

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

## Update for Chiefs: *July 29, 2020*

### Updates

#### Increase in COVID cases:

COVID-19 is not over. Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health noted on Monday, July 27, 2020 that "the curve is no longer flat in Alberta." Of particular concern, there is an increase in COVID-19 cases amongst the 20-40 year old category. While not entirely unexpected, with the loosening of restrictions and increase in gatherings, we mustn't lose our vigilance in adhering to the public health measures. Our long term success depends on each and every one of us. Our actions can and will reduce the spread of COVID-19. It's within our control to reduce our case numbers moving forward. Physically distance, practice good hand hygiene, wear masks & stay home when you're sick. To learn more on how to choose and wear a non-medical mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, click [here](#).

#### Return to School:

With the province's announcement of a [return to school](#) in the fall, we understand there may be many questions and concerns. While our staff continue to engage with First Nations and our colleagues, both federally and provincially, on specifics we can assure you there will be no claw backs or diversion of funding for the 2020-21 education budget.

The ISC Education team has committed to hosting regular town halls to discuss school re-entry. Calls have already taken place on June 18 and July 23 to share and gather information. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> call scheduled for July 30 for Education Directors to focus on questions surrounding school registration and nominal roll as well as options for parents who may not wish to send children to school right away. Additional calls will be scheduled throughout the month of August. ISC Education is also working with other ISC programs and provincial partners to support the planning and implementation of school reentry.

### Question of the Day

**Q: Where can I find resources to share with my community?**

**A: The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) has many useful resources to help deal with COVID on their [website](#). Additionally you can find links, videos and infographics on prevention & protection, hygiene, infant care, symptoms and testing, health benefits, and substance abuse and harm reduction.**

### National Information

[Canada COVID-19 App and Self-Assessment Tool](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

[Update on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities](#)

[Non-medical masks and face coverings: Sew and no-sew instructions](#)

## Alberta Cases:

as of July 28<sup>th</sup> 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (July 27– 80 new cases)	10,470
AB Recovered Cases	8,886
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	153
On-reserve Recovered Cases	128
Calgary Zone Confirmed	6,407
Central Zone Confirmed	329
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	1,575
North Zone Confirmed	515
South Zone Confirmed	1,616
Unknown Confirmed	28
Deaths due to COVID-19	187
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	1

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

## Individual Risk Evaluator for Albertans

On July 27 Dr. Deena Hinshaw announced an Individual Risk Evaluator for Albertans. While we are still learning about the health effects of COVID-19, older people and people with certain chronic conditions have a higher risk of experiencing severe outcomes. Your risk is determined by your age, biological sex and chronic health conditions. The conditions listed below are based on Alberta data and a review of the evidence on specific conditions associated with severe outcomes. The assessment can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/lookup/COVID-19-personal-risk-severity-assessment.aspx>

## Regional Snapshot



## Useful Links

### AHS Indigenous People and Communities webpage for COVID-19

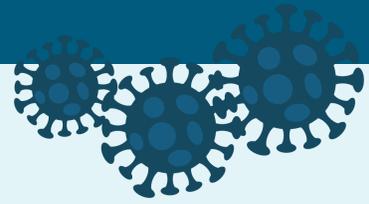
- [AHS has been working with Indigenous communities and organizations across Alberta to support their COVID-19 responses](#)

### COVID-19 Web page for kids

- The GoC has created a [web page](#) just for kids. It has tips on how you can become a handwashing hero, what the virus is, why people are wearing masks and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### #AlbertaCares Fun Mask

- Dr. Hinshaw posted on [Twitter](#) wearing her favourite mask and encouraging to share your fun masks to #AlbertaCares and show how you are helping to protect your community from COVID-19



# Ongoing Services

## Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region - What's Open Regional Operations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) aims to keep you informed on the department's operations. Each department holds a business continuity plan, and ours was enacted on March 15, 2020. This prompted a partial closure of the Alberta offices and operations. Currently, we ask for your understanding as we move through our response. We will update you on available services as they resume, and ask for your patience as the regional office adjusts to reduced staff capacity, alternative work arrangements, and new systems. This list will be reevaluated on a monthly basis. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Team representative (information below).

