

COVID-19 Status

AUGUST 18, 2020

As of August 12, a total of 11,969 people in Alberta have been confirmed with COVID-19, with 1,036 active cases. Two weeks prior, on July 29, Alberta's active case count was 1,388. The average number of daily cases confirmed between August 6-12 is 97, compared to 84 the previous week, a 15 per cent increase. As of August 12, 50 people are in hospital with the virus, with 12 of those in an intensive care unit. In all, 10,713 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19 since August 12.

We are saddened to see COVID-19 continue to take the lives of Albertans. Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, 220 Albertans have died of causes related to the virus; 153 (or 70 per cent) of deaths have been in long-term care facilities or supportive living sites. As always, we offer our condolences to the families and loved ones of these individuals, and send our support to the caregivers who have lost patients to COVID-19.

As of August 12, a total of 793,114 COVID-19 tests have been completed in Alberta since the start of the pandemic. In the past week 57,743 tests were completed, an average of 8,249 per day.

Currently, Alberta Health has designated six out of 142 regions in the province as being under watch status, meaning they have 50 or more active COVID-19 cases for every 100,000 people. See the Government of Alberta's [interactive COVID-19 case map](#) for details.

Things You Need to Know

COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers – The Latest Numbers

This data tracks the number of employees and physicians with AHS, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) tested for COVID-19. The data includes the number of positive tests and those confirmed to have been exposed in the workplace. Full details are in the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#).

Summary, as of August 12:

- 43,082 (AHS, APL and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, with 359 (or 0.83 per cent) testing positive.
- Of the 359 people who tested positive, 64 (or 17.8 per cent) were infected in the workplace; the source of infection for 67 of the 359 positive results is still being investigated.
- 2,748 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19, with 35 (or 1.27 per cent) testing positive.
- Of the 35 physicians who tested positive, three (or 8.6 per cent) were infected through workplace exposure; the source of infection for one of the positive results is still being investigated.

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

Verna's Weekly Video Message – COVID-19 Fatigue

Every day, I (Dr. Verna Yiu) hear about the great work you are doing, behind the scenes and on the front lines, to protect the health of Albertans and keep us on the right track with a focus on the future after COVID-19. But this has been hard work, and I understand how difficult it can be to balance other priorities at work and at home. We know COVID-19 fatigue is real and has taken its toll on all of us. It's important we all continue to take care of our physical and mental health for the weeks and months to come.

In this vlog, I am joined by two guests to tell us more about fatigue and wellness. They are:

- Dr. Laura McDougall, Senior Medical Officer of Health
- Susan McGillivray, Senior Program Officer, HR Talent and Workforce Strategies

Laura and Susan explain what COVID-19 fatigue is, what wellness supports you told us you needed through our Pulse surveys, and also offer some self-care tips.



Physicians Returning to Alberta After Visiting Abroad

At this time, the Government of Canada is [recommending against non-essential international travel](#). When Canadian citizens enter Canada from abroad, they must adhere to relevant measures in the federal *Quarantine Act* that require an isolation period of 14 days upon arrival. There is also a Provincial Order under the Public Health Act. Exemptions per the terms of both federal recommendations and the Provincial Order are required in order for an individual to be exempt from quarantine in Alberta.

In relation to exemptions for physicians and healthcare workers, although the federal Order contemplates scenarios where a licensed healthcare professional may need to enter Canada and provide health services, this does not extend to those returning from non-essential travel, and it restricts the healthcare professional by prohibiting them for caring for people 65 years of age or older. Because this is already detailed in the Federal Order, the Government of Alberta will not be issuing provincial quarantine exemptions for anyone returning from non-essential travel outside of Canada.

It is important for all physicians and healthcare workers deemed essential by the Alberta government, to keep this in mind when contemplating non-essential travel plans.

All Albertans choosing to travel internationally at this time will be subject to the mandatory 14-day isolation period upon their return.

PPE Question of the Week – What is the latest on hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipe supplies?

Janet Barclay, Director of Infection Prevention and Control in AHS North Zone, provides an update on the organization’s supplies of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes [in this video](#) from the PPE Question of the Week series:

PPE Question of the Week

What is the latest on hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipe supplies?

Janet Barclay answers the PPE question of the week.

Be Well - Be Kind

Add a Wearing is Caring Facebook frame

Now you can show your commitment to wearing a mask on your Facebook feed.

Add a frame to your profile picture by pressing 'update' on your profile picture, and then pressing 'add frame.' If it doesn't show up immediately, type Alberta Health Services in the frame search window.

Wearing is caring, and we are all in this together.



Sharing the Love: Thanking our People

Messages of gratitude keep pouring in from across the province and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read these inspiring posts and share some of your own at ahs.ca/sharingthelove.

"Thank you to the amazing healthcare workers who have fought on the front lines. It is your lifesaving work that inspires me and gives me hope. No matter how hard times may get, know that I am rooting for everyone one of you. It takes a tremendous deal of bravery and courage to do your job. Keep up the amazing work and we will soon get through this."

— Name not provided

A shout-out to all the staff working at the COVID-19 testing facility and all the people working behind the scenes. I went for asymptomatic testing and it was a well-oiled machine. I'm

extremely thankful to live in a place where we have such quick access to robust testing. Extra comfort level that we won't infect our parents when we finally get to visit.

— Name not provided

Wrapping Up

No doubt, this has been a tough week. The tragic death Monday of Dr. Walter Reynolds, a family physician in Red Deer, continues to weigh heavily on all of us. As an organization, our collective hearts go out to Dr. Reynolds's family, friends, colleagues and patients. We know many of you are hurting. And, as we discuss in this week's vlog, we also know many of you are feeling the effects of COVID-19 fatigue, as we've been working tirelessly throughout 2020 to manage a pandemic that has no clear end date. We're also managing our professional lives, our personal lives and our emotions in a time of great uncertainty.

None of this is easy. Please know you are not alone. Additional resources can be found at www.ahs.ca/mdwellness. And as mentioned in this week's vlog, there are many other resources available on ahs.ca/covid and on Insite (search "wellness") to help you and your loved ones cope during a time of pandemic and stress. Do not hesitate to ask for help. Seeking support makes you strong. Supporting one another makes us family.

Thank you for all that you do, each and every day, especially during these most trying of times. We are honoured and humbled to be your colleagues.

As always, with gratitude and appreciation,

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 *****

Forwarded on behalf of the Provincial Indigenous Health Hub

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