

# COVID-19 Update

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AUGUST 13, 2020

QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)

# Outline

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1. MOH Update – Dr. Wadieh Yacoub
2. Current Topic – School Re-Entry – Dr. Parminder Thiara and Dr. Wadieh Yacoub
3. PPE Funding for Schools – Aaron McEwen
3. Community Profile – Maskwacis School Re-Entry – Brian Wildcat, Superintendent of Maskwacis Education Commission
4. Community Profile – COVID Response – Blood Tribe Dpt of Health – Lori Healy, NIC
5. Questions

# MOH Update

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DR. WADIEH YACOUB, SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)

# Reminder - Privacy

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- All information related to an individual who is or was infected with a communicable disease shall be treated as private and confidential
- No information shall be published, released or disclosed in any manner that would be detrimental to the personal interest, reputation or privacy of that individual.

# Current Situation (as of August 13)

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## The **global** numbers:

- 20 668 102 cases
- 750 429 deaths

## The numbers in **Canada**:

- 120 844 cases
- 9 006 deaths

Source: John Hopkins University and Medicine <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>  
and Public Health Agency of Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

# Current Situation in Alberta

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Overview of COVID-19 in Alberta (as of August 13, 2020):

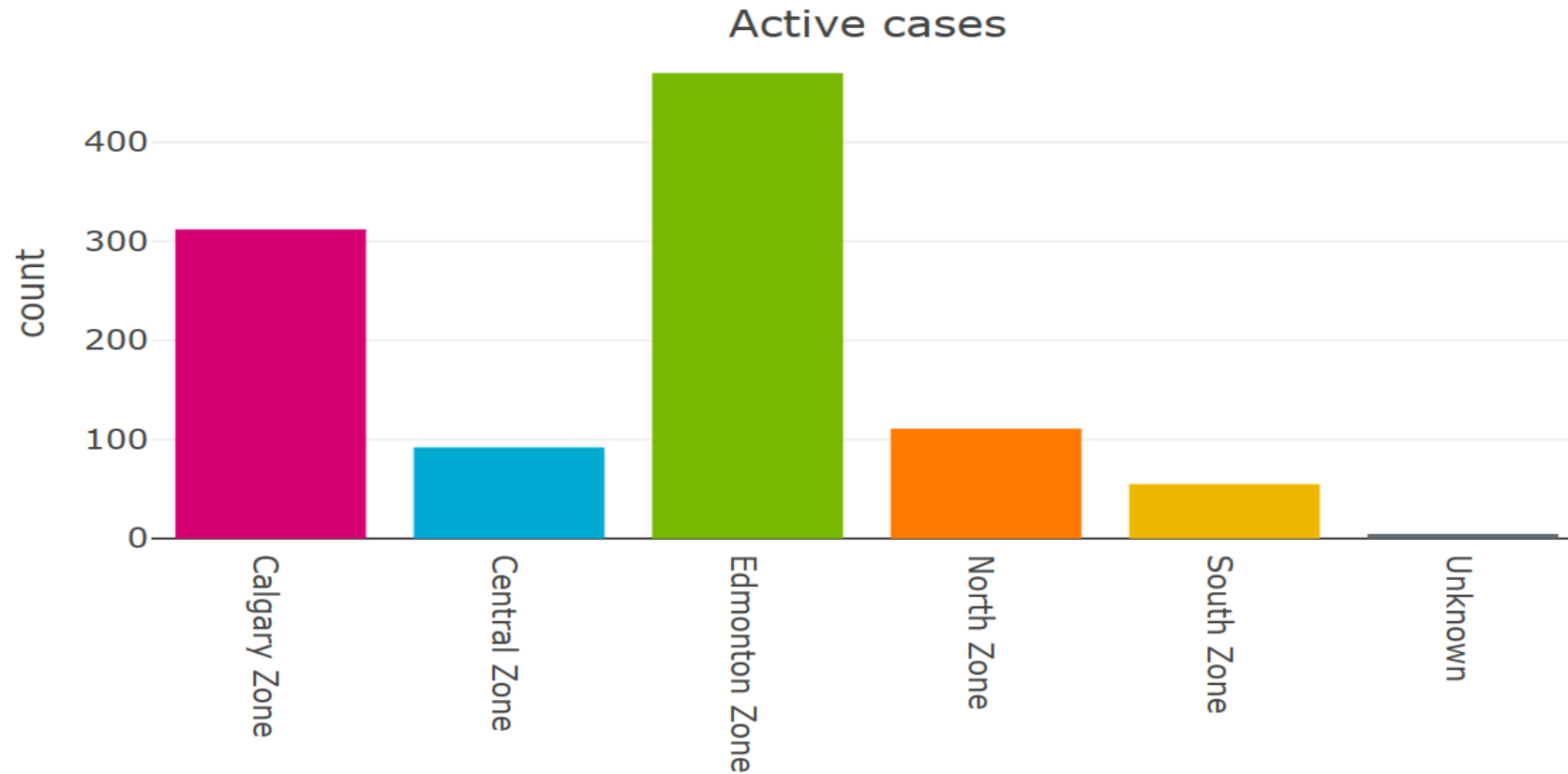


Interactive Alberta data can be found at: <https://covid19stats.alberta.ca/>

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# Active Cases by Zone – Alberta (as of August 13)

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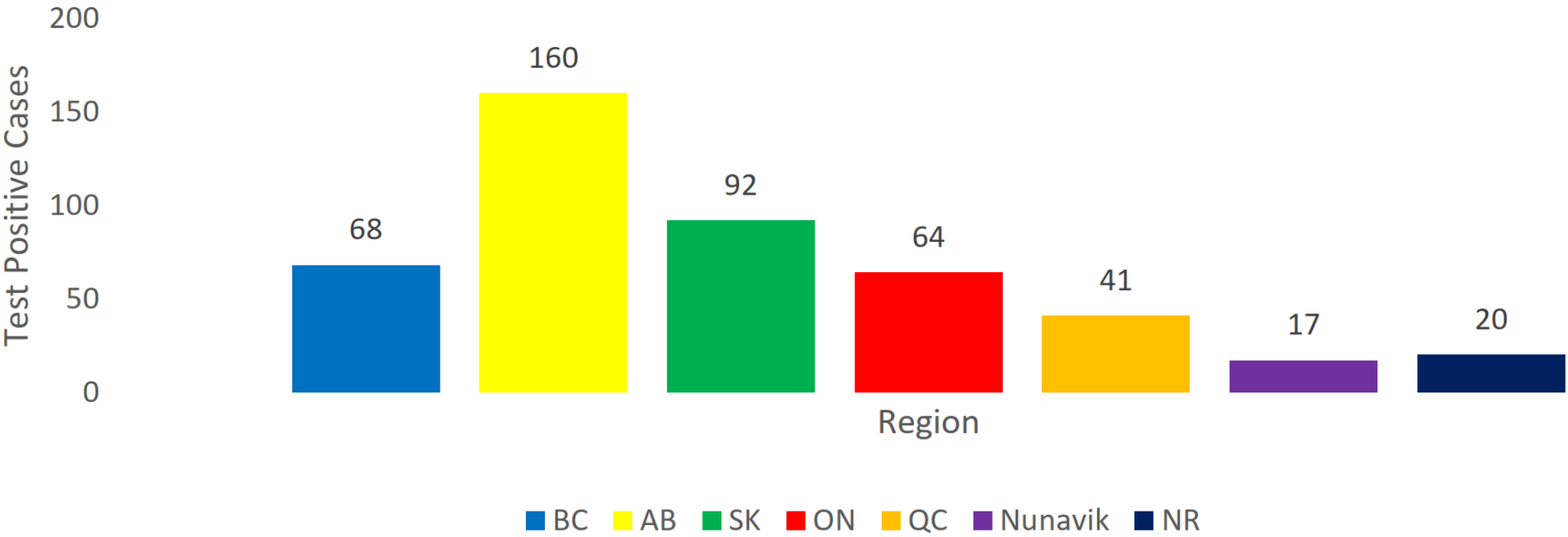
<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm>

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# Current Situation - COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities - National



Total reported COVID-19 cases in First Nations communities by region





# Current Situation – Alberta First Nations

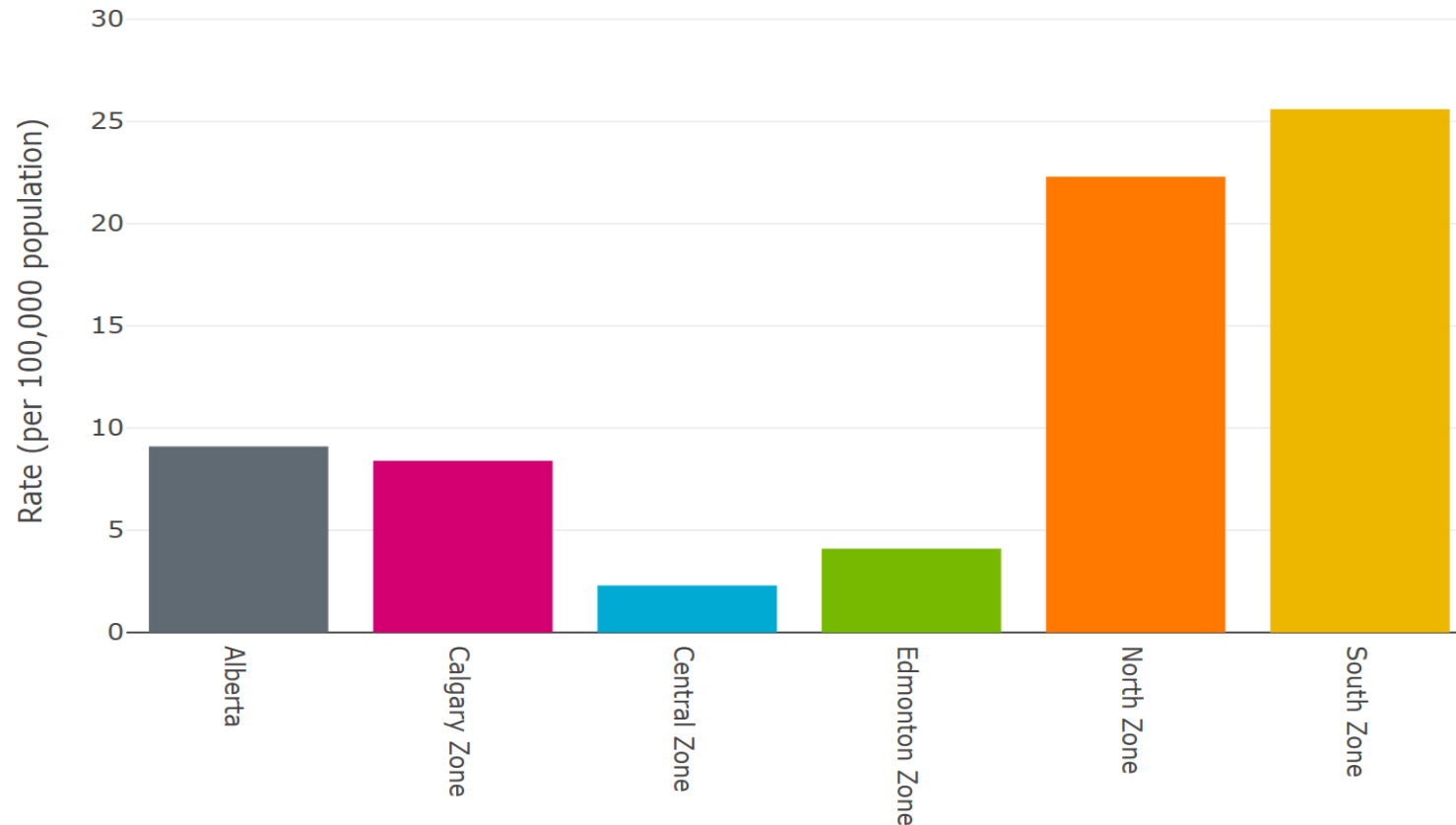
(as of August 13, 2020)

Location	Total Confirmed Cases	Active Cases	In Hospital	In ICU	Deaths
First Nation Communities	161	8	10 (ever)	4 (ever)	1
First Nations People in AB*	398	28	38 (ever)	8 (ever)	6

\* Includes on and off reserve

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# Rate of COVID-19 cases (per 100,000 population) in First Nations people and by zone

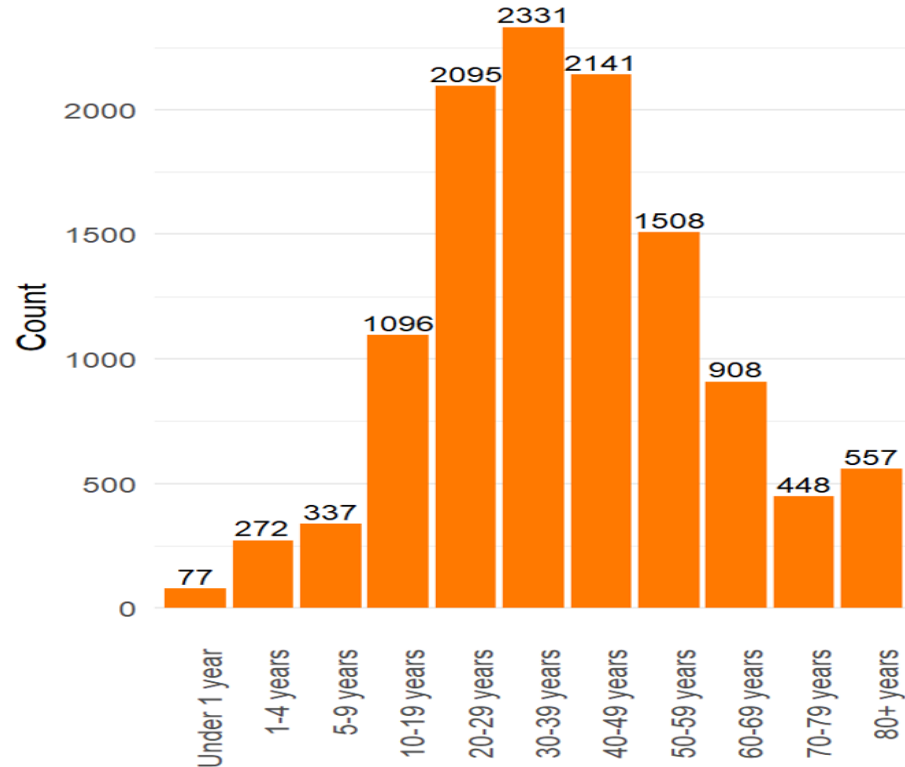


Source: AB Health and AFNIGC <http://www.afnigc.ca/main/index.php?id=home>

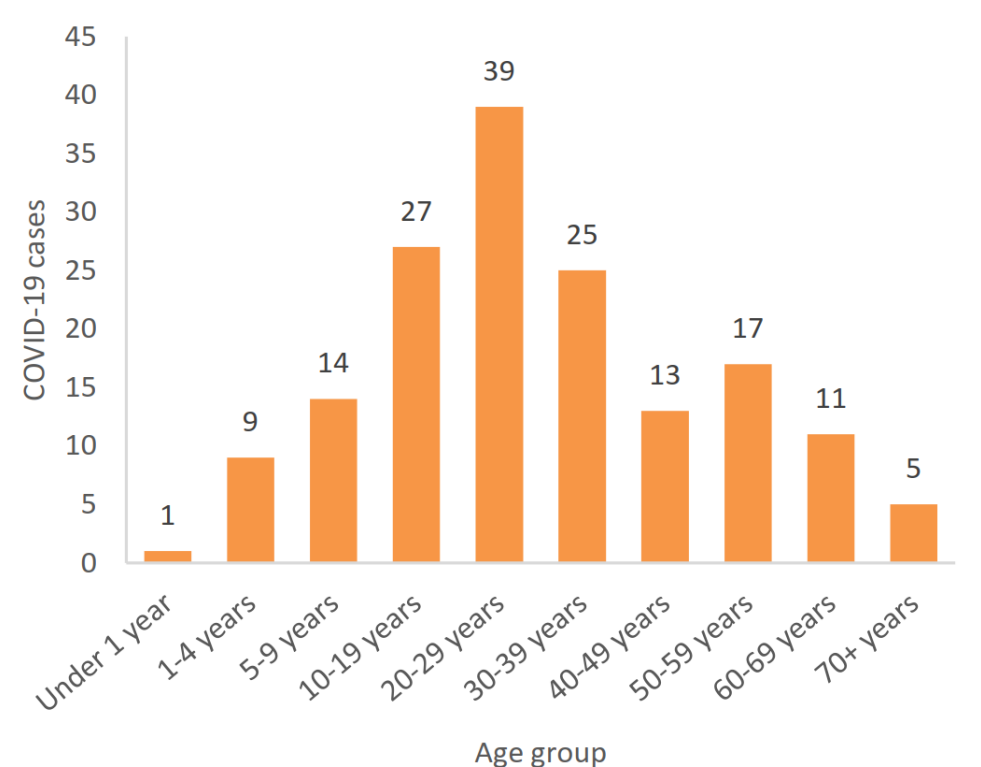
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# COVID-19 cases by age group

## ALBERTA



## FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES



# Alberta COVID-19 Testing Criteria

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## Testing is available to:

- The following groups will continue to receive priority for testing:
  - any person exhibiting any symptom of COVID-19
  - all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - all workers and/or residents at specific outbreak sites
  - all workers and residents at long-term care and level 4 supportive living facilities
  - all patients admitted to continuing care or transferred between continuing care and hospital settings
- any person without symptoms who wants to be tested.

Online self assessment: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

Online self assessment for HCWs/Shelter Workers/Enforcement/First Responders: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/HWAssessLanding.aspx>

# COVID-19 Testing Data (up to August 10): First Nations Communities in Alberta

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**44**

**Communities Reporting  
Data**

**43**

**Communities doing  
testing**

**1**

**Communities not reporting  
data**

**7,594**

**Number of swabs in stock**

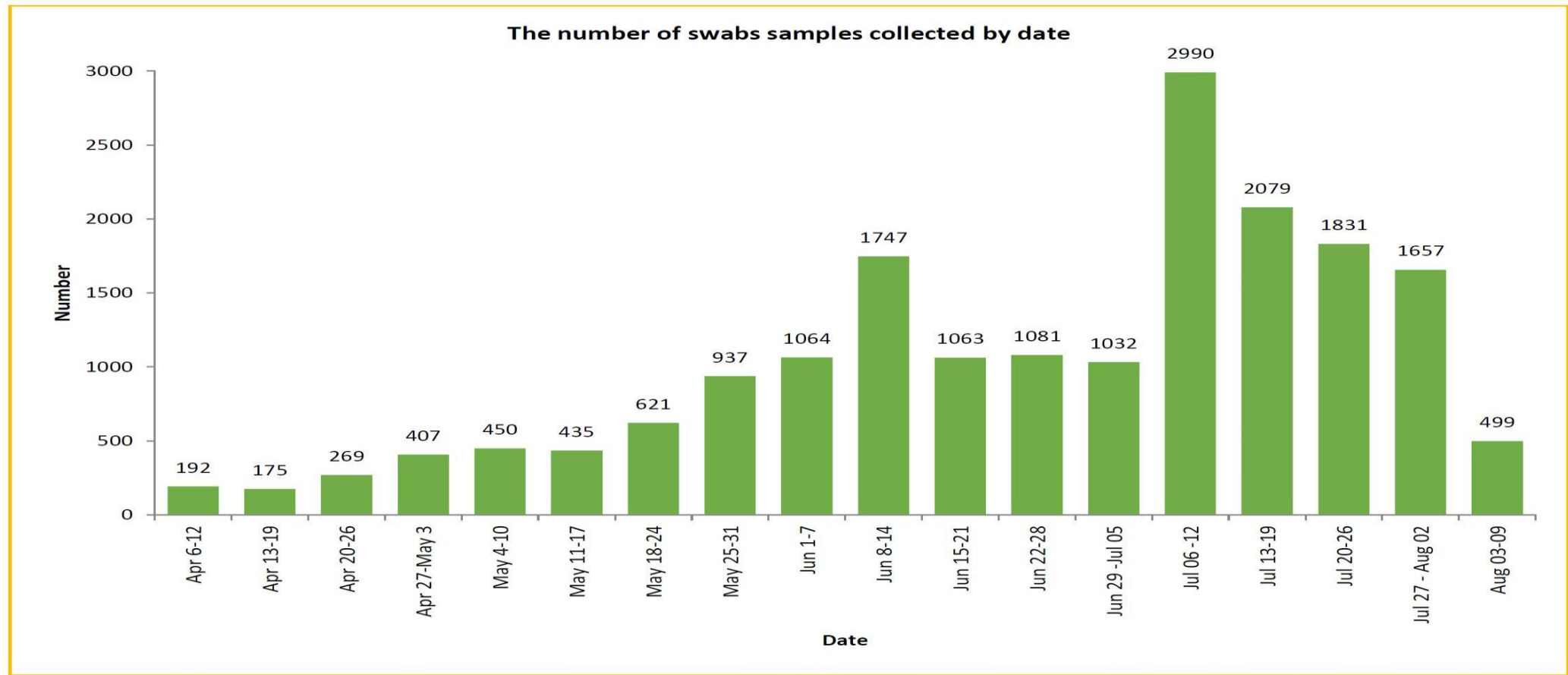
**18,529**

**Number of swab samples  
collected to date**

**3,672**

**Patients seen with COVID-19  
like symptoms to date**

# Number of COVID-19 Swabs Collected in First Nations Communities by Date



# FNIHB Monitoring Metrics

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Relaunch depends on our ability to keep infection numbers low.

Health measures FNIHB is watching include:

- COVID-19 in counties including First Nations: <50 active cases per 100,000
- Hospitalization rates
- ICU admission rates
- Testing and Monitoring

The interactive COVID-19 status map shows the level of risk in regions across Alberta, and information about local health measures. It also shows the rate of COVID-19 cases and the number of active cases. The map can be viewed here: <https://www.alberta.ca/maps/covid-19-status-map.htm>

# Current Topics

## School Re-entry Public Health Guidance

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DR. PARMINDER THIARA, PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTATIVE  
MEDICINE SPECIALIST

DR. WADIEH YACOUB, SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)



# School Relaunch Guidance

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Students across Alberta will return to class for the 2020/21 school year under Scenario 1: Which is in-class learning with enhanced health and safety measures. **Your Nation can make decisions on safe re-opening options reflective of input from students and parents, COVID-19 case number and ongoing transmission.**

Provincial school authorities planned for 3 scenarios for which guidance documents for scenario 1 and 2 are located on the Government of Alberta website to guide your schools re-opening approach.

School K-12 Re-entry Plan guidance <https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx> and <https://www.alberta.ca/guidance-documents.aspx>

- School Re-entry plan
- Scenario 1 - In-school classes resume, near-normal operations with health measures
- Scenario 2 - In-school classes partially resume with additional health measures
- Scenario 3 – At home learning

# Preventative Public Health Measures

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General Preventative measures include:

- A strict stay-at-home policy for those that are ill
- Daily screening for symptoms
- Promote and facilitate personal hygiene practices
- Physical distancing measures
- Use of masks (mandatory Grade 4-12)
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection
- Avoid the use of shared equipment
- Considerations for food service

# Stay-At-Home Policy

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- Create a strict stay-at-home policy for any students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19
  - Consult with local Health Centre regarding isolation requirements
- Communication strategies (including accessible signage) are strengthened to include messaging about staying at home when exhibiting symptoms of/or after exposure to COVID-19 to children/youth, families, staff, volunteers in languages/formats appropriate for age
- Children are made aware of how to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and instruct them to speak to a staff member immediately if they are experiencing symptoms

# Daily Screening

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Routinely screen all staff and students

- Parents, students and school staff must complete a self-screening questionnaire each day before going to a school building. Visitors must also use this questionnaire to determine if they may enter a school.
- Self-screening questionnaire - <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/edc-covid-19-screening-questionnaire-english.pdf>

# Staff/Students with Pre-existing or Underlying Medical Conditions

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For students/staff with pre-existing or underlying medical conditions or risk factors, advise individuals or families to consult their physician to discuss health risks and discuss options for re-entry.

A student showing COVID- 19 symptoms who have allergies or other pre-existing medical conditions that cause similar symptoms should get at least one negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school.

- These symptoms would be their baseline health status. The student can attend school as long as they stay the same. Document existing health conditions.

# Promote Hygiene Practices

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- Set hand hygiene expectations when entering and exiting the school and classrooms, before and after eating etc.
- Regularly remind students and staff of respiratory etiquette:
  - cover coughs and sneezes
  - avoid touching your face
  - dispose of used tissues promptly
  - practice hand hygiene

# Recalled Hand Sanitizer

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Health Canada has recalled some hand sanitizers because they contain industrial-grade ethanol.

Visit the Government of Canada website to determine if you have any of these products

<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/73385a-eng.php>

# Physical Distancing

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Maintain 2 metre (6 feet) physical distancing throughout the day in all settings

- Emphasize other hygiene practices in classrooms, buses and during activities when physical distancing may not be possible.

Create cohort group where possible – which is a group of students and/or teachers who will remain together throughout the school day, every day. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space available.



# Physical Distancing

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Re-organize rooms to allow for more physical space.

- If spacing desks/tables 2 metres apart is not possible, arrange students such that they are all facing forward (not in circles or clusters facing each other)

Guide foot traffic flow to reduce congestion

- designate different doors for entry and exit of the school
- use floor markings or pylons/barriers in hallways
- Avoid large gatherings like assembly

# Masks

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New school safety measures were announced by the Chief Medical Officer of Health on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>:

## Mandatory mask use for students and staff in Grade 4 to 12

- Students and staff must wear masks where physical distancing cannot be maintained, including on school buses and shared areas such as hallways.
- Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.
- Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students will continue to be optional.
- Masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidance for schools.
  - Masks are required in the classroom when close contact between students, or students and staff, is occurring. Masks should be used for the duration of this activity.

# Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection

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Develop daily environmental cleaning protocol including cleaning schedules for all areas of the school including off sheets.

Areas to clean multiple times a day include:

- High touch surfaces (i.e. light switches, door handles, water fountains, vending machines if working)
- Bathrooms
- Shared equipment
  - Create a “no sharing policy” - all students should have their own supplies.
  - Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected after each use
- Floors, classrooms, administration, other areas.

Regularly schedule deep cleaning when students are not present.

# Considerations for Food Service

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- No activities that involve the sharing of food between students or staff should occur.
- Do not use buffets. Instead, switch to pre-packaged meals or meals served by staff.
- Dispense cutlery, napkins and other items to students/children, rather than allowing them to pickup their own items.

# School Bus Public Health Guidance

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- Mandatory masks for students grade 4 to 12 students, and drivers.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces.
- Maintain a protective zone for the driver.
- Assign students to seats that are grouped with other household members.
- Use loading and unloading procedures that support physical distancing of 2 metres between students when possible.

# Covid-19 Case Follow-up

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## **If there is a case of COVID-19 at school:**

If a student shows symptoms at school, parents should pick up the child immediately. The student must be asked to wear a non-medical mask (if able to do so safely), and be isolated in a separate room or kept at least 2 metres away from others. Parents should ensure the school has their most up-to-date contact information.

The Medical Officer of Health will work with school authorities through your community health centre public health staff to quickly:

- identify cases
- identify close contacts
- create isolation measures when needed
- provide follow-up recommendations

A COVID-19 case will not automatically lead to school closure. It could be that only the group of students and staff who came in close contact will be required to stay home for 14 days.

Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person.

# Outbreak Management

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If a school has 2 or more cases:

- the school would be considered to have an outbreak
- the school should follow outbreak notification procedures (under review for September 2020)
- Medical Officers of Health will assess the spread and exposure risk to determine if it affects multiple grades and areas, or is confined within close contacts of a confirmed case, and provide specific recommendations – an outbreak will not automatically lead to school closure

# Support for School Re-entry

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FNIHB staff are available to provide preventative public health measures to aid in safe re-opening.

Medical Officers of Health:

- Can provide information on local COVID-19 activity and transmission
- Work with the CDC team and local health officials in the event of COVID-19 case follow-up and outbreak management

Environmental Public Health Officers are available to support school entry in the following manner:

- Assist with answering questions around school re-entry guidance documents when developing school re-entry plans
- Provide on-site public health inspections/assessments of schools
- Provide education around food safety, cleaning and disinfection, general COVID-19 information



# Additional Resources

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Government of Alberta – K-12 School Re-Entry Guidance:

<https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/guidance-documents.aspx>

Public Health Agency of Canada – COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>

COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/edc-covid-19-screening-questionnaire-english.pdf>

FAQ's on Technical Grade Hand Sanitizers:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-ppe-technical-grade-ethanol-hand-sanitizer.pdf>



# Public Health Support for Education

Presented by: Aaron McEwen



# Public Health Support for Education

## What is eligible

- Funding to support immediate public health measures
  - Hand washing stations
  - Signage for social distancing
  - PPE for staff and students
  - Additional cleaning supplies
  - Plexi-glass for school office/reception
- Reimbursement for eligible items already purchased will be available



# Public Health Support for Education

## What is not eligible

- The following types of areas cannot be supported:
  - capital improvements
  - funding for additional teachers
  - technology request to support schools or students
- The education branch is currently working with Nations and partners to identify and examine these types of re-opening pressures and will be sharing additional information shortly.
- Indigenous Community Support Funding (part 2) can be used to support educational gaps



# Public Health Support for Education Funding Approach

- Funding for those Nations with schools will be provided in two parts:
  - A base funding amount for PPE and supplies
    - ❖ Supports students
    - ❖ Supports school staff
    - ❖ Supports schools
  - A submission based process for additional funding
    - ❖ Supports supplies and additional PPE
- Nations have the option on how to best utilise the funding provided to support PPE:
  - reusable masks
  - one-time only masks



# Public Health Support for Education

## Funding Approach cont'd

- Funding to support students for those Nations without schools can be made through the COVID-19 Health Needs Funding Submission process.
- Funding to support Headstart and Daycare can be made through the COVID-19 Health Needs Funding Submission process.



# Public Health Support for Education

## How to Submit

- The base funding amount will be provided by ISC with no submission required
- Additional funding support will require the completion and submission of the Public Health Support for Education template
- Submission can be made to the CDE inbox at [sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca](mailto:sac.cdemergenciesab-urgencesmtab.isc@canada.ca)
- Please contact the Community Liaison Team (CLT) for assistance with your submission.



# Public Health Support for Education

## How to Submit cont'd

- There will be three submission time frames:
  1. September to December
  2. January to March
  3. April to June
- There is no deadline for submissions and multiple submissions can be made as your needs require
- Funding administration is still to be determined



# Community Profile: Maskwacis Education School Re-entry Plan

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BRIAN WILDCAT, SUPERINTENDENT, MASKWACIS EDUCATION SCHOOLS COMMISSION



School  
Re-entry Plan  
2020-21  
School Year

MESC will continue to support the directions of the Maskwacis Chiefs and Councils and work with each Nation's Director of Emergency Measures and their Committee (MEOC).

**MESC will prepare for all 3 scenarios but this Plan focuses on SCENARIO 2:**

1) In-school classes resume (near normal with health measures) - full classes

**2) In-school classes partially resume (with additional health measures) - Cohorts**

3) At-home learning continues (in-school classes are suspended/cancelled) - in school classes cancelled

# Key Points for Community

## Principles

- Commitment to the health and safety of students and staff.
- Commitment to continuity of learning
- Strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols and practices;
- Enforce a strict stay at home policy for staff and students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19;
- Commit to respiratory etiquette, physical distancing and hand washing practices and avoid handshaking or other physical forms of contact and wearing masks

# Key Points for Community

## **Commitment to Health and Safety Partners**

MESC will continue to work with: MHS, AHS, Ab Ed., FNIHB and ISC

## **Communication Plan**

MESC is committed to :

- Communicate with staff, students, families and Maskwacisak
- Seeking guidance from the Circle of Elders, Parent Circle and Leadership summit.

## **Cultural Practices**

MESC will incorporate modified cultural practices and ceremonies within cohorts that follow strict safety guidelines under advice from the Circle of Elders and MHS.

# Key Points for Community

## MESC Building Safety:

- Undertake a thorough cleaning of school facilities prior to re-entry;
- Check all HVAC systems to ensure good ventilation. Clean all air ducts and inspect all schools for mold
- Install sneeze shield at all locations where members of the public is received;
- Install signage to show physical distancing measures;
- Cancel all indoor gatherings over 50 people (ie christmas concerts)
- Allow only approved visitors (emergency situations) onto MESC sites;
- **Deny all request for community use of schools**
- **Contract commercial cleaning company (Jan King) to disinfect and deep clean the school each night and on Weekends**
- All MESC custodians will be deployed to day time shifts;
- Ensure high traffic areas are cleaned multiple times a day on top of regular cleaning
- Provide cleaning products so employees can keep their workspaces clean and disinfected.
- Provide hand sanitizers in all building high traffic areas and in every classroom.;
- Ensure personal protective equipment ([PPE](#)) is available at each site ( four reusable mask and a face shield for each staff, disposable mask and gloves) ;
- Provide 2 non-touch thermometers at each site to check for fever

# Key Points for Building Safety

## Parents, Guardians and Families

- Returning to school in the fall of 2020-21 will be voluntary and based on parent choice.
- MESC will prepare learning packages and offer online support for student who's parents choose not to send them back to school,
- All Students must be registered by September 15th, 2020;
- Parent will be encouraged to have their children tested before starting school
- Strict stay at home policy for students exhibiting cold and flu like symptoms or symptoms of COVID-19; and follow AHS protocols.
- MESC will provide a triage tool for students that parents or guardians must follow and every morning;
- Parent can choose to provide transportation for their children or use the buses
- Provide information on how to use online registration;

# Key Points for Parents

## School Responsibility (Senario 2)

- Maximum of 15 people in each classroom or a number that allows for physical distancing in other part of the school
- Divide students into 2 groups (referred to as Cohorts 1 & 2).
- Have Cohort 1 & 2 attend in school classes on alternating weeks. Students not in school will be sent home with a learning package.
- Designate Tuesday to Friday as in class days for students.
- Monday: prepare learning packages and contact students learning from home.
- **School hours for classes from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Student drop off 8:40 am to 9:00 am and pick up 3:00 pm to 3:20 pm.**
- School will be be staff and student only buildings.
- Insist that only approved non-school staff may enter the school.
- Mandatory masking for all Grade 4 to 12 student and their teachers (except in the classroom)

# Key Points for Schools



**continue....**

- Incorporate health and physical education curriculum outcomes (with a focus on mental wellness and physical activities) for all grades.
  - Cree Language, Literacy/Numeracy for K4- Grade 6 key
  - Cree Language and four core subjects for Grades 7-9.
  - Cree Language and courses required to graduate for grades 10-12.
  - Additional courses offered to be determined by school
- Develop a procedure for classroom setup, breaks, recess, and playgrounds, hallways as appropriate (Cohorts, physical distancing rules).
- Designate a location at each site to be used as an infirmary and parent registration area.
- Redesign parent/teacher nights based on a safety first approach (google or zoom session when possible).

# Key Points for Schools

## Nanâtohk Mîciwin (Universal School Food Strategy)

- Prepackaged breakfast and lunch meals in their classrooms. Snack will be included in the package
- No activities will be conducted that involve the sharing of food between students or staff.
- Kitchen areas are open to approved personnel only.
- School concessions and vending machines will not operate for the 2020-21 school year.
- Parents providing lunch for their student must be sent with the student in the morning. No outside food will be delivered or dropped off at the school.

Key Points for  
Schools

# Transportation

## Maskwacis Transport

- Will ensure a safe environment for students who travel on busses to school. [Alberta Bus Relaunch Guidelines](#).
- All children will wear a mask while on the bus.
- Temper check before getting on the bus.
- Driver will wear a mask and option face shield
- Limit the number of students on buses, create seating plans. students from the same family should sit together,
- The bus will be sanitized after every route.

