

# IN BRIEF ... COVID-19

April 15, 2020



## BY THE NUMBERS

	Alberta*	Canada*	Global (WHO)#	Johns Hopkins^
Total Cases	1,996	27557	1,918,138	2,047,731
New Cases	126	1394	69,699	85,766
Deaths	48	954	123,126 (5909 new)	133,354 (8231 new)
Recovered	NA			509,876

\*Alberta and Canada numbers from daily CMOH update and GOC update as of 1100 EDT daily

#Global numbers from World Health Organization daily situation report

^Johns Hopkins University & Medicine Coronavirus Resource Centre

## DEVELOPMENTS TODAY

### ALBERTA

- Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health update from daily briefing
  - 2,853 tests completed in the past 24 hours. Alberta still leads the country in testing.
  - AHS experienced a service disruption yesterday which shut down the data feed to the provincial laboratory, and it has not been fully resolved. As a result, today's reports are a best-estimate. Updated information will be provided at Thursday's briefing, including total recoveries, hospitalizations, ICU and details on long-term care facility impacts.
  - AHS to establish a temporary, dedicated assessment site in High River in response to the increase in positive cases found in meat packing and processing facilities and in the region. The CMOH again noted that COVID is not a food-borne illness.
  - All businesses and workplaces still operating must follow public health guidance, do hazard assessments as required, limit gatherings and use appropriate PPE.
  - Announced a new outbreak at the Kearl Lake Oil Sands project north of Fort McMurray. 3 workers have tested positive and 6 have been tested and are currently isolating.
- New \$53 million [investment into mental health and addiction response](#), including \$25 million grant program for community groups, and additional funding for Primary Care Networks.
- 1,000 workers at the Cargill plant in High River have been laid off, after 38 workers were confirmed of having coronavirus.

### OTTAWA

- Government [expanded eligibility for CERB](#) for people making less than \$1,000 a month; those expecting a seasonal job; or run out of EI since January 1. Additionally, a proposal to transfer funds to the provinces for a temporary top up to the salaries of low-income essential workers, who are making less than \$2500 a month announced.
- Public Health Agency of Canada reports 462,000 tests completed, with a 6% positive rate.
- Smaller [Canada-US border crossings in western Canada and Quebec](#) temporarily reducing operating hours.
- Bank of Canada holds the prime rate at 0.25% and announces plans to buy more federal bonds, up to \$50 billion in provincial bonds and up to \$10 in corporate bonds to provide increased liquidity for governments and businesses.
- [Mental health and wellbeing support](#) is being provided through a new federal website called [Wellness Together Canada](#).

- Camping, group activities and events at all [national parks, national historic sites, heritage canals and national marine conservation areas](#) are suspended until at least May 31, 2020.

## OTHER PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

- BC to extend its provincial state of emergency for at least another 2 weeks, until April 28.
- Ontario sees a single-day record number of deaths, 51, and second-highest new confirmed cases count, 494, as they ramp up testing. Ontario has nearly 8,500 cases and 385 deaths. In long-term care facilities, there are 834 cases among residents and 453 cases among staff. In response, the province will stop people from working in more than one facility – a move made by other provinces earlier.
- Quebec reports 612 new cases and 52 more deaths as its totals rise to 14,860 cases and 487 deaths. The province said their estimates are they need 2,000 workers for long-term care and seniors facilities in the province to provide services. The Premier said he may look ask asking the Canadian Forces for medical supports.

## UPDATES

- Many city mayors are now pleading with their provincial, state or the federal government for financial aid and support now and in the coming months as costs and revenue losses mount. City of Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson said estimates are the city will be \$140 million short on revenue by September, and will require budget reductions when council meets on April 27.
- Pan American Health Organization Director, Dr Carissa Etienne, [calls for “extreme caution” when transitioning to more flexible social distancing measures](#) as well as the need for significantly expanded testing.
- As Los Angeles County sees its second consecutive day of record death tolls, LA County imposes a face covering requirement for all persons in public places, as does New York City. Further the Mayor of LA County suggested that there be no large public gatherings in the county until 2021.
- US President Donald Trump said he was cutting off payments to the World Health Organization during the coronavirus pandemic, accusing the organization of failing to do enough to stop the virus from spreading when it first surfaced in China.

## RESOURCES

Government of Alberta COVID-19 information

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

COVID-19 case statistics

<https://covid19stats.alberta.ca/>

Alberta Health Services COVID-19 webpage

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>

Government of Canada COVID-19 information

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

World Health Organization information

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

WHO daily situation reports

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>

WHO COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd>