

COVID-19 Status

JUNE 12, 2020

We have confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in 40 individuals over the past 24 hours, bringing the provincial total to 7,316, of which 379 are active. Of the total people who have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alberta, we suspect 604 cases may have been acquired in the community from an unknown source (these cases are not included in outbreak data). Currently, there are 45 people in hospital, with six in an intensive care unit. 6,788 Albertans have now recovered.

Thankfully, there were no new deaths reported in the past 24 hours, keeping the provincial total at 149 lives lost in Alberta related to COVID-19.

7,131 tests were completed over the last 24 hours, bringing our total COVID-19 tests to 317,402 since the start of the pandemic.

Things You Need to Know

COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers

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 (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.

As of June 11:

- 27,217 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, and of those tested, 237 (or 0.87 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 237 employees who have tested positive, 32 (or 13.5 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure (with 28 of the 237 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).
- 1,645 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and of those tested, 29 (or 1.76 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 29 physicians who have tested positive, none has been confirmed to have acquired infection through a workplace exposure (with two of the 29 positive results still under investigation as to the source of infection).

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

Verna's Weekly Video Message

The AHS online self-assessment tool has been a crucial tool in the province's response to COVID-19. Amazingly, the tool was conceived and developed in a matter of days, all within AHS. Just one day after its launch in mid-March, other provinces and jurisdictions from around the world reached out to AHS to access the tool's code and adapt it for their own use. The online self-assessment tool continues to grow and evolve, and now offers users across the province an ability to book COVID-19 tests online. This is a made-in-Alberta success story — and in [my \(Verna's\) latest vlog](#), I talk with four individuals who helped make it happen: Kass Rafih, Senior Provincial Director, Innovation and Digital Solutions; Ammneh Azeim, Digital Experience Lead, Innovation and Digital Solutions; Ben Wei,

Manager of Personal Portals, Information Technology; and TJ Shin, Manager of Web Presence and Collaboration Services, Information Technology. My guests talk about the origins of the tool, the challenges they faced in developing and implementing it, how it's evolved, and how it might be further enhanced in the weeks and months ahead. I close the video with a preview of my next vlog — about the AHS Relaunch Playbook.



Update on COVID-19 Daily Fit for Work Screening

Since June 9, 2020, more flexible options for fit for work screening are available through a revised [COVID-19 Daily Fit for Work Screening Protocol](#). With a focus on sustaining fit for work screening, each site will now be able to customize their approach as we resume AHS services and more staff return to our sites. The strategy is built on trust and shared accountability, where our people are asked to model safe work practices and to stay home when they are sick.

The [Online Fit for Work Screening Tool](#) will be the primary method for staff screening. Specific screening for staff working at continuing care facilities (long term care, designated supportive living, or congregate living) will continue to meet requirements from the latest Chief Medical Officer of Health [Orders](#). Information related to screening for people visiting residents and patients is available at www.ahs.ca/visitation.

For more information about this recent update, including posters and staff FAQs, visit ahs.ca/fitforwork. Speak to your leader if you have questions about fit for work screening at your site.

Re-launch Reminders

As we move into the next phases of this pandemic and Alberta's re-launch, we can't lose our focus on keeping each other safe. Frontline healthcare providers from across the province have come together to share with Albertans a simple message: Thank you for all you've done to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta and please keep it up. Even as the province gradually relaunches, the health risk posed by the pandemic has not gone away. COVID-19 is still circulating in Alberta, so healthcare providers remind all of us that physical distancing and other public health guidelines are still in effect and urge everyone to follow them to keep themselves and others safe.



Hand Sanitizer Distribution

AHS has implemented labelling and posters to alert all staff, physicians and patients of any product that contains technical-grade hand sanitizer.

In pediatric units, neonatal intensive care units, maternity/child units, labour and delivery units, and at the Alberta Children's Hospital, the Stollery Children's Hospital and the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, pharmaceutical-grade hand sanitizer has been distributed. As such, hand sanitizer products in those areas will not include labeling or poster alerts about technical-grade ethanol.

Hand hygiene continues to be essential to reduce risk of illness amongst all staff and patients. Please continue to use the hand sanitizer product provided, or wash hands with soap and warm water.

For more information on hand sanitizer products containing technical-grade ethanol, visit [AHS.ca/handsanitizer](https://www.aHS.ca/handsanitizer).

Mask Extender Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in the PPE Task Force Mask Extender survey last month. Your feedback was valuable and provided insight into the wide variety of mask extenders available and how they are being used across AHS. Based on the results, the PPE Task Force will be working with a test group of frontline staff to review specific mask extenders before providing recommendations. You can find the [survey results](#) and more information on continuous masking on the [PPE page](#).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Tip of the Week

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

Eye Protection


Eye protection is a key piece of [personal protective equipment](#) in the fight against COVID-19 and must be worn any time blood or body fluids are involved. Use approved reusable or single-use safety glasses, goggles or face shields for [eye protection](#). Personal eye glasses do NOT provide adequate protection as they do NOT protect the top, sides and bottom of the eyes. [Remove all PPE](#) on your face by the arms, straps, and ties at the back of your head. In order to prevent contamination of your face, DO NOT grab the front of eye protection, masks or any other facial PPE. And remember to [clean your hands](#) at every stage of [PPE removal](#).