# Key Points for Student Transportation

## The Health And Safety Of Staff And Students

- All staff will be tested prior to students returning for the new school year with additional testing if and when needed;
- All employees will sign a work COVID-19 Declaration Form stating they exhibit no COVID-19 symptoms;
- COVID-19 related leave for employees who test positive for COVID-19 is a temporary addition to employee contractual entitlements.
- Employees who take a discretionary trip, outside of Canada, will be subject to the 14 day isolation period. If that isolation period interferes with regular job duties then that time must be taken as vacation days or leave without pay. COVID-19 related leave will not apply
- Employees at [high risk](#) for severe illness may be accommodated. If they wish to continue with their regular job duties they may be required to sign a COVID-19 Liability Release Waiver
- Provide information and support for staff in the area of mental health and wellness;
- Cancel all travel for professional development and Limit external professional development to those delivered online.

# Key Points For Employees

# Community Profile: Blood Tribe Department of Health COVID-19 Case Management

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DERRICK FOX, HEALTH DIRECTOR AND LORI HEALY, NIC, BLOOD TRIBE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

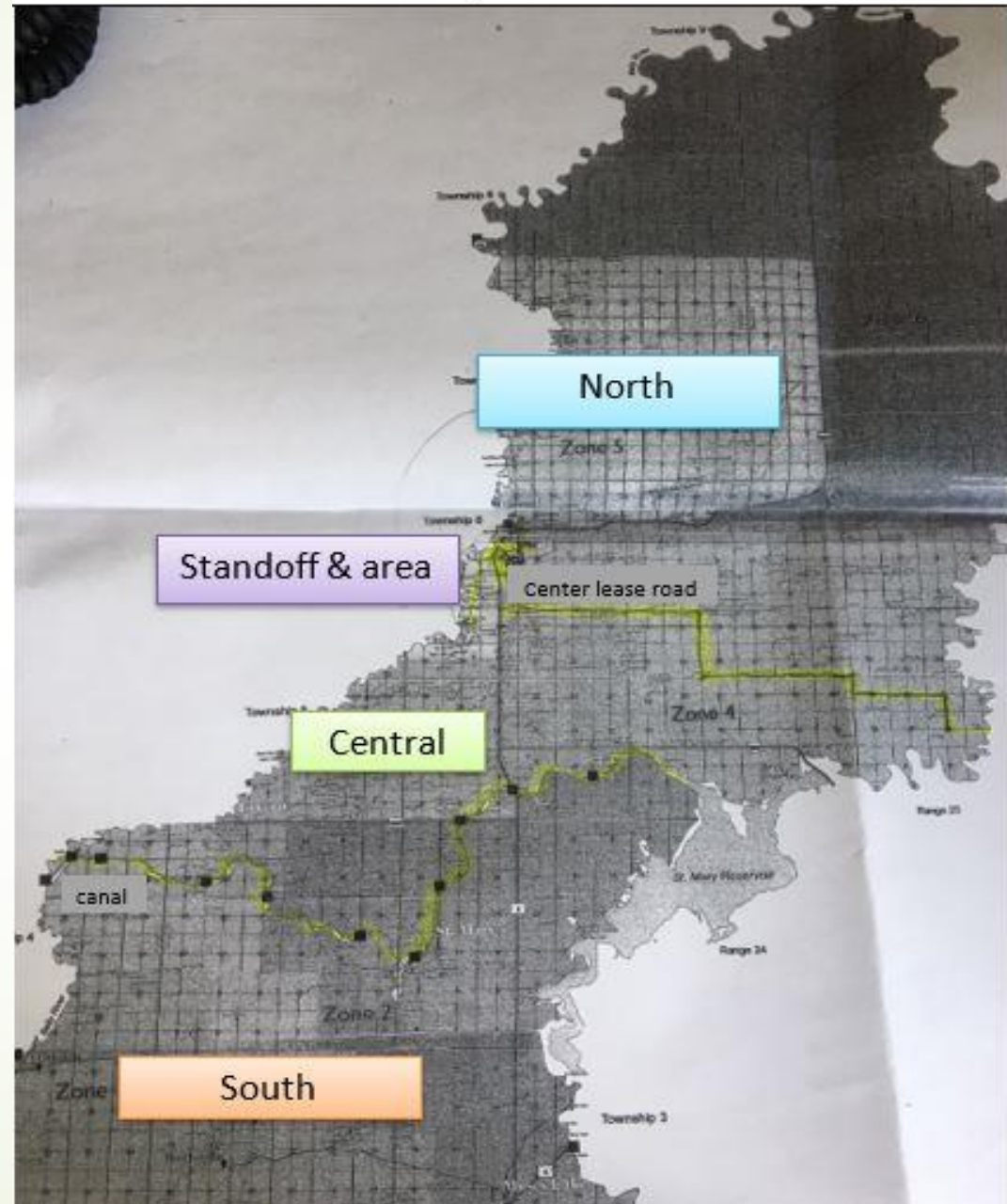
QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)

# Blood Tribe Experience COVID-19



# The Blood Reserve

## Community Health Zones





# Blood Tribe Covid 19 Experience

- Preparedness for COVID-19 at BTDH
- Education
- Reducing services to Mandatory Programs
- Redeployment of staff/restructuring work schedule to seven days per week
- Support in place:
  - Isolation Unit
  - EMS transportation to Unit/hospital
  - Medical Mobile Unit
  - Partnership with Blood Tribe Police/Cardston RCMP
  - FNIH Surge team testing June & July
- COVID-19 cases
- Challenges
  - Gatherings
- Success





# Preparing for COVID-19

## March 2020

- ▶ March 16: Chief & Council signed a BCR declaring the State of Local Emergency/BTDH ordered a return to work order for all employees.
- ▶ Communications set up with AHS/FNIH/BTDH/BTA/C&C
- ▶ BTDH COVID-19 Emergency Service Crisis Line 403 737-8411 set up
- ▶ COVID-19 Education & Awareness training for BTDH employees

# Preparing for COVID-19

- Mobile Medical Unit and ambulance units started testing in the community.
- March 27 Isolation Unit opened at the Flamingo Hotel in Cardston



# Preparing for COVID-19

## Education Awareness for:

- Staff: MOH Updates, AHS
- Blood Tribe Department of Health CEO/Board of Directors/Programs
- Blood Tribe Agencies
- Videotaped Blackfoot Interpretation of COVID-19 (Gerri Eagle Speaker, BOD)
- Videotaped Community Health Nurses COVID-19 presentation

## Use of Multimedia:

- Community Health Facebook
- BTDH Website
- BTA Tsiiniksiini
- Blood Tribe News
- Emails /posters/handouts door to door
- BTDH COVID tracker

# Preparing for COVID-19

## Mandatory Masking at the BTDH

### IT IS TIME FOR CONTINUOUS MASKING FOR ALL STAFF IN THE BTDH

Community spread of COVID-19 is increasing in Alberta and inching closer to the Blood Tribe. This means that the likelihood of any individual coming in contact with or being infected with COVID-19 is increasing.

There is emerging evidence that asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic or minimally symptomatic individuals can transmit COVID-19.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued updated recommendations that healthcare workers should mask not only when providing direct care to prevent transmission to clients but also **masking is required if you cannot maintain the required social distancing between coworkers.**

So, think about it, in what areas are you less than six feet from your co-worker.

- In your office?
- In the hallways?
- When you are getting screened in the morning?
- At the punch clock?
- Having a smoke?
- In the kitchen areas?
- In the meeting areas?

We need to mask in all these areas if we can not ensure the 6 ft. guidelines.

If you do not have the ability to distance in your work area, can you work elsewhere in the building or we could think about some staff working from home?

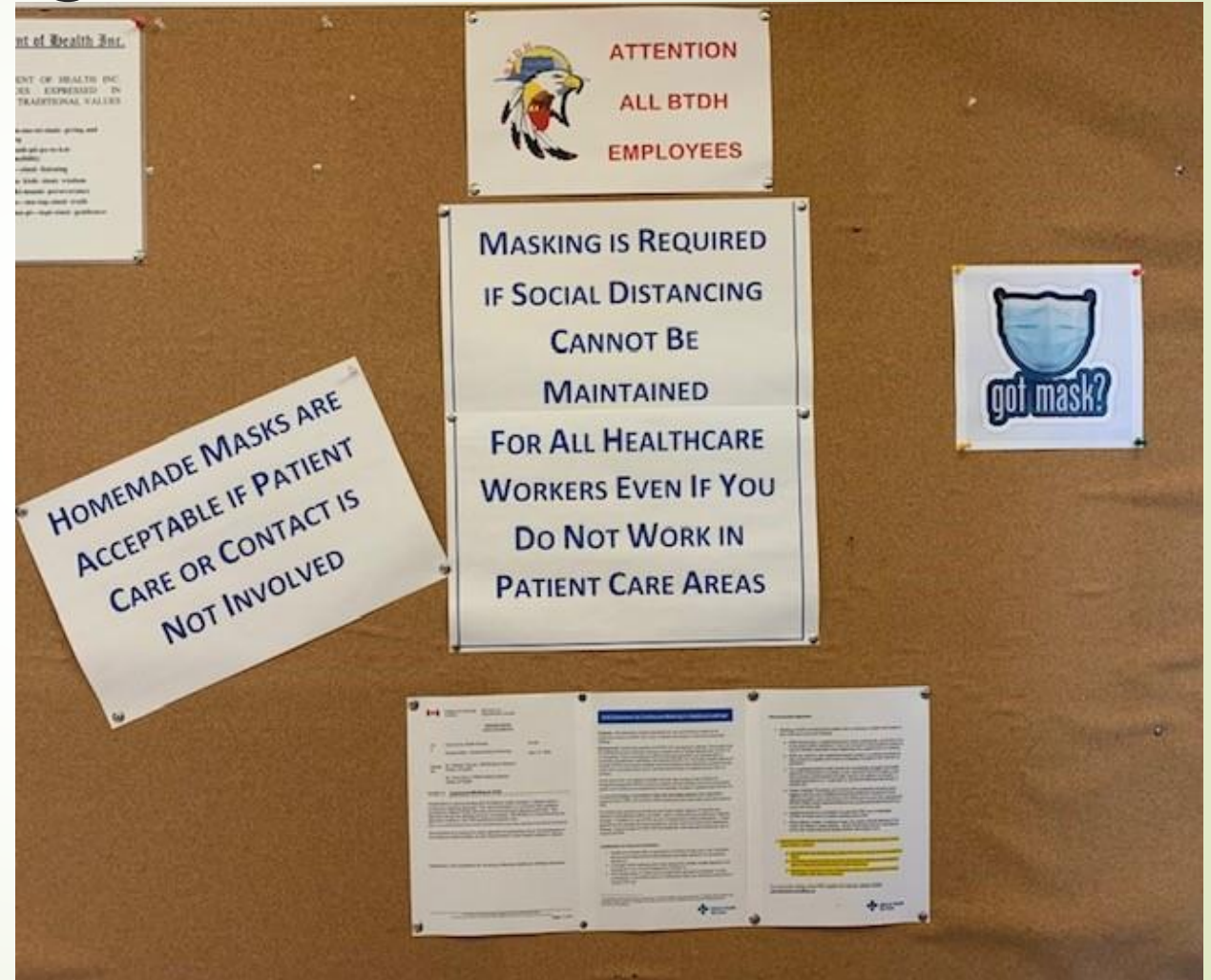
We could think about staggering start times to avoid entrance and clock congestions.

Also, clients waiting in our lobbies should be wearing masks because we see they are often approaching HCWs, breaking the social distancing rules.

We all need to do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19 within the BTDH.

**Cloth masks (homemade) can be used for co-worker contact (not client care contact). Community Health has sewing machines and material if you want to make your own masks. Are there any community members out there that we could contract to make masks?**

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-ppe-continuous-use-guidance-masking.pdf>



# Educational Material Distributed to the Community

**COVID-19 INFORMATION**

**House-to-house**

We are continuing with...  
If your house was missed...  
will see Community Health...  
door. Please answer...  
Have your Alberta Health Services...  
Tie up dog...

**Why get tested? Someone...  
This means someone could...  
if you have been tested by...**

**Tentative Schedule:**

- Lethbridge & Central Area:
- Moses Lake & South: all day Thu
- North Area: all day Thu
- Standoff: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**How do you test for COVID?**

It is quick & easy! A small swab (looks like a q-tip) is rubbed gently at the sides and back of the throat.

**alberta.ca/covid19**

Protect our community. Get tested for COVID-19 and reduce the spread.  
Questions? Call BTDC Community Health 737-3933

...happen to anyone!  
Thank you.  
...ainai Strong!

**KEEP HIM SAFE**

**PROTECT YOUR ELDERLY AS THEY'VE PROTECTED YOU**  
wash hands - physical distance - be safe  
Concept by Native Realities www.native realities.com art by Dale DeForest - daledeforest.com  
For general inquiries call the NIHB pharmacy line Toll-free 1-800-580-0950.

**Alberta**

# Tracking Covid Cases and Tests Done

Blood Tribe Department of Health Inc. COVID-19 Monday August 10, 2020 8:00am			
<b>5,794</b> (as of Aug 8, 2020) TOTAL TESTED	<b>0</b> ACTIVE CASES	<b>1</b> ISOLATION ENDED	<b>47</b> TOTAL RECOVERED
<b>49</b> TOTAL CASES	<b>27</b> MALE	<b>0</b> HOSPITAL	<b>1</b> DECEASED
	<b>22</b> FEMALE		

# Preparing for COVID-19 - BTDH

- BTDH Infection Prevention Control meetings began April 2020
- Training: Hand Hygiene, HH Audits, N95 Mask Fit, PPE, COVID testing
- Travel restrictions for BTDH employees



# Program Delivery Assessed for COVID Safety

- ▶ BTDH adapted AHS point of care assessment; symptom inquiry, temperature checks prior to staff and clients entering the building.
- ▶ Staff or clients with symptoms were tested and sent home.
- ▶ Cancellation of Community Education Sessions and Diabetes Walk/Run
- ▶ Mandatory program delivery maintained:
  - ▶ Immunizations
  - ▶ Newborn Maternal Infant Assessments
  - ▶ Animal bites
  - ▶ Water monitoring
  - ▶ Communicable Disease Program



# Redeployment of Community Health Staff

All Community Health staff were redeployed as per pandemic requirements, to assist in providing support in different capacities, to ensure that COVID-19 program supports were in place.

Training for COVID testing included Paramedics/RNs and LPNs in Community Health, Long Term Care and Home Care including our Dieticians and Physio-Therapist.



CHR's/HCAs/FSHB/summer students supported the team by preparing education material, packaging PPE, labelling specimens, entering statistics in to the database, delivering food hampers and cleaning supplies for COVID cases/close contacts in isolation.



# Redeployment of Community Health Staff

- Community Health Staff schedule was restructured to provide services seven days a week with a four day, extended hours work week. Along with staggered start times this also helped to limit the potential for the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
- Community Health developed a data base for all swabs done and scheduled staff for checking Netcare/data entry/client notification and reswabs needed.
- RN On-call schedule for after hours was implemented.
- Community Health prepared for COVID Case Management, Contact Tracing and COVID Testing of close contacts, Isolation orders and referrals to the Isolation Unit.

# Community Health Supports/Partnerships

- Mobile Medical Unit provided COVID testing in the community by appointment or drive through in Moseslake, Levern and Standoff.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> the Isolation Unit was operational. BTDH secured 30 rooms at the Cardston Flamingo Motel.
- Emergency Medical Services provided transportation of COVID cases from their homes to the unit and transportation to hospital for COVID cases requiring medical assistance.
- Blood Tribe Police and Cardston RCMP assisted with the isolation orders and surveillance of the Isolation Unit.

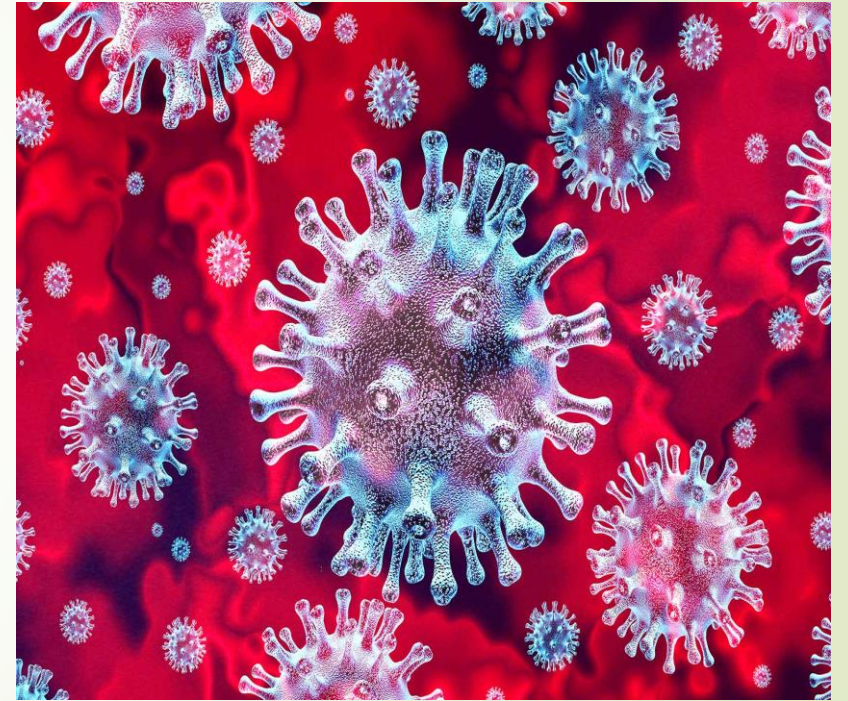


# Community Health Supports/Partnerships

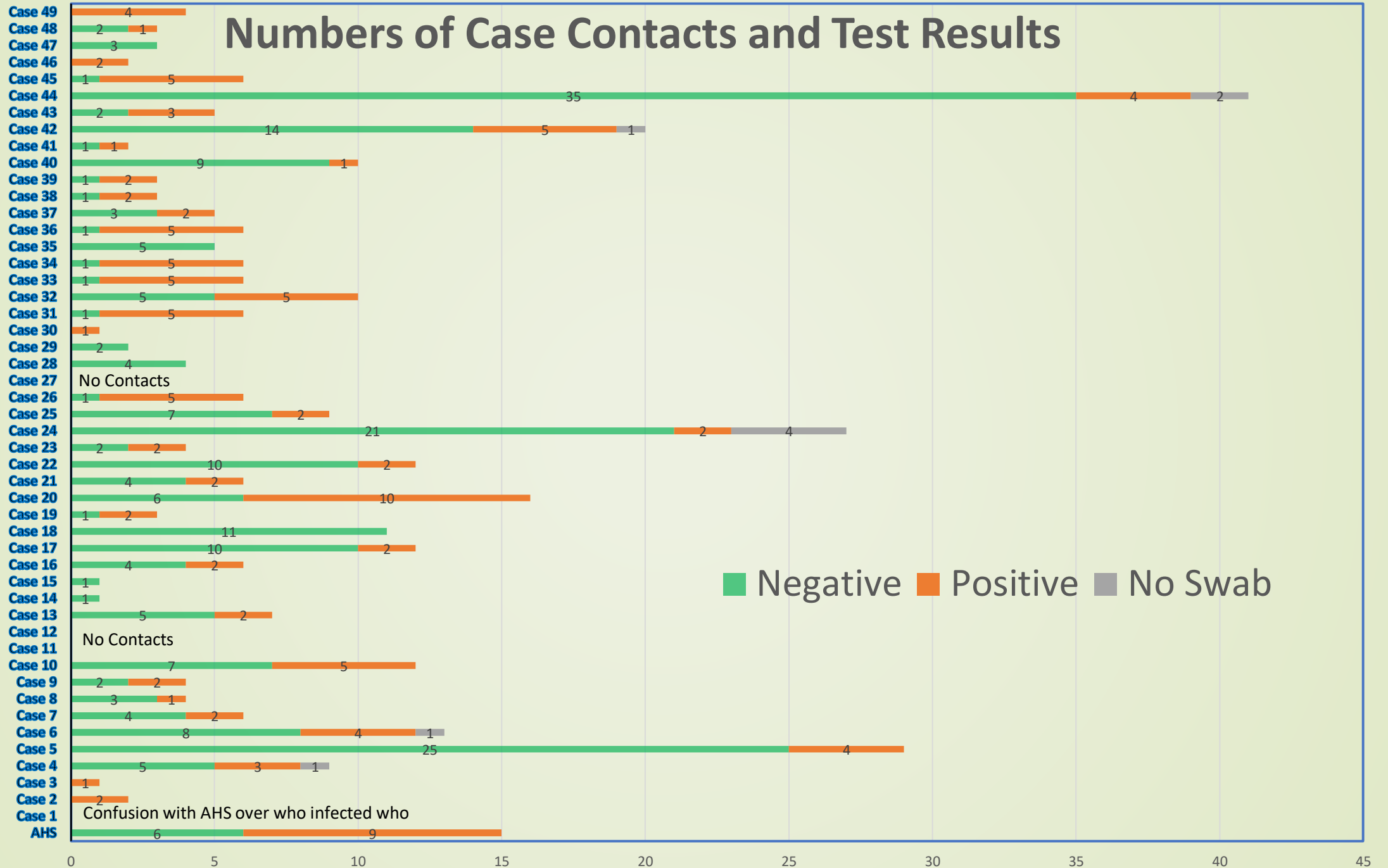
- ▶ Kainai Healing Lodge was deemed a social housing site; initially the target population was meant to serve the elderly that had overcrowding issues.
- ▶ White Calf Hall was designated as an overflow Shelter in the Standoff community to provide additional housing support related to over crowding in homes.
- ▶ The Middle School was identified to support families requiring housing support due to over crowding.

# Summary of Cases

- First case April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Last case August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Total of 49 cases; 48 recovered; 1 deceased



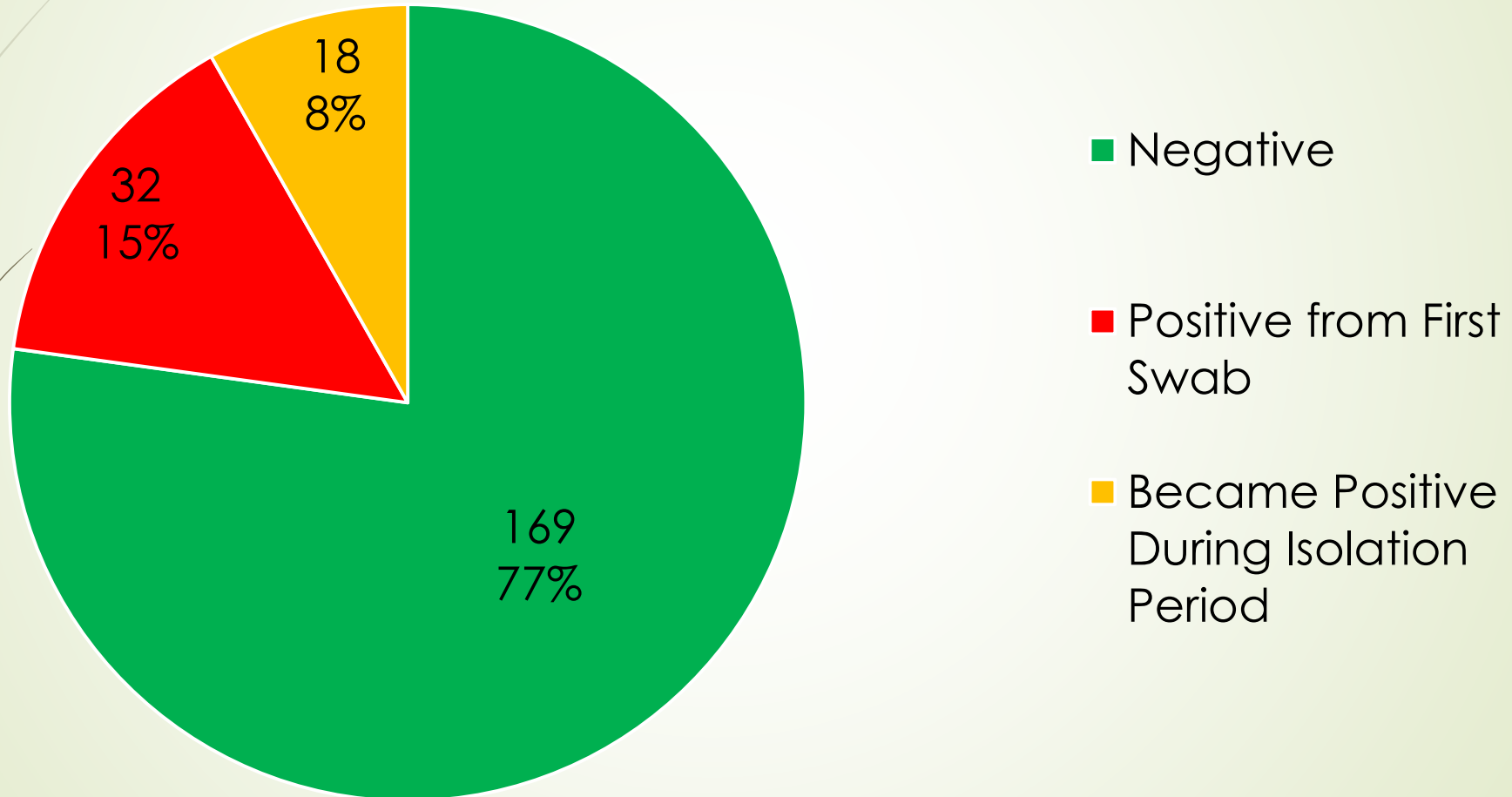
# Numbers of Case Contacts and Test Results



■ Negative ■ Positive ■ No Swab

# COVID-19 Cases

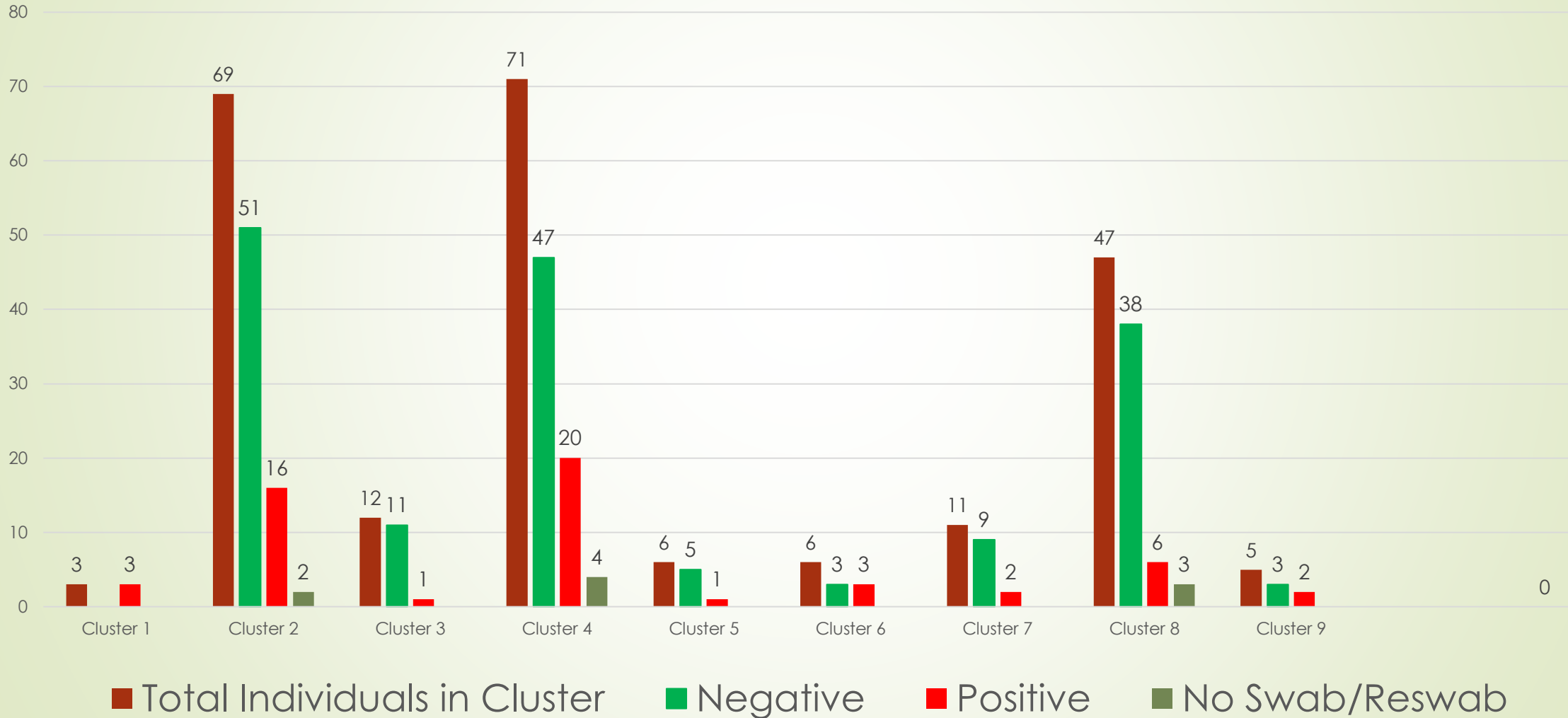
## Close Contacts Test Results



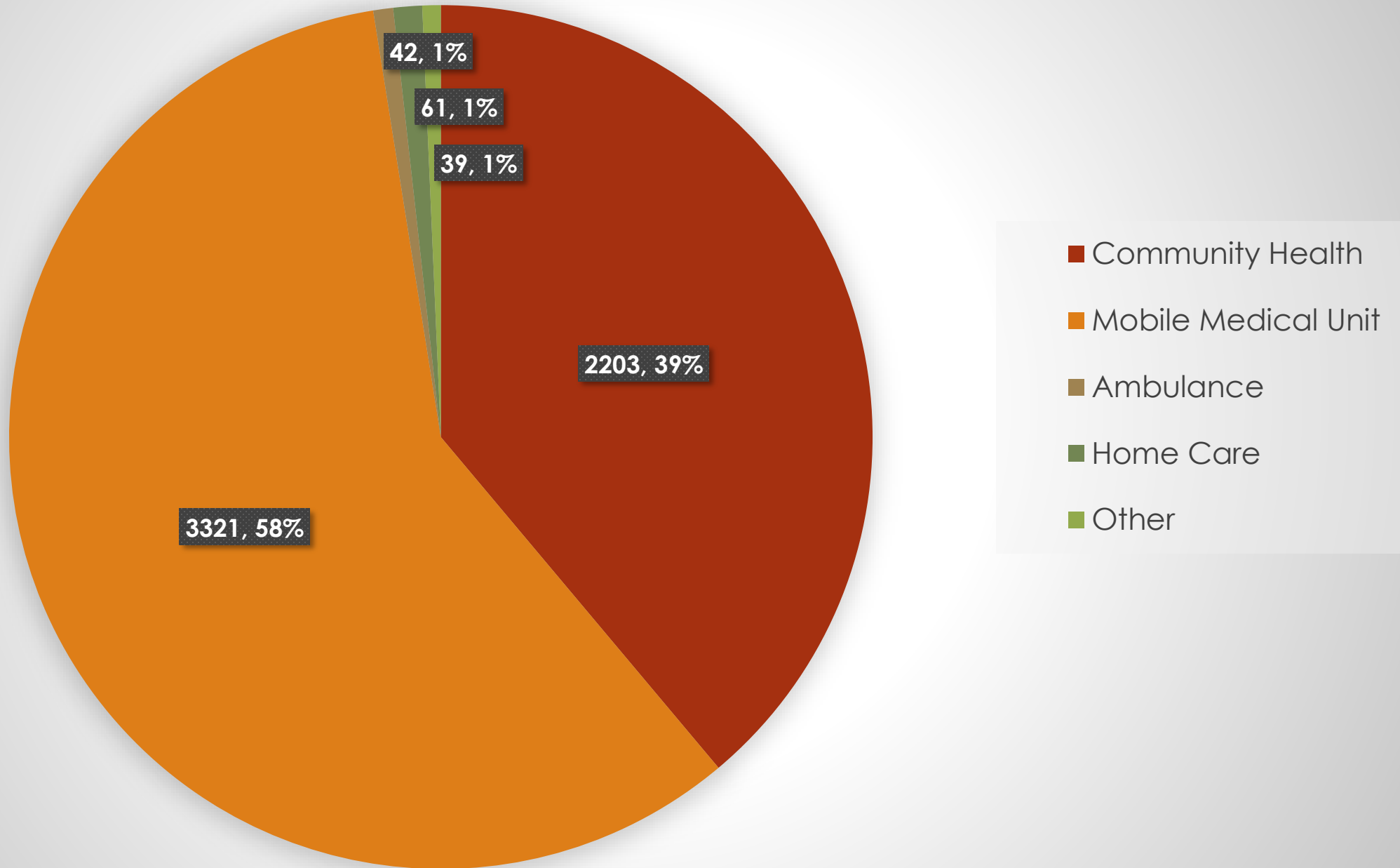


# COVID-19 Cases

## Swab Results by Clusters of Cases



# Swabs Completed to Date (August 11) - 5889





# Door to Door Community Swabbing

- ▶ A surge team was provided by FNIHB to help with door to door swabbing in the Community
- ▶ June 11 to 19 – 952 tests done with one positive result (no further positive results from this one case)
- ▶ July 6 to 10 – 874 tests done with one positive result
- ▶ Five to eight teams of RNs, paramedics, LPNs, CHRs, HCAs and FSHB formed and deployed each day.

# SOME OF OUR EXTRAORDINARY TEAM MEMBERS



BLOOD TRIBE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
ENCOURAGES YOU TO STOP SMOKING

Community Public Health Services  
Community Public Health Services assist individuals, families and the community to improve their health and promote wellness.

TRADITION NOT ADDICTION

# Supportive Measures for Case/Close Contacts in Isolation

- Food hampers
- Cleaning supplies
- Cloth masks & gloves
- Magazines
- Cigarettes
- Snacks
- DQ meals
- Dog sitting
- Bedding provided: fevers & excessive sweating and no laundry support
- Restocking milk, eggs and bread
- Advocating on behalf of family for dryer & stove



# Challenges

- Staff burn out fatigue
- Social Stigma Associated with COVID -19
- Maintaining Isolation (contacts that test negative)
- Isolation order enforcement
- Protecting the Privacy of COVID Cases
- Frustration related abusive behavior in community members
- BTDH staff cases
- Continuous masking
- Working with ceremonial gatherings to maintain preventative measures
- Addiction issues/Domestic violence
- Mental Health Issues

## Gatherings

- Ceremonial
- Funerals
- Weddings

Guidance provided

Screening participants

Masks provided

At the Annual Sundance, individuals in 2,843 vehicles were screened for COVID like symptoms, travel history and temperature. An estimate of over 7000 people in 5 days/Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>!



# Positive Outcomes

- Contacts becoming positive already in isolation, so as a result, no further contact follow-up required
- Families maintaining isolation measures to prevent spread of cases
- Family members stepping up and delivering food
- Recovered cases sharing their experience on Facebook
- Close contacts remaining in isolation and negative
- Great learning experiences for the staff
- No positive cases in the COVID TESTING TEAMS
- Reported that “It is mainly natives wearing masks in surrounding communities”.





Sundance at Sunset  
Photo Credit-Darcy Healy

# Is there a topic you would like to hear about at the next session?

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PLEASE LET US KNOW!

EMAIL: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA) OR

[SAC.CDEMERCENCIESAB-URGENCESMTAB.ISC@CANADA.CA](mailto:SAC.CDEMERCENCIESAB-URGENCESMTAB.ISC@CANADA.CA)

QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)

# Interested in presenting your community's COVID- 19 response/experience?

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# Acknowledgments

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Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, Senior Medical Officer of Health

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Aaron McEwen, Funding Team Lead

Derrick Fox, Health Director and Lori Healy, NIC - Blood Tribe Department of Health

Brian Wildcat, Superintendent, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

TSAG Telehealth Team (Michelle Hoeber, Brooke Hames and team)

# Questions?

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QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA