

# ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021



## Funding Available to Preserve the Diversity and Richness of Indigenous Heritage

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is providing funding through its *Listen, Hear Our Voices* (LHOV) initiative to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities as they digitize their existing documentary heritage related to Indigenous languages and cultures. Up to \$100,000 per project is available for eligible organizations and applications are accepted until **noon on January 28, 2022**. Visit the [Listen, Hear Our Voices](#) web page for more information.

## REMINDER: Residential School Mental Health Support Program

In July 2021, Alberta Health announced a one-time \$50,000 community grant is for First Nation or Metis community-led supports to help Residential School survivors, their families and loved ones cope with the trauma arising from lived experience, as well as identification of graves at residential schools. **All applications must be received by December 1, 2021**, with proposed activities or projects ending by March 31, 2022. The grant is intended to provide bridge funding to support First Nations and Métis support the mental health needs of their members. Please call Samantha Bear, Senior Policy Advisor, Indigenous Health Policy at 780 686 4477 or [Samantha.Bear@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Samantha.Bear@gov.ab.ca) for further details on how to apply.

## Free Surplus PPE available from GoA

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is distributing surplus personal protective equipment (PPE) to an expanded group of non-health-care organizations across Alberta, including First Nations. First Nations may order products from the [new Portal](#). Note that all products on this portal are based on availability and are products that have reached 75% of their lifecycle.

## Alberta's QR code vaccine record updated for travel

Alberta's vaccine record will be updated to meet the recommended Canadian standard for domestic and international travel. The updated record will be available Nov. 24 at [alberta.ca/CovidRecords](https://alberta.ca/CovidRecords). **There is no need for Albertans who already have a QR code vaccine record to save or reprint the updated version if they do not intend to travel.** Albertans can continue to use their already saved vaccine record with a QR code to access local businesses and venues taking part in the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP).

## Question of the Day

**Q: Why should children receive a COVID-19 vaccine if they are at lower risk of serious outcomes from COVID-19?**

**A:** The fourth wave is having a greater impact on children, as they are unvaccinated and many children less than 12 years of age have returned to in-person school and activities. As of mid- November, children aged 5 to 11 years of age have the highest COVID-19 case incidence rate across all age groups.

Although children and youth are less likely to get very ill from COVID-19 when compared to adults, if they do get infected they can still:

- Develop symptomatic COVID-19, including severe illness requiring hospitalization in some instances, or rarely resulting in death;
- Be infected and not have any symptoms but still be able to spread COVID-19 to others, and
- Experience longer-term effects

Dr. Hinshaw, CMOH, will host a telephone town hall on November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 for all parents and guardians to answer any questions they have about pediatric vaccines. You or your members are welcome to join. To register, [please click here](#).

# Alberta Cases:

as of Nov 24th, 3:30 p.m. MST

<b>AB Total Confirmed (Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> –253 new cases)</b>	<b>333,004</b>
<b>AB Recovered Cases</b>	<b>324,776</b>
<b>Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases</b>	<b>14,173</b>
<b>On-reserve Recovered Cases</b>	<b>13,768</b>
<b>On-Reserve Active Cases</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Calgary Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>122,759</b>
<b>Central Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>37,794</b>
<b>Edmonton Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>103,394</b>
<b>North Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>45,974</b>
<b>South Zone Confirmed</b>	<b>23,036</b>
<b>Unknown Confirmed</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>3,227</b>
<b>On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Variants of Concern Confirmed in Alberta</b>	<b>108,294</b>

## Re-opening of Arts, Culture, Heritage & Sports Sectors

The Making Cultural Spaces Safe During COVID-19 Initiative, administered by Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, helps Canadian organizations prepare their spaces to reopen while following public health guidelines. The support can be used for renovating or adapting spaces, and for purchase and installation of health and safety-related specialized equipment. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis for projects to be carried out before March 31, 2022. To discuss your project and request an application form, please contact [erica.potie@pch.gc.ca](mailto:erica.potie@pch.gc.ca).

## Regional Snapshot



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

## Useful Links

**Video and Transcript of Dr. Hinshaw's update on November 16:** [here](#)

**Statement from the Council of Chief Medical Officers: [COVID-19 Vaccination in Children 5-11 years of age](#)**

## Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic: 1 year Anniversary

Join the Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic their 1 year anniversary celebration with some exciting announcements.

When: December 01, 2021

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am MST

ZOOM: <https://fntn.zoom.us/j/85843241212>

Passcode: **124358**

OR join by phone: +1 587 328 1099

Webinar ID: 858 4324 1212

Passcode: 124358

# Vaccine Update



## Health Canada Authorizes Use of Comirnaty (Pfizer – BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine) in Children 5 to 11 Years of Age

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, after a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine in children 5 to 11 years of age. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group and marks a major milestone in Canada's fight against COVID-19. The benefits of vaccination are clear. Combined with other public health measures, high vaccination rates have allowed for protection from the severe outcomes of COVID-19. With pediatric vaccination, we now have an option for added protection for school-aged children from COVID-19. Along with continuing to practice individual public health measures, this option can help them to safely participate in the activities that matter most. On reserve, children 5-11 years of age can access the vaccine through their local health center and for off reserve members, an appointment can be booked through Alberta Health Services. The dose interval is 8 weeks, as per NACI recommendations, and the soonest the vaccine will be available for administration in Alberta is the end of this week. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, please contact your CLT at: [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca).

## Pfizer now the preferred COVID vaccine for 12-29 years old

Alberta is now recommending that the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 Vaccine be offered as the preferred choice of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for individuals age 12-29 years old. This preferential recommendation is based on recent data indicating a higher rate of myocarditis and/or pericarditis following vaccination with the Moderna (Spikevax) relative to the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine in those aged 12-29 years. Reports of rare cases of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart) occur within a week or two after immunization. These reports of myocarditis and pericarditis **continue to be rare** a 0.008% chance of serious side effects after the vaccine. **To date, there have been no myocarditis or pericarditis cases recorded in any immunizations on reserve.** It is important to note that the risk of cardiac complications, including myocarditis, can also be a side effect of the COVID-19 infection and is higher after COVID-19 infection than after immunization.

## Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) Vaccine Availability

Alberta recently received 5,000 doses of the Janssen vaccine. Albertans 18 years and older can now book appointments to receive the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson vaccine) COVID-19 vaccine by calling 811. Due to limited supply, the Janssen vaccine **will only be administered at AHS clinics in select locations across the province.**

## Vaccine Snapshot

\*as of November 23<sup>rd</sup>\*



**99,676** doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **82.4%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose**.



**100%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



**93%** of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **67.2%** of First Nations people 12+ living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses of the vaccine**.