

# IN BRIEF ... COVID-19

April 23, 2020



## BY THE NUMBERS

	Alberta*	Canada*	Global (WHO)#	Johns Hopkins^
Total Cases	3,720	41,190	2,549,632	2,682,225
New Cases	319	2258	73,470	53,331
Deaths	68 (2 new)	2,028 (157 new)	175,825 (6674 new)	187,330 (4590 new)
Recovered	1,357	14,714	N/A	732,647

\*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
  - An initial case has been identified at the Sofina Foods plant in Calgary – not yet considered an outbreak, but AHS engaged and offering testing to all employees.
  - 480 confirmed cases at Cargill plant in High River, 124 cases, and both of the new deaths identified today, at JBS Foods in Brooks, and 390 cases at continuing care facilities across the province.
  - The long incubation period means that AHS expected to see increased cases over the next two weeks as these outbreak sites and across the province.
  - Talked about the development of an app that can be voluntarily added to your phone that can help with contact tracing. Albertans have a choice to use and/or download it. Expects it to be available in the coming weeks, once trials have been completed. The Information and Privacy Commissioner has been engaged in this trial phase.
- The [Calgary Exhibition and Stampede has been cancelled](#) and Edmonton's [K-Days has been cancelled](#) for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both cancellations noted the recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health related to mass gatherings – as these have the potential to be super-spreader events. For the foreseeable future, the CMOH has said there will not be any mass gatherings allowed.

### OTTAWA

- 625,000 tests to date have been undertaken. 6.5% of tests are showing positive results.
- Prime Minister announces new [\\$1.1 billion support for COVID-19 medical and research](#).
  - \$115m research into vaccines and treatments,
  - \$662m for clinical trials led by Canada,
  - \$350m increased national testing and modelling to control the spread and establishing the COVID-19 immunity task force

### OTHER PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

- Saskatchewan to start [reopening the province gradually beginning on May 4](#). The plan has 5 phases, the first phase includes re-opening of medical services restricted under the current public health order, and the resumption of low-risk outdoor recreational activities, including fishing and boat launches, golf courses (May 15) and a fixed date (June 1) for parks and campgrounds. Restrictions on public/private gatherings remains at a maximum of 10 people.

- Ontario Premier Doug Ford reveals that his elderly mother-in-law, who is living in a long-term care facility, has tested positive for COVID-19.

## UPDATES

- WHO releases [information on the origins of COVID-19 virus](#) – stating “SARS-CoV-2 has an ecological origin in bat populations... All available evidence to date suggests that the virus has a natural animal origin and is not a manipulated or constructed virus.”
- Additional details on [Canada’s support for students and recent graduates](#).
- WestJet says a further 3,000 of its workers will be laid off in early May.
- Another 4.4 million Americans filed for government jobless benefits for the first time last week, as joblessness continues to hit the US economy. The total number of newly jobless people in the US in the past five weeks is more than 26 million - more than the entire number of new jobs created in the US economy since the financial crisis of 2008.

## 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://who.sprinklr.com/>