

COVID-19 Status

We have confirmed 96 new cases of COVID-19 in Alberta over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 6,253. Currently, 71 people with COVID-19 are in hospital and 13 of them are in an intensive care unit. The total number of people who have recovered from COVID-19 in Alberta is 4,389. We have seen 687 cases to date with unknown exposure.

One more Albertan has died from COVID-19 and we are truly sorry for their loss. In all, 117 Albertans have lost their lives. Our thoughts and condolences go to all who have lost a family member, friend, patient or resident to COVID-19.

Lab teams across the province have now tested 173,023 people and completed a total of 185,293. In the past 24 hours, they completed tests on 4,186 people.

Things You Need to Know

Verna's Weekly Video Message

In this week's [CEO video message](#), I (Verna) share some good news from the past seven days, and invite Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) Director, Nancy Guebert, and deputy directors, Peter Mackinnon and Debbie Goulard, to discuss how the ECC team has worked with others across the organization to deliver effective and coordinated emergency response during the COVID-19 pandemic.



APL and Covenant Health Data Added to AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing Dashboard

Testing data from Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Labs (APL) has now been added to the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#). These statistics provide the total number of AHS, Covenant Health and APL 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. Now that the data represents multiple groups of employees and physicians, it should be noted that some individuals work for more than one employer. As a result, when you add all of the subtotals for each employer group, they may not equal the grand totals, as individuals are only counted once in the grand totals.

As of May 6,

- 19,511 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, and of those tested, 181 (or 0.93%) have tested positive.
- Of the 181 employees who have tested positive, 21 (or 11.6%) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 45 of the 181 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).
- 1,225 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and of those tested, 25 (or 2.04%) have tested positive.
- Of the 25 physicians who have tested positive, none has been confirmed to have acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 3 of the 25 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).

AHS will continue to provide these statistics as we monitor our response and the impact to AHS healthcare workers. Further information on our statistics is available on the introduction page of the [dashboard](#). We thank our 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.

Continuation of Ordering Only Clinically Necessary Lab Work

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and our partners at DynaLIFE have been working hard to deploy our laboratory resources in the safest and most efficient way possible, as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, APL and DynaLIFE strongly recommended cessation of non-essential and routine laboratory testing in an effort to enhance patient safety within lab collection sites and to relieve the strain on the lab system.

We are continuing to ask our community physicians and other providers to only order lab work for patients that is immediately medically necessary (based on the physician's clinical opinion). Please refer to the [lab bulletin](#) posted today for further details.

Until physical distancing restrictions are lifted, APL and DynaLIFE will not be able to return to pre-pandemic patient volumes. Providing safe distancing within waiting areas, screening patients for symptoms before they enter the lab, and offering safe environments for high-risk patients are all considerations as we plan for the resumption of full lab collection services.

As some healthcare services previously halted are starting to resume (such as non-urgent surgeries), we want to assure providers and the public that patients who require lab work critical to their immediate care will continue to receive testing.

We are thankful for the cooperation of providers and patients, and respectfully ask for your continued patience. This will give us the needed time to implement solutions which will enable us to serve more patients during these challenging circumstances.

APL and DynaLIFE continue to assess and monitor the situation and will provide updates on our websites as the situation evolves.

Fit Testing Reminder

Please remember that staff must only wear the make and model of N95 respirator for which they have been most recently [fit tested](#). Using only the model you have been fit-tested for will help ensure frontline healthcare workers continue to have the protection they need to work safely.

PPE Tips

Our daily tips feature quick and simple reminders you can make part of your practice, from shift to shift.

Mask Use:

Do not wear the mask around your neck in between [caring for patients](#). This could lead to contamination of your face, with the mouth, nose and eyes the greatest areas of concern for virus entry. Dispose of your mask and [wash your hands](#).

Mask Use

Your mask is either ON or OFF, not somewhere in between. Wash your hands after disposing of your mask.

Isolation Gowns

There are different ratings for isolation gowns, with several standards of performance, including fluid resistance. Level 1 rated gowns are moderately fluid resistant, while a level 2 or 3 gown provides increased fluid resistance.

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

PPE Question of the Week - Are we running out of N95 respirators?

In this week's instalment of the [PPE Question of the Week](#), Dr. Mark Joffe, AHS Vice President & Medical Director of CancerControl Alberta, Clinical Support Services and Provincial Clinical Excellence, confirms AHS has a sufficient supply of N95 respirators. Dr. Joffe points out AHS is sourcing N95s from other manufacturers, explains what this means for the frontline care providers who use them, and provides details of an ongoing recycling project — a contingency plan in the event AHS's supply of new N95s is interrupted in the months ahead.

PPE Question of the Week

Are we running out of
N95 respirators? 



Dr. Mark Joffe answers PPE question of the week.

Recommendations for Anti-microbial Use for Secondary Infections in Patients with COVID-19

This review by the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) was requested to assess current data on the incidence of co-infections at presentation, or bacterial or fungal superinfection, to inform guidelines around anti-microbial use in patients with COVID-19. In their review, SAG noted the apparent under-utilization of microbiologic testing to assess for secondary infection, while also noting that broad spectrum antibiotics are given to the majority of COVID-19 patients. This supported recommendations to acquire specimens before antibiotic therapy and use antibiotics more judiciously, guided by clinical assessment.

Antibiotic use in patients with COVID-19 has not been proven to improve clinical outcomes, but unnecessary antibiotic use in the stewardship literature has been proven to be associated with an increased risk of *C difficile*, and other adverse drug effects. For more information, see the [Rapid Review](#).

In the Zones

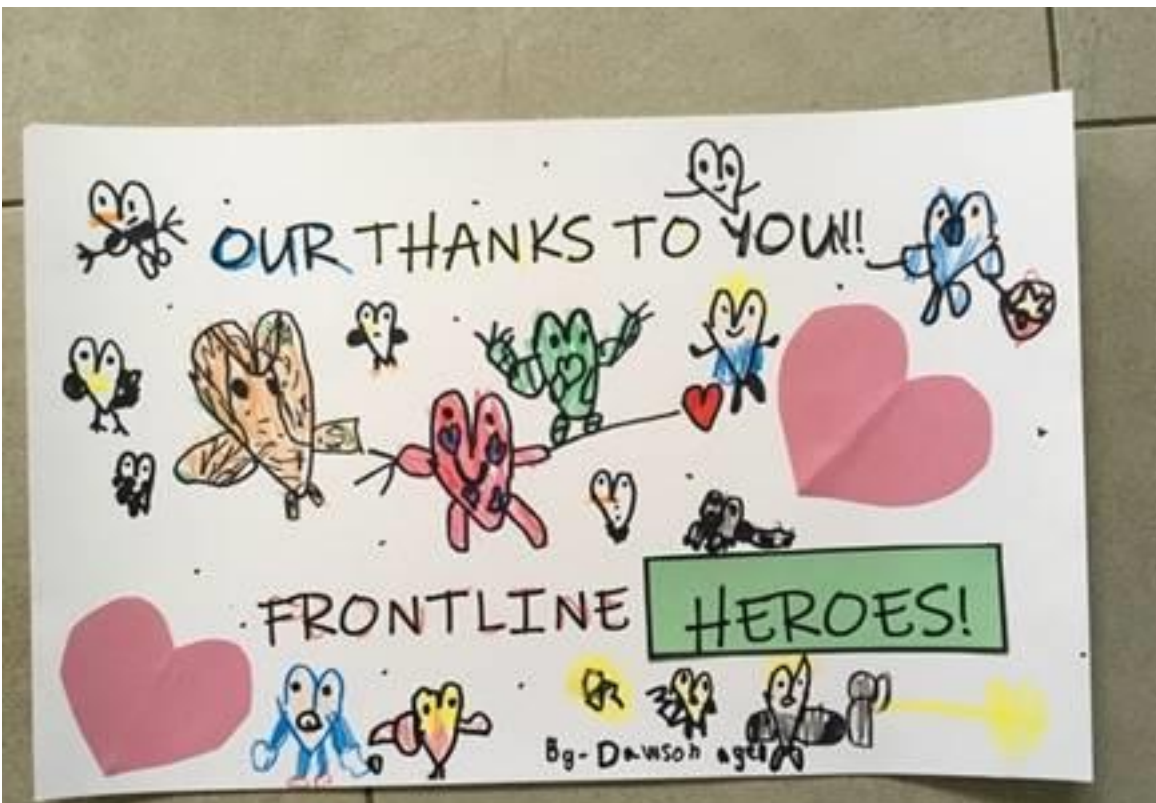
Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – Monitoring floods, fires and COVID-19 in the North Zone

The North Zone Emergency Operation Centre continues to work closely with Mackenzie County and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo during flood recovery and re-entry in both communities.

This includes monitoring wildfires across the zone. The wildfire danger has been reported from “moderate” to “high” in several areas. As a proactive measure, we have advised municipalities of evacuation plans during COVID-19 should they be needed in any community. We would support municipal evacuations with timely and appropriate services.

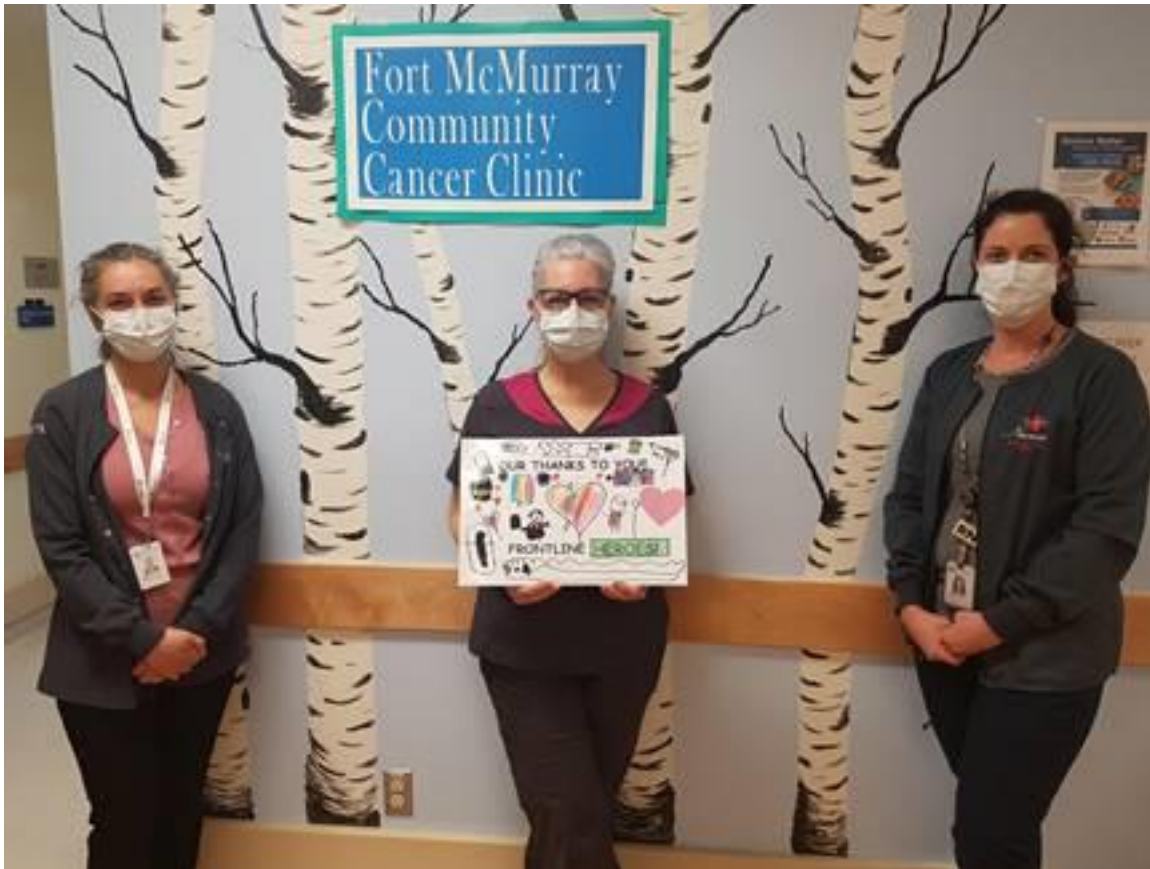
AHS Public Health continues to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks across the North Zone, including at Kearsley Lake, Manoir du Lac and JB Woods.

