

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: *September 2, 2020*

Updates

COVID-19 Heading into the Fall:

September marks six months since the COVID-19 response forced us all to adjust our ways of living and working. Throughout the pandemic, your communities have admirably responded and together we will continue our work to respond to COVID-19. While September brings a change of seasons, it also re-starts activities that are important for our physical, social and cultural wellbeing. Everyone needs to be cautious and mindful of the public health orders, guidance, protocols and policies being implemented for indoor settings to reduce our risk of exposure and spread of the virus. You can find additional information and guidance to increase your COVID-19 know-how, including ways to keep you, your family and your communities safer [here](#), and information for [people who are at high risk of COVID-19 severe outcomes](#).

Education Funding Update:

We recognize the work your Nations have been doing to ensure a safe return to school. When your children return to school, whether it be on the land, virtually, in school, or a combination of all those options, we hope this year is a safe and successful year for all. While the details of the \$112 million in new Education funding to support the safe return of First Nations students to school have yet to be finalized, First Nations are also provided flexible supports through the [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#), which could include costs related to public health measures for reopening schools and other supports for children. As with Education funding, full funding details for the ICFS round two are also forthcoming. In the meantime, ISC-Alberta Region is providing each school \$15,500 for Public Health Measures which can be used to purchase items such as PPE, hand sanitizer, hand washing stations, Plexiglas for front entrance area, etc. This funding allocation also includes a funding amount to support PPE (non-medical masks) for all students, teachers, and staff. Please contact your Community Liaison Team member if you have any questions. ISC Regional Operations continues to work on further education funding for capital, equipment and staffing and will be in contact with your Nations shortly with specifics. For public health guidance for schools and childcare programs, click [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Will there be further supports for our businesses this fall?

A: The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland announced on August 31, 2020 that the application deadline for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) is extended from August 31 to October 31, 2020. The government is working closely with financial institutions to make the CEBA program available to those with qualifying payroll or non-deferrable expenses that have so far been unable to apply due to not operating from a business banking account. For more information, [click here](#).

National Information

[Video on Avoiding Parties](#)

[Video on Limiting the Spread of COVID-19](#)

Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada PSA:

"We see you. We see you canceling or postponing important ceremonies, and community and cultural events. We see you missing your grandchildren and cousins. We see you having to stay home. We see you making these sacrifices to keep your community safe. We raise our hands to you. We acknowledge your good work has been difficult. We will get through this together."

[This video is part of a COVID-19 PSA series produced by the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada](#). Each message is delivered by Indigenous Physicians, residents and medical students from across Canada.

Alberta Cases:

as of September 1st, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (August 31st – 164 new cases)	14,066
AB Recovered Cases	12,427
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	178
On-reserve Recovered Cases	159
Calgary Zone Confirmed	7,596
Central Zone Confirmed	590
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	3,159
North Zone Confirmed	943
South Zone Confirmed	1,748
Unknown Confirmed	30
Deaths due to COVID-19	241
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

Thermometers through NIHB

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program now covers oral digital thermometers which are listed as an open benefit during the pandemic, with a price limit of \$25 and a replacement guideline of 1 per 5 years. Thermometers are covered with a prescription from a physician or a nurse practitioner, or a written recommendation from a registered nurse or a pharmacist. For more information on what may be eligible through NIHB click [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Online Course Provides Guidance on Returning to Work Safely During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has released an e-course titled [Pandemic Planning: Reopening for Business, to help organizations across Canada safely return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The course is available for free on the [CCOHS website](#). Topics covered in the course include employer and worker duties and responsibilities in a COVID-19 return to business plan, methods of control (including cleaning and disinfecting), how to manage the workplace and prepare workers for a safe return, and understanding the impacts of a pandemic on mental health.

Q and A Session on Youth Solvent Abuse

Today, September 2nd from 1:00pm to 2:30, The Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) Subcommittee of Health Co-Management (HCoM) is discussing supporting enhanced treatment services to First Nations through the provision of a Youth Solvent Abuse Prevention Centre (YSAC) in Alberta. Registration and more info available [here](#).