

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *March 17th, 2021*



Updates

COVID-19 vaccinations expand with Phase 2A and 2B:

In First Nation communities, Nations are completing administration of the second dose of vaccine that was administered in early February. Shortly, individuals who are 50 and over will be able to book their second dose of the Moderna vaccine through their health centres.

The province announced that Indigenous people who live off-reserve and born in 1971 or earlier are now eligible to book vaccinations (or individuals who chose to take their vaccination off-reserve). Eligible individuals can [book online](#) or by calling 811 or through [participating pharmacies](#) across Alberta. For more information on immunization booking off-reserve, please visit the [Alberta Health Services Immunization booking website](#).

With Phase 2B slated to begin in April, Dr. Deena Hinshaw said Albertans with high-risk underlying health conditions would be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The full list on the [Alberta COVID-19 website](#) includes: cancer, diabetes, immunosuppression, pregnancy, severe obesity, mental illness or substance abuse disorder that required hospitalization in the past year, learning disabilities or severe developmental delay, solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients and chronic heart, kidney, liver, neurological and respiratory diseases.

Statistics Canada overview of the COVID-19 pandemic:

Over the past year, Statistics Canada has collaborated with both public- and private-sector partners to produce near real-time snapshots of the sheer scale of the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians' everyday lives, from the large-scale disruption of business activity to the knock-on effects of the pandemic on the physical and mental health of Canadians. We know that behind each number is a person, a family, a business, and we thank Canadians who have responded to our surveys and shared their stories with us. This booklet is organized around four themes that define how the pandemic continues to shape the lives of Canadians:

- Canadians' response to COVID-19
- Indirect health impacts of COVID-19
- Uneven social and economic impacts of COVID-19
- Economic impacts: Assessing the recovery

The report is [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: Where can we get more info for our Nation members on vaccinations?

A: The Windspeaker Radio Network and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation are presenting a [COVID-19 Vaccine radio town hall](#), Wednesday March 17 at Noon

Hear an Elder's perspective on vaccinations, medical health experts on how the different vaccines were created and have your questions answered. Our guests will share how traditional and western medicine can work together to protect Indigenous Peoples from COVID-19.

Guests include Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw and Doctor Evan Adams

Have a question that you want answered. Email it to yourhealthourstrength@gmail.com

Listen Live on CFWE or CJWE!

National Information

[Epidemiological summary of COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities](#)

[Make sure you have the facts about COVID-19 vaccination](#)

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of March 16th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Mar. 15th–355 new cases)	139,143
AB Recovered Cases	132,415
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	6,862
On-reserve Recovered Cases	6,311
On-Reserve Active Cases	481
Calgary Zone Confirmed	53,203
Central Zone Confirmed	10,702
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	55,072
North Zone Confirmed	12,867
South Zone Confirmed	7,186
Unknown Confirmed	113
Deaths due to COVID-19	1,952
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	70
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	1,047

Vaccine Community Innovation Challenge

Led by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Challenge invites people to design, develop and implement a community-based communications campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the COVID-19 vaccines and public health measures in underserved communities. Creative and innovative proposals have a shot at \$25,000 to develop a campaign. Winning campaigns will run for 12 weeks with a chance to be the grand prize winner of \$100,000.

Submissions due **April 9, 2021**. Full details [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Tool Kit for Health Care Providers:

It's normal that Canadians may have questions about COVID-19 vaccines. Health care providers are uniquely positioned to answer questions and provide information. Available for Download Now! ow.ly/e4TI50DBNdK

Updated COVID-19 Toolkit:

The COVID-19 Toolkit, has been updated to include radio public service announcements and social media messages translated into 17 Indigenous languages, as well as, new resources, and can be found on the [OneHealth website](#).

Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic:

Providing same day care to rural and urban indigenous people residing in Alberta via secure video or phone service. Call **1.888.342.4822** to book your appointment. Hours: Mon -Fri 8:30am-4:30pm, Sat -Sun 12:30pm -4:30pm or Visit the website aivcc.ca for more information.

Vaccine Update



WHO reports the AstraZeneca vaccine is safe:

Several countries have paused distribution of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine over a small number of reports of blood clots. However, officials from the World Health Organization have stated there is NO causal relationship established between the shot and the health problems reported, calling the pause in use "a precautionary measure". AstraZeneca - which produced the vaccine with Oxford University - has insisted there is no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis. Health Canada continues to monitor this situation and has not paused the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine in Canada. In fact, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has expanded its recommendation for the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine to now include people 65 years of age and over. NACI produces guidelines and recommendations, that provinces use to plan and implement their own vaccination rollout plans. Please note that the AstraZeneca vaccine used in Canada is from a different source (India) than what is currently being used in Europe. Until there is sufficient population immunity, Canadians need to continue their efforts in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through the wearing of masks, staying home when sick, and practicing social distancing. We want to reiterate that :

- Vaccines are **only** approved if the evidence shows they are **safe and effective**.
- Regulatory processes were adapted to do an independent review as quickly as possible but at no time did we compromise on our **meticulous, in-depth review**.
- Health Canada's scientists and medical professionals **carefully review** all of the scientific data and evidence for vaccine safety, effectiveness and quality.
- Health Canada's oversight of COVID-19 vaccines does **NOT stop at approval**. We have a well-established safety system that supports collection of data from provincial public health, manufacturers and other sources, to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines being rolled out to Canadians.
- [Detailed information](#) on the vaccines and the evidence behind the decisions are easy to access and openly available.
- Other vaccines are currently under the same careful review and we anticipate more in the future.

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of March 16th



12,158 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46 Nations (bands)** in Alberta.



At least **9,180** First Nations people have receive their first dose



At least **3,074** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living in reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **1,151** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have receive two doses of the vaccine.



At least **2,876** First Nations people have receive two doses of the vaccine.