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

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Question of the Week

In this PPE Question of the Week, Dr. Curtiss Boyington — an infectious disease physician with Covenant Health — talks about the importance of wearing appropriate eye protection, and wearing it properly, to protect healthcare providers from COVID-19. Dr. Boyington also discusses crucial details about how to don and doff eye protection.

PPE Question of the Week

What eye protection does AHS provide, and when should I use it? 



Dr. Curtiss Boyington answers PPE question of the week.

Capital Management Projects Re-initiated

On March 23, 2020, Capital Management temporarily paused many projects on AHS sites (Including Covenant, Capital Care and Carewest) in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As AHS relaunches services across the province, we will gradually re-initiate the projects temporarily paused. In the coming weeks AHS Capital Management will be working with site administration to gradually re-initiate construction projects at our sites. We will ensure vendors and contractors returning for projects do not disrupt any clinical work or put staff, patients and visitors at risk. All vendors and contractors, currently working or returning to AHS sites, will be subject to FIT testing, must follow safety protocols and are to follow usage of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), where and when necessary.

National Indigenous People's Week

National Indigenous Peoples Day is Sunday, June 21, when we all have the opportunity honour the rich cultures, traditions and contributions of Indigenous Peoples. This year, AHS will celebrate virtually in the week leading up to National Indigenous Peoples Day. AHS staff and volunteers are invited to join all Albertans in the celebrations on [Together4Health](#). Activities will include lunchtime Zoom teachings, sharing recipes, cultural videos and more.

AHS COVID-19 Podcast – Dialysis Support

While the pandemic has changed much of our work, some critical activities and care must continue, no matter the circumstances. For kidney dialysis patients, treatment doesn't stop during a pandemic. Dr. Daniel Muruve, Medical Director for Alberta Kidney Care South, explains how [AHS continues to support dialysis patients during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).



Be Well - Be Kind

Mental Wellness Moment - Stigmatization and COVID-19

COVID-19 is very infectious and, even when people are doing their best to protect themselves, some may contract the virus. In this Mental Wellness Moment, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell [explains why people shouldn't blame themselves if they contract COVID-19 and shouldn't blame others who are sick.](#)



Celebrities Celebrating AHS

Canadian actors, athletes, artists and musicians keep sending messages of gratitude to our staff on the frontline. [Today's shout-out comes from award-winning country music singer, Brett Kissel.](#)

"I want to express endless thanks on behalf of my family and on behalf of our entire country to all of the frontline healthcare workers, the true heroes in our nation, for everything that they're doing to keep us safe," says Kissel, who hails from Flat Lake, Alberta. "We're so grateful and so appreciative for the sacrifices that you're making."

Stay tuned and follow AHS on [social media](#) for more celebrity shout-outs.



Shout Out

Messages of gratitude keep pouring in from across the province and beyond, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across our organization, teams have rallied around each other and offered their sincere thanks and recognition for the incredible work that has collectively been done to support the management of COVID-19, and to protect Albertans, AHS staff and physicians. This week, we are sharing a selection of those messages, including this video message of thanks from Calgary Zone emergency department staff and physicians, which can be applied to every team throughout AHS.

The last three months have been very intense and difficult for our department staff in many ways, as you can no doubt imagine, with anxiety and unprecedented change management. Even though the future remains uncertain, we have made it through this period successfully because of the incredible hard work, passion and resolute calmness of our nursing, medical and allied health leadership team.

Our Wellness Hub got together and created this video which was presented as a surprise during our very well attended grand rounds last week and we wanted to share these positive messages with you as we evolve into this next phase of the pandemic.

-Dr. Eddy Lang



Seven weeks ago, Unit 27 inpatient dialysis team was inspired by a note from Dr. Yiu, talking about a team that did 15 minutes of mindfulness. But we didn't have 15 minutes in our day to do this practice together. Our nurse clinician suggested to me, the unit social worker that we try one minute of mindfulness at the beginning of our day. We began to do a simple calming breathing practice, one minute at the beginning of the day. Stress was high and the dialysis team was open to trying for a minute of calm. We started with one minute at the beginning of our morning, then expanded it to doing calming breathing mid-morning. Eventually we expanded it to two minutes at the beginning of our morning and at mid-morning. Our team has embraced the practice, saying that they are doing calming breathing at different times of the day and at home. The team comments when we miss the "one minute" of calming breathing. Team members are now beginning to facilitate the "one minute" of breathing with the team without the support of the nurse clinician and the social worker. The "one minute" of calming breath has brought more calm and cohesiveness to our team.

-Lee W.

