

COVID-19 Status

JULY 28, 2020

As of July 23, a provincial total of 9,975 people have been confirmed with COVID-19, of which 1,293 cases are active. Two weeks ago, Alberta had 590 active cases. The average number of daily cases confirmed this week is 124, compared to 85 the previous week, a 46 per cent increase. Currently, 106 people are in hospital, with 21 in an intensive care unit. A total of 8,506 Albertans have now recovered.

There have been 176 deaths in Alberta related to COVID-19 to date with 11 new deaths reported this week. We are saddened to continue to lose Albertans to COVID-19. We continue to offer our genuine sympathies to the families and loved ones of these individuals.

In the past day, 8,222 COVID-19 tests were completed, bringing the total number of tests completed since the start of the pandemic to 614,692.

The rise in cases is spread across the province and into rural areas. For example AHS' Central Zone now has 33 people in hospital and seven in ICU. It has previously had very few cases.

AHS leaders across the province recognize the difficulties and challenges of this escalating situation and because of this, we are again scaling up ECC and ZEOC staffing and activities.

Things You Need to Know

COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers – The Latest Numbers

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers in the AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [dashboard](#). These statistics include the total number of AHS, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) employees and physicians tested, including a breakdown of the number of positive tests and the number of infections acquired in the workplace.

As of July 22:

- 38,440 employees with AHS, APL and Covenant Care have been tested for COVID-19. Of those, 321 (or 0.84 per cent) tested positive.
- Of the 321 employees who tested positive, 55 (or 17.1 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure; we are still investigating the source of infection for 60 of the 321 positive results.
- 2,457 physicians with AHS, APL and Covenant have been tested for COVID-19 and 33 (or 1.34 per cent) have tested positive.

- Of the 33 physicians who tested positive, three (or 9.1 per cent) were infected through a workplace exposure. We are still investigating the source of infection for two of the 33 positive results.

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

Verna's Weekly Video Message

Throughout this pandemic, our people have shown how innovative they can be and how quickly they can adapt to delivering care in new ways that protect the safety of patients, clients and healthcare providers. One example is how we've accelerated the use of virtual health, which uses secure videoconferencing to connect Albertans with their healthcare teams. In a time of physical distancing, finding new applications for virtual health just makes sense.

[In this vlog, I, Verna, am joined by three guests to talk about the future of virtual health in Alberta.](#) They are: Catherine Keenan, executive director of the Virtual Health program; Dr. Jonathan Choy, medical director of the Virtual Health Program; and Lesly Deuchar, lead for the Virtual Hospital initiative in Edmonton. My guests talk about the benefits of virtual health, how we use it and how we can keep the momentum it's gained during COVID-19.



PPE Question of the Week – Common Questions About Continuous Masking

Wearing is caring. [In this PPE Question of the Week, Dr. Peter Jamieson, physician co-lead of the AHS Emergency Coordination Centre, answers common questions about continuous masking.](#)

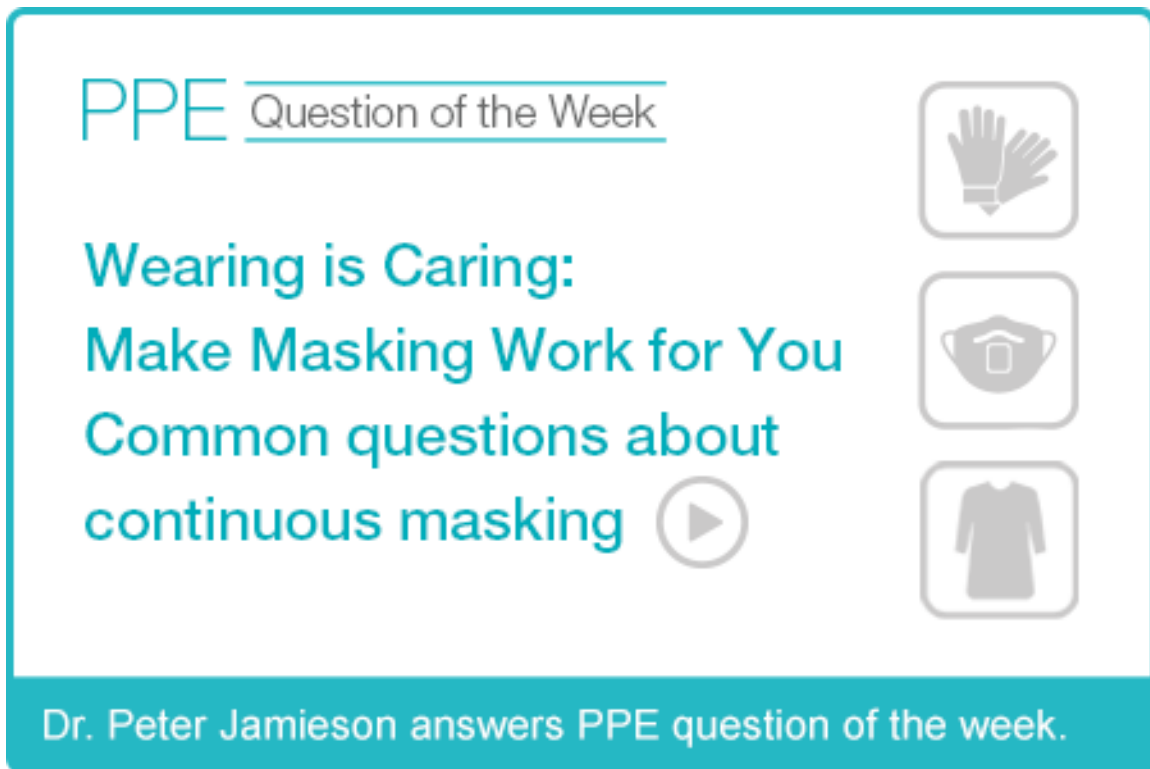
Staff, physicians and volunteers must wear a mask:

- Continuously in patient care areas, common and corporate settings AND in all areas where you cannot maintain a minimum physical distance of two metres or six feet at all times.
- This applies to all patient care, common and corporate settings in all AHS facilities, as well as subsidiary and contracted facilities in all Zones.

Patients, families and visitors must wear a mask at all times in this facility.

- Their masks must cover their mouth and nose.
- They can only take off their masks when advised by a healthcare provider or after they leave the site.

Continuous masking is a provincial AHS directive and is a requirement to ensure our patients and staff are protected from COVID-19.



The graphic features a teal border and a teal footer. The main text is in teal and reads: "PPE Question of the Week", "Wearing is Caring:", "Make Masking Work for You", "Common questions about", and "continuous masking" followed by a play button icon. To the right of the text are three icons: a pair of gloves, a face mask, and a lab coat. The footer contains the text "Dr. Peter Jamieson answers PPE question of the week."

- **Reminder: 24/7 On-call Assistance now Available for Family Support and Visitation Concerns**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AHS decided to limit the interactions between patients and residents and their families and visitors. We did this to ensure their safety, as well as the safety of the staff and physicians providing their care. These decisions have been difficult for all involved.

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To help our staff during this time, the AHS Clinical Ethics Service 24/7 Rapid Response Ethics Consultation Service can answer questions and inquiries related to family presence and visitation guidelines and other COVID-19-related topics. You can reach the Rapid Response Ethics Consultation Service at 403-689-3548.

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For other clinical ethics inquiries, please email clinicaethics@ahs.ca or call 1-855-943-2821. The Clinical Ethics Service can help any care provider seeking support and assistance in resolving difficult or ethically challenging situations.

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To stay up to date on the latest family support and visitation guidance, see ahs.ca/visitation.

- Be Well - Be Kind

Mental Health Supports: Managing Stress and Fatigue

We know during this time, you and your colleagues may still be feeling [stressed](#) and [tired](#). We all need to continue to take care of our physical and mental health for the weeks and months to come.

If you need help managing health, work and life challenges, you can access support services and resources such as [Life Smart Coaching](#) or our [Wellness Seminars](#), which cover topics such as self-care strategies and healthy sleep habits.

Another tool for mental health support is the [Wellness Together Canada Portal](#). You can choose from a variety of resources to support your well-being.

Wrapping Up

We, Verna and Laura, have been offering our thanks to our workforce for more than five months. Today we also want to pass on the support and praise of the entire Executive Leadership Team. Together, we realize how hard everyone is working and how difficult it can be to balance other priorities at work, at home and in the community. It's inspiring and we sincerely thank you.

Please know we are behind you and we urge you to seek support from us, co-workers and family as the pandemic continues. We will get through this together. As well, AHS offers many programs and resources to help you. They are a click of the mouse or a phone call away.

Finally, a special thank you to the selflessness people demonstrated this past weekend when they responded to the tragic bus crash on the Columbia Icefields. You never cease to amaze us.

Our pride and confidence in your work continues to swell.

Thank you and stay safe.

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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