

Update 156: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta

(Dec. 10, 3:45 p.m.)

December 10, 2020 [Media inquiries](#)

Testing positivity rate remains high. Albertans must continue to work together to bend the curve and protect the health-care system.

Latest updates

- Over the last 24 hours, 1,566 new cases were identified.
- There are 682 people in hospital due to COVID-19, including 124 in intensive care.
- There are 20,163 active cases in the province.
- To date, 54,225 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19.
- There was an increase of 16,793 tests (2,444,373 total) for a total of 1,547,298 people tested.
- The testing positivity rate is 9.5 per cent.

- In the last 24 hours, there were 13 additional COVID-related deaths reported: one on Dec. 2, one on Dec. 4, two on Dec. 5, two on Dec. 6, one on Dec. 7, four on Dec. 8, and two on Dec. 9.
- The total number of COVID-19 related deaths is now 666.
- All zones across the province have cases:
 - Calgary Zone: 7,304 active cases and 22,337 recovered
 - South Zone: 601 active cases and 3,726 recovered
 - Edmonton Zone: 9,464 active cases and 21,770 recovered
 - North Zone: 1,247 active cases and 3,683 recovered
 - Central Zone: 1,480 active cases and 2,590 recovered
 - 67 active cases and 119 recovered cases in zones to be confirmed
 - Additional information, including case totals, is [online](#).
- Currently, 432 schools, about 18 per cent, are on alert or have outbreaks, with 1,789 cases in total.
 - Of those, 157 schools are on alert, with 263 total cases.
 - Outbreaks are declared in 275 schools, including 113 on watch, with a total of 1,526 cases.
 - So far, in-school transmission has likely occurred in 317 schools. Of these, 158 have had only one new case result.
 - Based on data available to date, 309 schools have been removed from the alert list.
 - An [online map](#) lists schools with two or more confirmed cases, updated every school day.
- There are 775 active and 3,223 recovered cases at long-term care facilities and supportive/home living sites.
- To date, 419 of the 666 reported deaths (63 per cent) have been in long-term care facilities or supportive/home living sites.
- Alberta is reporting case numbers and information daily, including on weekends and holidays.

Vaccine distribution

- Alberta will deliver its [first COVID-19 vaccines](#) to critical health-care workers at the highest-risk facilities next week. The Pfizer vaccine has now been approved by Health Canada.
- Eligible groups of health-care workers, including staff at long-term care and supportive living facilities, will be offered vaccinations starting in early 2021.

New provincewide restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19

- In response to increasing case numbers, [new restrictions](#) on social gatherings and masking are in effect.
 - Effective 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 13, additional restrictions will come into effect, including business closures and restrictions on other services, retail businesses and attendance at places of worship.
- These mandatory restrictions apply provincewide and will be in place for at least four weeks.
- All existing guidance and legal orders remain in place, including closures previously required on Nov. 27.
- Alberta Health, AHS and local municipalities continue to closely monitor the spread across the province.

Enforcement of public health measures

- The government has granted certain Alberta peace officers and community peace officers temporary authority to enforce [public health orders](#).
- Expanding these authorities increases the number of officers able to levy fines by about 700.
- Not following mandatory restrictions will result in fines of \$1,000 per ticketed offence and up to \$100,000 through the courts.

Albertans downloading tracer app

- All Albertans are encouraged to download the secure [ABTraceTogether app](#), which is integrated with provincial contact tracing. The federal app is not a contact tracing app.
- Secure contact tracing is an effective tool to stop the spread by notifying people who were exposed to a confirmed case so they can isolate and be tested.
- Early issues have been fixed so the app can run in the background of all mobile devices.
- As of Dec. 10, 283,043 Albertans were using the ABTraceTogether app, 66 per cent on iOS and 34 per cent on Android. On average, 11 new users were registering every hour.
- Secure contact tracing is a cornerstone of Alberta's [Relaunch Strategy](#).

Symptoms for children and adults

- Adults over age 18 should stay home and get tested if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Children should refer to [the daily screening checklist](#) for instructions.

Influenza immunization

- Everyone, especially seniors and those at risk, is encouraged to get immunized against [influenza](#).
- As of Dec. 5, 1,365,073 Albertans have received their flu shot. That means almost 31 per cent of Albertans are immunized against influenza so far this year.
- By appointment, doctors' offices and participating pharmacies will immunize ages five and up.
- By appointment, public health clinics will immunize ages under five, their household members; people with no provincial health number; and where they are the only provider.

MyHealth Records quick access

- Parents and guardians can access the COVID-19 test results for children under the age of 18 through [MyHealth Records](#) (MHR) as soon as they are ready.
- As of Dec. 3, 463,442 Albertans have MHR accounts.

Access to justice

- For the latest updates on court operations, please visit:
 - [Traffic Court](#)
 - [Provincial Court](#)
 - [Court of Queen's Bench](#)
 - [Court of Appeal](#)

Alberta's Recovery Plan

- Alberta's [Recovery Plan](#) will create jobs, economic diversification and a strong economic future.

Addiction and mental health supports

- Confidential supports are available. The Mental Health Help Line at 1-877-303-2642 and the Addiction Help Line at 1-866-332-2322 operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Resources are also available [online](#).
- The Kids Help Phone is available 24-7 and offers professional counselling, information and referrals and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people by texting CONNECT to 686868.

- [Online resources](#) provide advice on handling stressful situations and ways to talk with children.

Family violence prevention

- A 24-hour Family Violence Information Line at 310-1818 provides anonymous help in more than 170 languages.
- Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence is available at 1-866-403-8000, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- People fleeing family violence can call local police or the nearest RCMP detachment to apply for an Emergency Protection Order, or follow the steps in the [Emergency Protection Orders Telephone Applications \(COVID-19\)](#).
- Information sheets and other resources on family violence prevention are at alberta.ca/COVID19.

Quick facts

- Legally, all Albertans must physically distance and isolate when sick or with symptoms.
- Good hygiene is your best protection: wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your face, cough or sneeze into an elbow or sleeve, and dispose of tissues appropriately.
- Please share acts of kindness during this difficult time at [#AlbertaCares](#).
- Alberta Connects Contact Centre (310-4455) is open Monday to Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Related information

- [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)
- [COVID-19 aggregate data](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreak data](#)

Multimedia

- [Watch the news conference](#)

Media inquiries

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