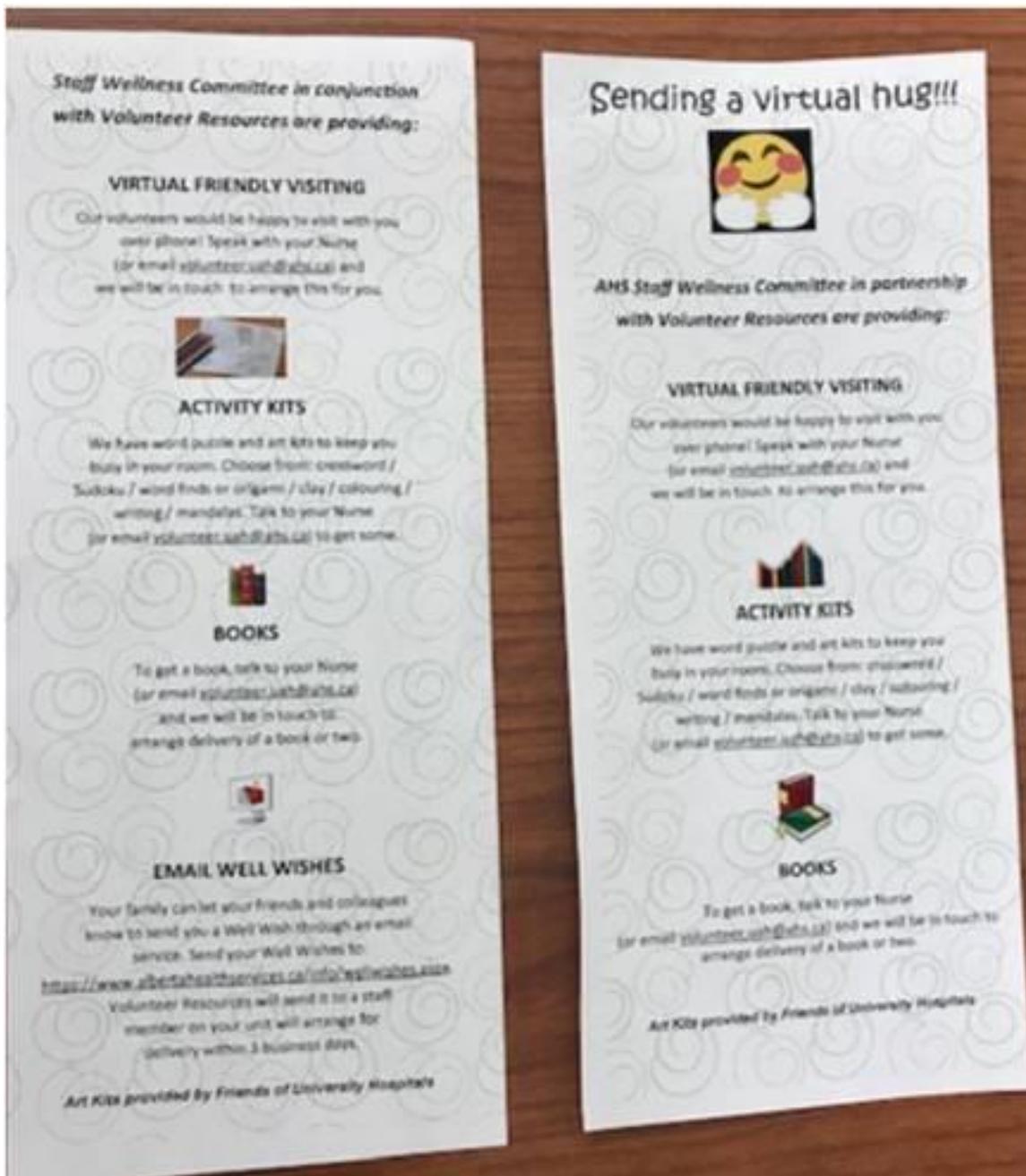
Many of life's events are not within our control, but the way you choose to respond to them is. You can make a difference and take proactive steps in managing health, work, and life challenges by accessing support services and resources like Life Smart Coaching. This service offers expert support and coaching to help you maintain your mental and physical well-being.

Shout Out

We know our teams are constantly finding ways to meet the unique needs of patients, clients, residents and families across the province during COVID-19. Your innovation and collaboration in small and large ways are making such a difference to the care we provide. This shout out is for Patient Food Services teams in the Edmonton Zone, who have been creative and colourful in delivering information to their patients to make sure all aspects of their care are being addressed.

Patient Food Services, in response to WMC Campus Staff Wellness Committee request, is distributing information pamphlet(s) on patient meal trays for patients. These pamphlets provide information to patients on how to access books, activity kits, and virtual visits provided to patients by volunteer services. This is a wonderful opportunity during this pandemic for us to assist in improving the patient experience and bringing joy to patients.

*Fanny Piquette
Manager, Patient Food Services*



Community Acts of Kindness

Albertans in every community around the province have shown ingenuity in the ways they've expressed their appreciation for AHS teams. This week, a musician popped up outside one of the fast flow sites in Calgary, to provide a curbside concert for the site. Public Health Nurse, Lani Babin, said that AHS Protective Services teams, Assessment Centre staff and neighbours to our site came out to enjoy the music as well.



The creativity of Albertans has been shared through many different mediums – parades, notes, cards, colourful lights, music, dance and works of art are some of the ways we’ve received gratitude for all you’ve done to protect the health and safety of the people in our province. This week, this beautiful and touching painting came our way from Mira Von Maldeghem. She wanted to thank all of our staff and physicians for their care. We are moved by the way her painting conveys the love and compassion healthcare teams have for their patients and their work.



Further public health restrictions have been lifted. This includes the size of permissible outdoor gatherings being increased to 50 people, with adherence to public health guidelines. As we said in the video message, we want you to enjoy the weather and this time of recreation in our new normal. We must continue to support each other in making good decisions about the kinds of activities we choose, while maintaining special attention to hand hygiene and physical distancing. We must remember that even though we are resuming some pre-pandemic activities, nothing is the same as it was and this virus is still very much a threat, particularly to Alberta's elderly and those with chronic health conditions. Keep looking out for each other and protecting our most vulnerable with good choices.

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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