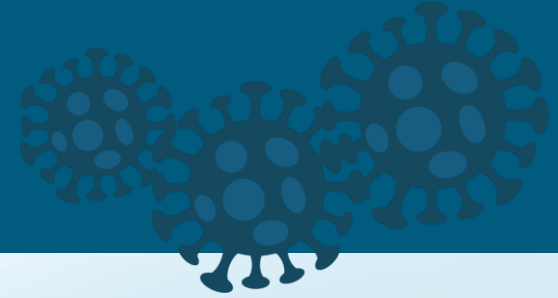


ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Daily Update for Chiefs: April 17, 2020



Updates

First Nations Elections:

On April 7, 2020 the First Nations Election Cancellation and Postponement Regulations (Prevention of Diseases) came into force. The regulations allow for *Indian Act* band councils to delay *Indian Act* and *First Nations Election Act* elections for up to 6 months and extend the terms of incumbent chiefs and councillors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The regulations provide guidance that chiefs and councillors “chosen according to custom . . . may” have their terms extended, “even if the custom does not provide for such a situation.” Certain restrictions do apply. If you require any clarification of these regulations, particularly if your First Nation has an election upcoming, please contact David Arpin, Indian Moneys Officer, at dave.arpin@canada.ca or 780-616-2446.

Confirmed Case Process:

The FNIHB Medical Officer of Health (MOH) is informed by the provincial lab of any positive test results for individuals with a First Nation listed as the place of residence. The individual will be notified of the test result by the local public health nursing team and direction will be given to self-isolate.

The FNIHB CDC team will contact the Nation's community health nursing team. The FNIHB CDC team will review case management and contact tracing requirements with the community health nurse (CHN). The Nation's CHN will follow-up directly with the client to review isolation requirements and collect the relevant information to initiate public health follow-up measures. Appropriate isolation and testing for close contacts of the COVID 19 positive individual will occur to ensure public health measures are in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Question of the Day

Q: What steps are being taken to ensure health care workers don't bring COVID-19 to my Nation?

A: On March 16, 2020, ISC released directives on the self-screening of health care professionals for COVID-19 symptoms to limit the spread of the virus to others in the community. On April 15, 2020, healthcare workers have also been directed to utilize masks continuously in healthcare settings to ensure they are not spreading COVID-19.

Other measures that have been taken by Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region to ensure health professionals are not at-risk of exposing communities to COVID-19 include training sessions on the proper use of PPE, with additional resources available through onehealth; a weekly bulletin to First Nations in Alberta, distributed to nursing staff; weekly telehealth sessions for all First Nations in Alberta that include updates on COVID-19 and self-isolation requirements; and sharing of all relevant and updated resources related to public health requirements, screening and self-isolation guidelines from AHS, PHAC and the WHO. As well as using tools such as Health Care Workers Self-Assessment and formal risk assessments when doing home visits.

National Information

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#)
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)



Alberta Cases:

as of April 16 1:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (April 16 – 162 new cases)	2158
Confirmed First Nations on-reserve Cases	0
Calgary Zone	1242
Central Zone	74
Edmonton Zone	402
North Zone	107
South Zone	36
Unknown	9
Deaths due to COVID-19	50

Note: Due to a technical issue with the Government of Alberta's reporting application, only preliminary data for case numbers for the province is available at this time. Updated case information, including zone cases will be provided once the problems have been resolved.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Government of Canada has announced changes to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to include boosts for essential workers as well as inclusion of seasonal workers and those who have exhausted their EI benefits. Full details on the expanded access to this benefit can be found [here](#). For your awareness, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has created this [Guide](#) to the CERB to help First Nations individuals better understand eligibility.

Regional Snapshot



Useful Links

AHS COVID FAQs

- [novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) FAQs for Public](#)

OneHealth Site

- A reminder ISC has developed a publically accessible site where bulletins and other useful resources and information can be found. Please visit: www.onehealth.ca/ab/ABCovid-19

GCIndigenous Twitter

- <https://twitter.com/GCIndigenous> includes updates, news releases and links for resources

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.