



Current Context

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by an RNA virus that is part of the *Coronaviridae* family. It causes mild to moderate respiratory symptoms that are similar to the cold or flu. Many people are able to recover without requiring special treatment but older adults and those with underlying chronic conditions are more likely to develop serious illness.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) assessed COVID-19 as a pandemic. The infectious disease had crossed international borders and affected a large number of people. Canada's public health system is prepared and have been working together across the different levels of government to ensure that our preparedness and response measures are appropriate and adaptable to the evolving situation.

COVID-19 is a serious threat to the healthcare system. The associated health risks varies between and within communities. Resultantly, we must flatten the epidemic curve by using and practicing public health measures, in order to curb the impact that COVID-19 has on the health and mental wellbeing of Canadians, available healthcare resources, and essential services.

First Nations and Inuit Health Alberta Region is working collaboratively with the national and provincial governments to monitor the situation and activate plans to initiate, coordinate and maintain the following activities:

- Ensure business continuity
- Provide public information
- Promote public health measures
- Ensure access to stockpile equipment and supplies
- Coordinate assets and ensure communities are well-supported
- Mobilize healthcare surge

Reference:

Government of Canada. (2020). *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Symptoms and treatment*.

Lin, M. et al. (2020). What can early Canadian experience screening for COVID-19 teach us about how to prepare for a pandemic? *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 129(12), E314-E318. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.200305>

World Health Organization. (2020). *Coronavirus*.

Current as of 2020-04-03

*Please note that this is a living document and changes occur on a daily and weekly basis



Resource Manual Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the *First Nations and Inuit Coronavirus Pandemic Response Nursing Care Resource Manual* is to ensure that nurses, first responders, and contracted employees working in the communities are equipped with the foundational knowledge and necessary information about COVID-19 to perform their work safely and competently.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this resource manual is to provide comprehensive clinical information about COVID-19 so that nurses, first responders and contracted workers are able to safely and competently screen, test, and provide public health teaching to clients.

The key objectives include:

- To provide current and evidence-based content necessary to provide safe and competent nursing care
- To develop and reinforce critical thinking, clinical judgment and caring practice skills in this continually evolving situation
- To enable and empower nurses, first responders and contracted workers to provide public health teaching and address the learning needs of the clients

Methods to Achieve the Objectives

1. Care and Treat in Place

- To provide services to meet the needs of the clients
- To continue to provide services to current clients
- To maintain an appropriate level of care for all clients

2. Apply Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Practices

- To ensure that IPC practices will stay in effect and are reinforced
- To ensure safety and wellbeing of staff and clients

Components of the Resource Manual

The key components of the resource manual include:

- Community Mobile Team Logistics
- Education Materials for Healthcare Providers
- Education Materials for Clients
- Contact Information
- Forms

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