### Ongoing Services



- Funding agreement management
- Distribute COVID-19 announced funds
- Payments to First Nations
- Emergency Management
- Support ongoing infrastructure projects
- Environmental emergencies response
- Community Liaison Teams
- Child & Family Services
- Woman's Emergency Shelters
- Income Assistance
- Indian Moneys (trusts)
- Individual Moneys (dependent adults)
- Information Technology (internal)
- Information Management (mail)
- Regional Director General's Office
- Incoming correspondence

### Limited Services

- Education program
- Band governance (elections; by-laws)
- Field services (on-call)
- Support & monitoring for Solid Waste program
- Registration of documents in Indian Land Registry
- Environmental reviews
- Economic Development program & projects
- Land leases & permits
- Additions to Reserve

- Claim implementation
- Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples
- Planning & initiation of new infrastructure projects
- Community Infrastructure funding requests (e.g. O&M funding)
- Administration of Ministerial Loan Guarantees
- Access to Information and Privacy requests



### Monitored



- Engagement on Treaty based funding
- Estates services
- Housing capacity building projects
- Community Comprehensive Planning
- Audits

### Delays Without Penalty

- Delays in submissions of audited financial statements
- Debt recovery delays
- Delays in submitting reporting requirements



### On Hold Until Further Notice

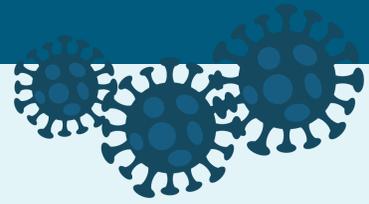


- Treaty Annuities (payment events)
- In person reception in Edmonton for registration & status cards (available by mail)
- Indigenous Cultural Center activities
- Land designation referendums

### For More Information:



**Community Liaison Teams (CLTs)** were created to ensure that First Nations have streamlined access to ISC information and support during the pandemic. CLTs include representatives from Regional Operations and the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, and work with subject matter experts to answer operational questions relating to COVID-19. [✉ sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca)



# Ongoing Services

## Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region - What's Open First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) aims to keep you informed on the department's operations. Each department holds a business continuity plan, and ours was enacted on March 15, 2020. This prompted a partial closure of the Alberta offices and operations. Currently, we ask for your understanding as we move through our response. We will update you on available services as they resume, and ask for your patience as the regional office adjusts to reduced staff capacity, alternative work arrangements, and new systems. This list will be reevaluated on a monthly basis. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Community Liaison Team representative (information below).

### New or Increased Capacity



- Community Liaison Teams
- Communicable Disease Emergency (CDE) inbox & request management system
- Pandemic planning support
- Emergency Management preparedness & response
- Funding request reviews & distribution of new COVID-19 health funding
- Capital & Infrastructure to support assessment/isolation facility, retrofits & other
- Surveillance
- Communicable Disease Control (CDC) case & outbreak management support
- Environmental Public Health Services - all services
- Telehealth
- Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
- Nursing Support Teams (provide education, training, screening, testing & tracing)
- PPE for COVID-19 response

### Ongoing Services

- Jordan's Principle
- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) (all)
- Environmental Public Health Services
- Mental Wellness
- Nursing (routine education, orientations, & other regular support has been reduced)
- Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF)
- CDC- non-COVID-19
- Home & Community Care (HCC) (routine education, orientations & other regular support has been reduced)
- Health Funding Arrangement (HFA)
- Regional Executive Office & Executive Secretariat



### Monitored



- Nutrition
- Transformation Team (Nursing Transfer initiatives (new communities) on hold)
- Audits
- Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP)
- NNADAP treatment centers and access to provincial treatment centers

### Delays Without Penalty

- Delays in submissions of audited financial statements
- Debt recovery delays
- Delays in submitting reporting requirements



### On Hold Until Further Notice



- Children Oral Health Initiative (COHI)
- NIHB in person reception in Edmonton
- Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)
- Accreditation
- Community Health Promotion (CHP), including: Maternal Child Health Program (MCH); Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP); Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program (FASD); First Nations & Inuit Component of the Federal Tobacco Strategy (FTCS)



The Hope for Wellness Help Line offers immediate counselling and crisis intervention support to all Indigenous peoples across Canada. It is available 24/7 and the toll-free Help Line is 1-855-242-3310 or connect to the online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](https://hopeforwellness.ca)

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