Our work includes engaging and regularly updating our community partners and stakeholders. On Thursday, May 7, AHS North Zone leaders joined La Crete community business operators in a (virtual) town hall meeting.





Residents in Fort McMurray created posters thanking frontline healthcare workers at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre for their responses to COVID-19 and the community's recent flooding. A Fort McMurray resident collected the posters from those who made them and dropped them off to the hospital.



Suzette Berenguer-Reid, Janice Petruk and Nicole Rockwell, staff at the Fort McMurray Cancer Centre, with one of the posters.



Roxanne Holmes, executive assistant to senior operating officer Murray Crawford, and Amy Lane, clinical coordinator for medication reconciliation in Clinical Education, with a poster.

Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – South

During hard times, good and nutritious food is not only critical for health, it's comforting, too. Kudos to the South Zone's Nutrition and Food Services team, who have continued to do what they do so well, while meeting additional needs, under challenging circumstances.

"Many of our staff have been cross-trained to assist with the enhanced cleaning for Environmental Services and/or they've been re-deployed to help in the assessment centre," says Kari Schafer, Executive Director, Nutrition, Food, Linen and Environmental Services (NFLES), South Zone.

"Retail staff were trained in Patient Food Services, and our dietitians cross-trained in the Food Service areas as a proactive approach in the event of a surge. It's been an incredible team effort for the entire NFLES portfolio...I'm so proud of my South Zone team!"

Schafer's team in Brooks is making origami butterflies to give patients and residents on Mother's Day. All patients in the South Zone will also enjoy a special Mother's Day menu in celebration of moms tomorrow.



**Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC) Update – Calgary
Alberta Healthy Living Program Remains Open**

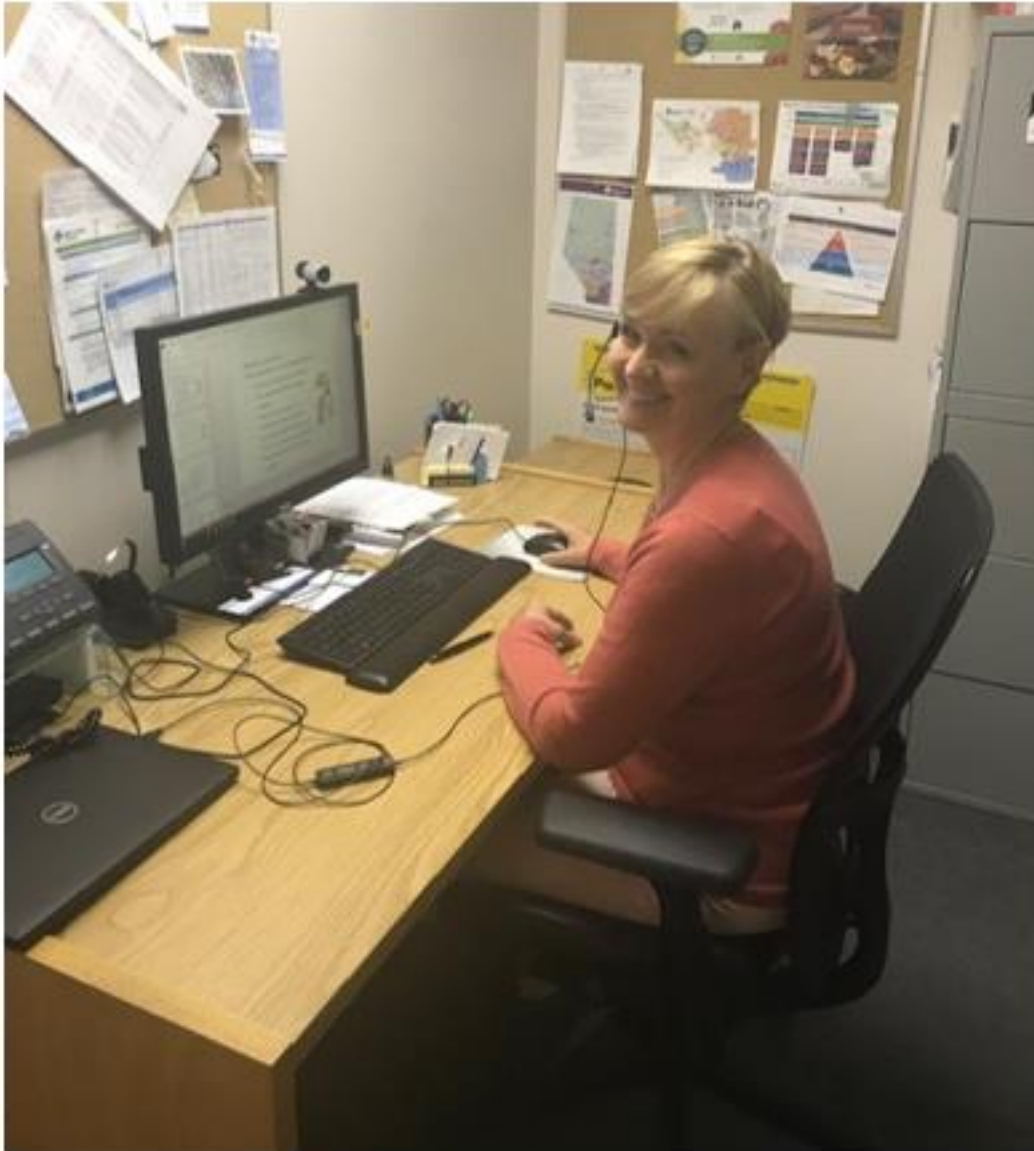
COVID-19 may keep people inside, but that shouldn't stop them from accessing a dietitian. Calgary Zone Manager of Nutrition Services, Carolanne Nelson says, "In the Calgary Zone, we want to make sure everyone knows we are open for business and offering one-to-one classes by phone."

Alberta Healthy Living Program (AHLP) dietitians are offering appointments and classes by phone, so people don't have to leave their homes and can continue to access this information, previously offered by in-person classes in the community. In addition to providing classes in English, AHLP is also able to provide classes and services for other languages. Nelson adds, "We were offering services in cultural centres and mosques, when we were still doing in-person appointments, but now we offer AHLP nutrition support to Indian and Chinese populations via telephone. As well, we have clerks in the AHLP program who can answer patient enquiries and book appointments in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and Chinese."

The following classes are available as phone sessions until June 30:

- Celiac Disease Going Gluten Free
- Eating Well and Managing Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Eating Well for Good Health
- Eating Well with Fatty Liver Disease
- Heart Healthy Eating
- Nutrition: Eating Away From Home
- Nutrition: I Know I Should Eat Healthy, But How?
- Nutrition: The Top 5 Tips to Reduce Calories
- Nutrition: The Truth about What Works in Weight Management
- Prediabetes: Lower Your Risk of Type 2 Diabetes

Please let patients and clients know that registration is open for these sessions in English, and in the specific languages noted above. Call 403-943-2584 (403-9-HEALTH) for an appointment. You can also find out more, [here](#).



Carolanne Nelson says dietitians are available by phone during COVID-19.

Be Well - Be Kind

Kindness Podcast with Dr. Lewanczuk

In this [AHS COVID-19 podcast](#), Dr. Richard Lewanczuk, Senior Medical Director for AHS Health System Integration, talks about kindness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anxiety and stress are just normal parts of living through COVID-19, which means practicing kindness with others has never been more important. As Dr. Richard Lewanczuk shares, being kind can actually improve your physical and psychological health.



Shout Outs

Practicing physical distancing remains so important, whether you're at work or out in the public. This will be especially true as Alberta begins to relax some of the current restrictions and re-launch gets underway. We have two very entertaining examples of physical distancing at work. (Okay, the second one we've applied our own interpretation to, but it's still a good example of how we can connect and keep our distance, which in this case is probably safer for reasons beyond COVID-19!)

Nutrition, Food, Linen and Environmental Services has shared their very visible and humorous demonstration of creating physical distance. Shauna McGillicky, Patient Food Services Supervisor at Red Deer Regional Hospital, was recently the physical distancing ambassador for a day at the site. This very visual demonstration clearly shows what a two-metre safe distance looks like. Thanks for putting a smile on the faces of staff and patients, while educating about the importance of practicing public health protocols.



In many public locations, clear windows have been placed between customers or clients and those providing services, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In Swan Hills this week, this special visitor thankfully remained on the other side of the window, ensuring staff and patients stayed safe. Thanks to Tina Lind, Linen and Environmental Services Manager, Area 3 North West, for sending us this photo. We imagine a window cleaning was needed following this visit.



While we work to manage COVID-19 in our province and the demands it brings on the health system, we continue to be reminded that it also takes its toll on those we are serving. This poem was written from the perspective of a resident who lives in a long-term care centre in Central Zone. It provides a different viewpoint on the effects of this pandemic and what physical distancing feels like from within our care homes. Thank you to Christine Walrod, Quality Coordinator, Senior's Health, Central Zone, for sending this thoughtful submission to us.

*We as a globe are in this together - stand heads kept high
Underneath the masks
Finding the light that brings us all together as a whole
Help each other survive in this darkest of time
We wait no celebrations yet
See only through locked windows*

Happy of Face-time/Skype

See outside world and faces through the glass

To talk to family and friends new people, too, everywhere

To finally connect close and far away

Deb Ulrich, Camrose, Long-Term Care



Deb Ulrich, a Camrose long-term care resident, from behind the glass of her facility, shares what it feels like for her during this pandemic.

Happy Days

Every Wednesday, the Community Transition Services and Community Care Assess (CCA) department in the Calgary Zone hosts Wacky Wednesday. This week's theme was "Happy Days," where we dressed up in 50s style outfits. This team supports our community living clients through times of transition and is the single point of access for a delivery approach that provides Albertans with timely and appropriate access to publicly-funded continuing care health services.



All Smiles

Proof you can't keep a good team down: When team members in Unit 84 at the Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary donned PPE masks, they added expressive smiles.



Thank You Moms

Special thanks to the thousands of moms at on Mother's Day 2020. We are both moms, and we know how many of you balance work, children, parents, extended friends and families, and pet families, too. All of you have our gratitude each day. Happy Mother's Day to you.





Screening teams have been in place at every AHS site to monitor those coming in, for signs and symptoms of illness. Their work is helping to keep patients, clients, residents and staff safe across Alberta, reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our sites and beyond. This week, the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton rallied around the Entrance Screening and Protective Services teams at the University of Alberta Hospital, to thank them for this very important work. This [video](#) was created as an act of kindness and compassion, which has been meaningful for both those receiving it and the teams who created it. Thank you for sharing your love and appreciation for each other. You have captured the sentiment we feel for teams across AHS with your song and words of thanks.

*To all our Entrance Screeners
For all the work that you do
every day to keep our families
and staff safe
We thank you*

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