

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *June 25, 2020*

Updates

Update on Education:

As we enter the summer months, we understand there is a level of uncertainty when it comes to the 2020-21 school year. The Province has outlined three possible [scenarios](#), with the final decision to be released on August 1st, 2020. The well-being of all staff and students will be ISC's main concern and communication continues between our Education teams and your Nations' Education Directors. Meetings and discussions will continue throughout the summer to ensure clarity is reached on the reopening of schools including the handling of PPE, transportation, connectivity, technology and hardware, cleaning supplies, and mental health concerns parents may have.

Further to the town halls that were held 18 & 19 June 2020, follow-up meetings including technical guidance from departmental representatives will be scheduled. These meetings will create a forum where updates will be provided as well as technical questions related to health and education can be explored. We will look at scheduling these meetings for mid-July and again following the August 1 announcement in order to share information. The Education team will continue to work closely with Regional FNIHB colleagues to coordinate efforts and continue conversations with the Government of Alberta and ISC headquarters, ensuring a coordinated effort on all that has been raised within the context of Education. We encourage your Education Directors to maintain contact with our Education team. The Community Liaison Teams are also available to address any concerns you may have.

FINAL WEEK of #ProtectOurElders:

We have shared with you Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation's social media campaign #ProtectOurElders, a campaign that aims to educate and motivate Indigenous youth to practice public health measures during COVID-19. As #ProtectOurElders winds down, the message is even more important than ever before. The campaign and the contest for Indigenous youth to win a video call with one of the influencers will end **June 30th**. We strongly encourage as many young Nation members as possible to get involved! See all the videos [here](#) and learn more at www.protectourelders.ca

Question of the Day

Q: What is serology testing?

A: As you have likely heard, the Alberta government will invest \$10 million into targeted serology testing that will help track the spread of COVID-19 across the province. Serology testing is used to detect the presence of antibodies in a person's blood, indicating that a person has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus in the past. This is NOT meant to replace swab testing and does not tell someone if they're currently sick or contagious. These tests are designed to help epidemiologists understand more of how the virus behaves and what proportion of the population has been exposed to COVID-19, they are not a part of the usual clinical care of patients. This announcement should not change your Nations approach to current testing procedures.

National Information

[How the National Microbiology Laboratory test for COVID-19](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)

The Hope for Wellness Help Line is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week to support members of your community experiencing emotional distress and may be reached directly by dialling **1-855-242-3310** or via online chat at: hopeforwellness.ca

Alberta Cases:

as of June 24th 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (June 24– 44 new cases)	7,825
AB Recovered Cases	7,134
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	74
On-reserve Recovered Cases	52
Calgary Zone Confirmed	5,229
Central Zone Confirmed	89
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	914
North Zone Confirmed	288
South Zone Confirmed	1,289
Unknown Confirmed	16
Deaths due to COVID-19	153
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Blood Tribe Communications PSA

The Blood Tribe has created the [Stay home, Stay safe, Stay healthy PSA](#) to bring awareness and encouragement to Kainai. It can be seen during the news hours on CTV-Lethbridge and Global-Lethbridge in the morning, noon and evening. This public service announcement is a grassroots initiative that highlights that we all have a part to play on stopping the spread of COVID-19 and that the sacrifices we make now will allow us to come back better and stronger than ever in the future.

Regional Snapshot



Useful Links

AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

All Chiefs Call June 30th, 2-3pm

- An update on the COVID-19 response from FNIHB Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Valerie Gideon, Dr. Tom Wong, Director General and Chief Medical Officer of Public Health, and Dr. Evan Adams (Tesla II), Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Public Health.

Regional Contact:

Dean Janvier, Special Leadership Liaison, is available to support information sharing and to assist you in navigating questions or concerns related to COVID-19. He may be reached at Dean.Janvier@gmail.com or 780-545-6655.