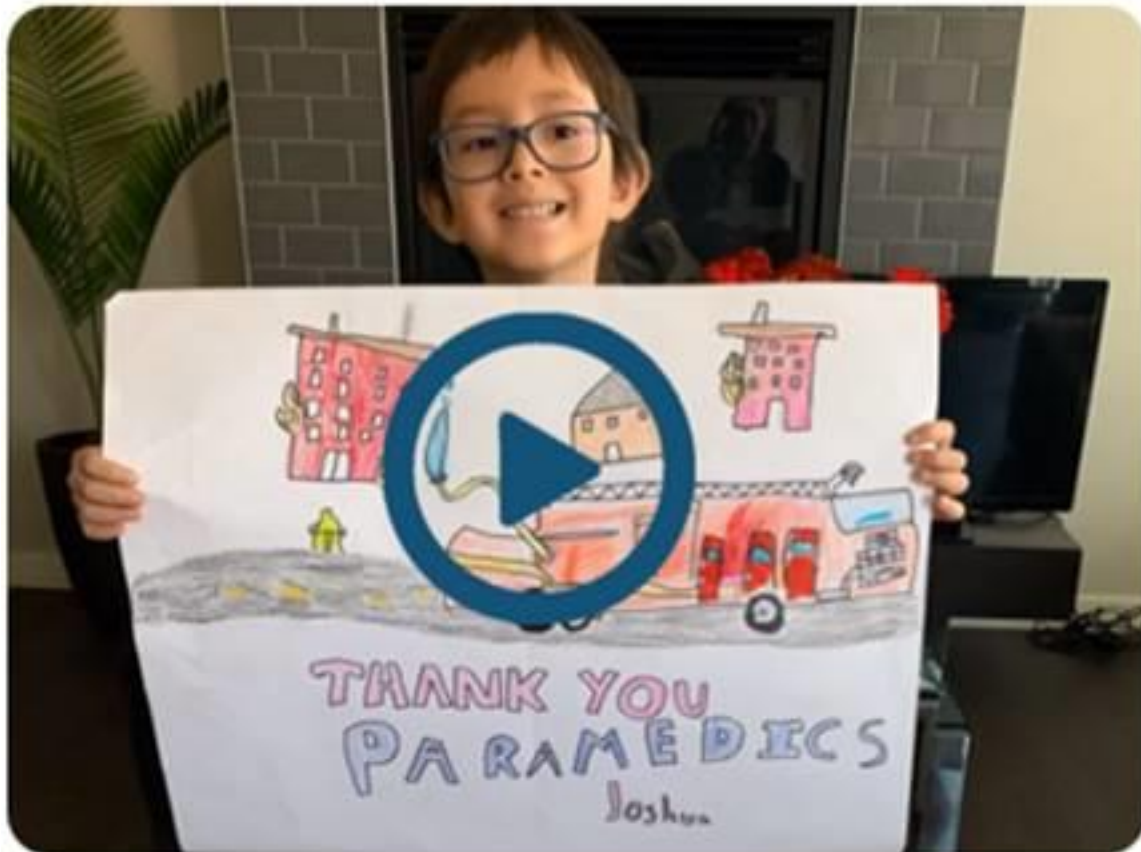
The Addiction & Mental Health teams at South Health Campus have been exceptional during the planning and response to COVID-19. The Psychiatric Emergency Services team, our inpatient units, and our outpatient services have continued to focus on the care of our vulnerable population during these increasingly stressful times. We have seen our teams provide services in a way they have never had to before and do this with enthusiasm, grace, and a continued focus on patient care. Our Psychiatric Emergency Services and adolescent and adult inpatient units have been caring for acutely ill mental health patients, who may be, or are, COVID-19 positive. Our two inpatient units took on the responsibility of caring for patients from across the zone requiring a mental health admission, who are also COVID-19 positive. Our outpatient nursing services have continued to see and provide much needed interventions

to those living with severe and persistent mental illness. Our outpatient therapists, day hospital therapists, physicians, and outreach teams have learned to provide care with a completely new medium in a different environment, and have been providing therapy and groups virtually, via Zoom. Their ability to learn and adapt to this new normal, while remaining focused on caring for our clients is inspiring. I am proud to work with these teams every day and I am so grateful for the ways in which they have embraced new ways of caring, while always keeping the patient as their focus. Thank you all so very much.

-Nikki Skelly-Gialleonardo

Community Acts of Kindness

Even with re-launch underway in Alberta, and more pre-pandemic activities resuming, our province's citizens have not forgotten what you have done for them. They continue to recognize your efforts to protect them over the past months. This presentation came from a Grade 2 class at St. Sebastian School in Calgary, to honour our paramedics. Again, we think this kind of gratitude could be shared with our whole organization for everything you continue to do to for Albertans.



With three-plus months of full-on pandemic management behind us, and the second phase of re-launch underway, we cannot express our true appreciation for all that has happened in this time. Through your diligence and commitment, you have been the foundation of our provincial success in keeping infection rates and hospitalizations low. Albertans have been able to look to you as you've demonstrated how to adopt the health protocols into your daily practices, they've been comforted by your expertise in caring for them, and they've been assured by your unwavering dedication to

stopping the spread of infections. We will continue this fight together and we will not lose our focus on keeping Albertans and each other safe. Thank you for another week of extraordinary work.

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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