

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: March 3, 2022



Easing of Public Health Restrictions in Alberta

On February 26th, the Government of Alberta announced that their 3-step plan to ease COVID-19 measures would move to Step 2 on March 1st. At this time:

- Any remaining school requirements will be removed
- Youth screening activities for entertainment and sports activities will be removed
- Capacity limits on all large venue and entertainment venues will be lifted
- Indoor and outdoor social gathering limits will be lifted
- Provincial mask mandate will be lifted except in high-risk settings, including on public transit, at AHS-operated and contracted facilities and all continuing care settings
- **Mandatory isolation for COVID-19** core symptoms or positive test result remains in place

Information from the Government of Alberta is available [here](#).

NOTE: *The City of Edmonton's [Temporary Mandatory Face Coverings bylaw](#) remains in place* and requires all individuals 2 years of age and older to wear a face covering in Edmonton's indoor public spaces and public vehicles until further action is taken. For more information on the City of Edmonton's response to COVID-19, please click [here](#).

Update to Border Measures – Effective February 28th

Travelers will now have the option of using a COVID-19 rapid antigen test result (taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) **or** a molecular test result (taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry) to meet pre-entry requirements. The rapid antigen test must be authorized by the country in which it was purchased and must be administered by a laboratory, healthcare entity or telehealth service.

The Government of Canada will also be easing the on-arrival testing for fully-vaccinated travelers. This means that travelers arriving to Canada from any country, who qualify as fully vaccinated, will be randomly selected for arrival testing. Travelers selected will also no longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.

Please visit [COVID-19: Travel, testing and border](#) for more information.

Question of the Day

Q: What do I need to know about pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a newborn during COVID-19?

A: If you get COVID-19 while you are pregnant, you may have an increased risk for more severe disease. The best protection is to wear a mask, get vaccinated, limit in-person interactions, avoid crowded spaces, and practice good hand hygiene.

Your baby can get COVID-19 from other people, so it's important to limit their contact. Ask visitors to:

- stay home if they're sick
- wear a mask maximize
- physical distance from you and your baby
- clean their hands frequently when visiting

To learn more, click [here](#).

Alberta Cases: as of March 2nd, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Feb. 27 383 new cases)	525,816
AB Recovered Cases	512,716
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	19,001
On-reserve Recovered Cases	18,443
On-Reserve Active Cases	392
Calgary Zone Confirmed	211,995
Central Zone Confirmed	52,878
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	168,084
North Zone Confirmed	58,545
South Zone Confirmed	33,737
Unknown Confirmed	577
Deaths due to COVID-19	3,912
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	165
Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta	150,917

National Information

[CCMOH on the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic response](#)

[National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and National Film Board of Canada partner to preserve sacred history](#)

[International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032](#)

Regional Snapshot



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

Useful Links

Medical Officer of Health COVID-19 Bulletin

- February 24th available [here](#).

Mark your calendars - Windspeaker Radio

- Mental Wellness Townhall –March 9th
- Vaccine Townhall – March 16th

Rewind! Windspeaker Mental Wellness Town Hall programs can be found at the following links:

[Mental Wellness from an Indigenous Perspective](#)

[Coping with Grief and Loss](#)

[Checking in with Indigenous Youth](#)

[Let's Talk Self-Care](#)

[Racism in Healthcare](#)

Resource: [ISC COVID-19 Resources – Update 11](#)

Vaccine Update



Vaccine Snapshot

*as of February 28, 2022



118,410 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **88.1%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose** of the vaccine.



At least **94.7%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses** of the vaccine.



At least **16.4%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **three doses** of the vaccine.

Health Canada Authorizes Two New COVID-19 Vaccines

Health Canada authorized Novavax's [Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine](#) and [Medicago Covifenz](#) vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults 18 years of age and older. Both vaccines are administered as a two-dose regimen, 21 days apart.

Nuvaxovid is a **protein-based vaccine**. Based on the clinical trials overall, it is 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 100% effective at preventing severe disease. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Medicago Covifenz is a **plant-based vaccine**. Based on clinical trials it is 71% effective in protecting trial participants against COVID-19. Click [here](#) to learn more.

COVID-19 Treatment in Alberta – Sotrovimab and Paxlovid

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has updated the eligibility for early COVID treatment for those at risk of severe outcomes. AHS is offering Paxlovid or Sotrovimab to individuals tested positive for COVID-19 with mild to moderate symptoms:

- aged 55 or older, who are not fully vaccinated (received no or only a single dose of vaccine).
- aged 18 or older, who are not fully vaccinated and living with a health condition (e.g. diabetes).
- aged 18 or older, who have a significant immunocompromising condition (e.g. received a transplant or being on active cancer treatment), even if they have received all doses of vaccine.

Determining eligibility for this treatment requires a PCR test result. **Individuals should call Healthlink to determine if they are eligible for treatment.** While Sotrovimab and Paxlovid are useful in treating and preventing serious outcomes of COVID-19 once an individual is infected with the virus, they are not a substitute for immunization.