

# COVID-19 Update

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NOVEMBER 19, 2020

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

# Outline

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## 1. COVID-19 in Alberta

- Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health – Alberta Health
- Amy Colquhoun, Manager, Population Health Assessment - Alberta Health
- Lea Bill, Executive Director - Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre

## 2. FNIHB MOH Update

- Dr. Wadieh Yacoub and Dr. Chris Sarin

## 3. Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic

- Michelle Hoeber, Program Lead, Telehealth – TSAG

## 4. Questions

# COVID-19 in Alberta

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Dr. Deena Hinshaw (Ministry of Health)  
Trish Merrithew-Mercredi (Ministry of Health)  
Lea Bill (Alberta FNIGC)  
Amy Colquhoun (Ministry of Health)

November 19, 2020



# Agenda

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1. Overview of COVID-19 data and reporting in Alberta
2. COVID-19 in First Nations People in Alberta
3. Questions: Health Zones, Maps, Testing Approach, Contact Tracing
4. AFNIGC: community data approaches

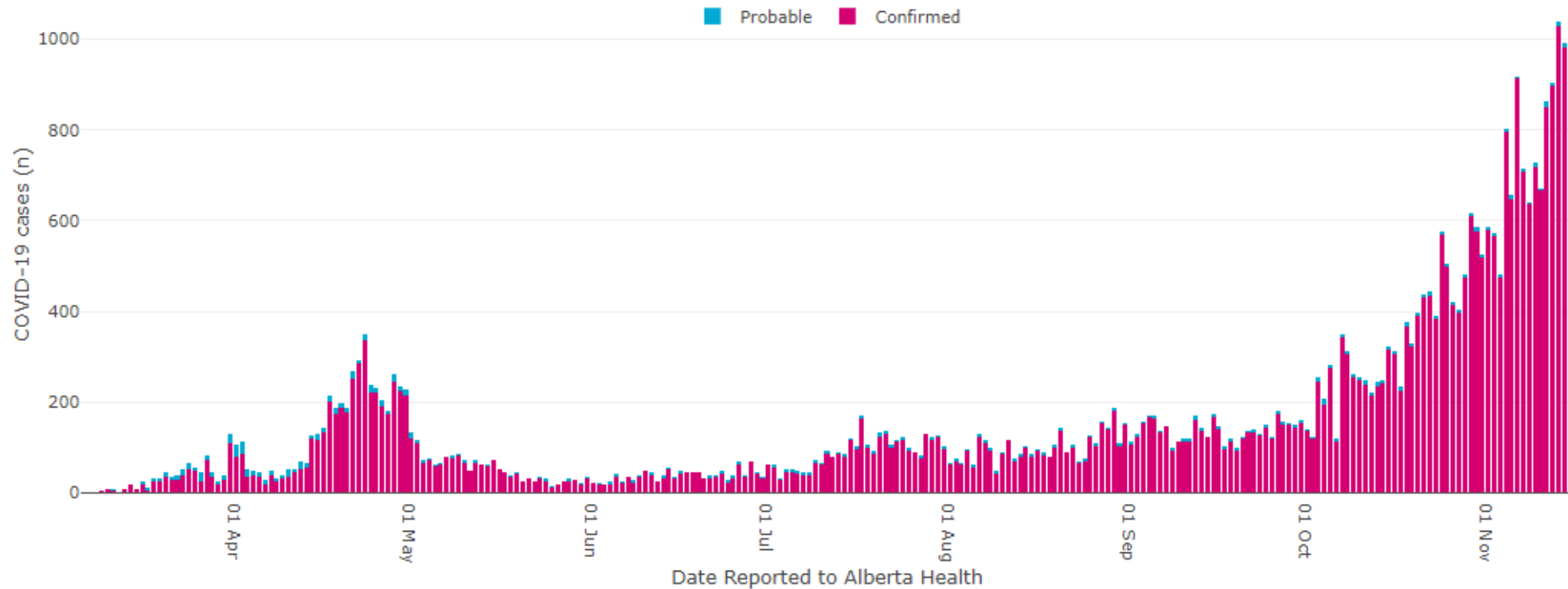
# COVID-19: data sources



Sources	Information (examples)
Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of people tested</li><li>• Number of tests completed</li><li>• Results of tests (e.g. positive)</li></ul>
Communicable Disease & Outbreak Management (CDOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cases and their contacts</li><li>• Outbreaks</li><li>• Deaths</li></ul>
Alberta Health Services Analytics team (DIMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hospital (ICU and nonICU) admission and discharge</li></ul>
Alberta Health Disease Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-existing conditions (comorbidities)</li></ul>
Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (historic fees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COVID-related information among First Nations in Alberta</li></ul>

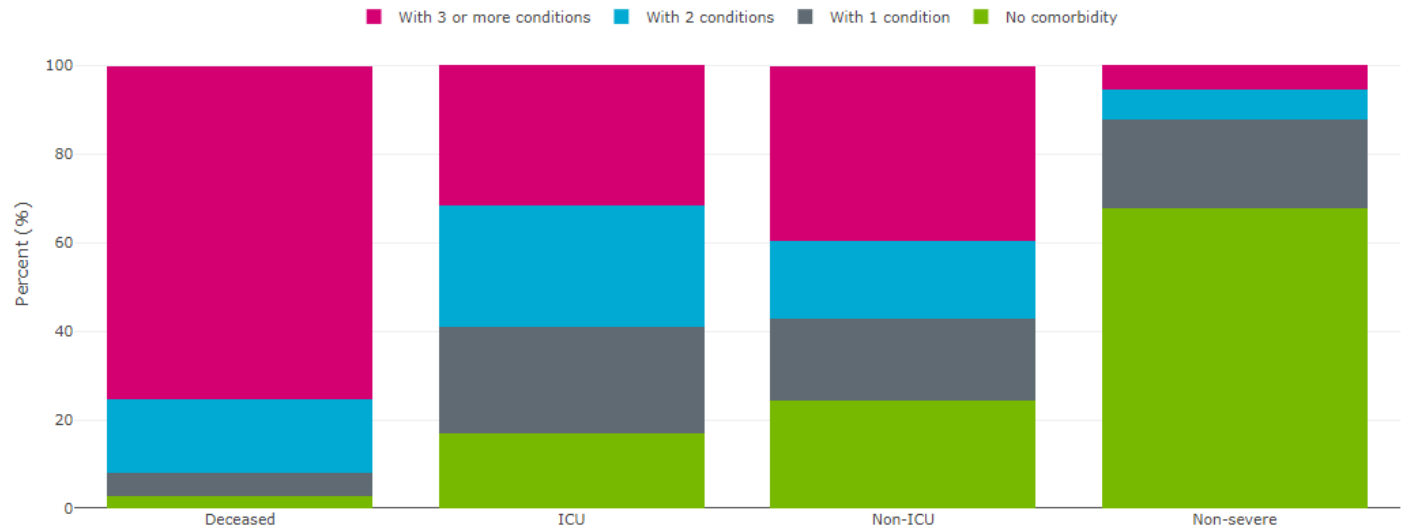
# COVID-19: daily reporting (examples)

- Cases: new, active, recovered



# COVID-19: daily reporting (examples)

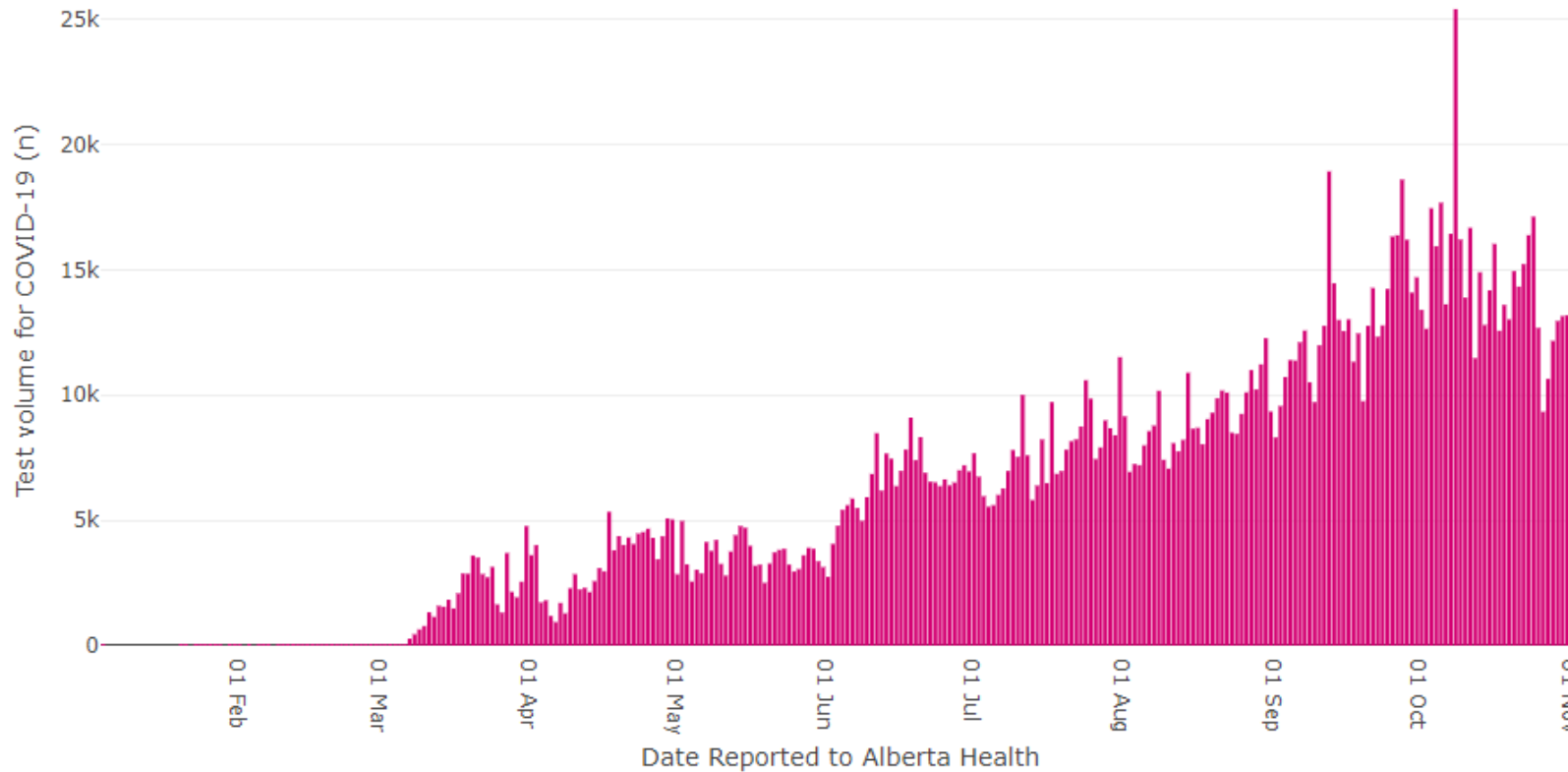
- Severe Outcomes:
  - Hospitalizations (ICU, nonICU)
  - Deaths
  - Comorbidities



# COVID-19: daily reporting (examples)

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- Testing: people tested, number of tests, percent positivity





# COVID-19: First Nations report

- Available via email and on the AFNIGC website (afnigc.ca)
- Contains less information compared to 'all Alberta' dashboard due to potential confidentiality issues

## COVID-19 in First Nations People (all Alberta)

Note: This report includes First Nations people living on and off reserve.

Highlights

Cases

Characteristics

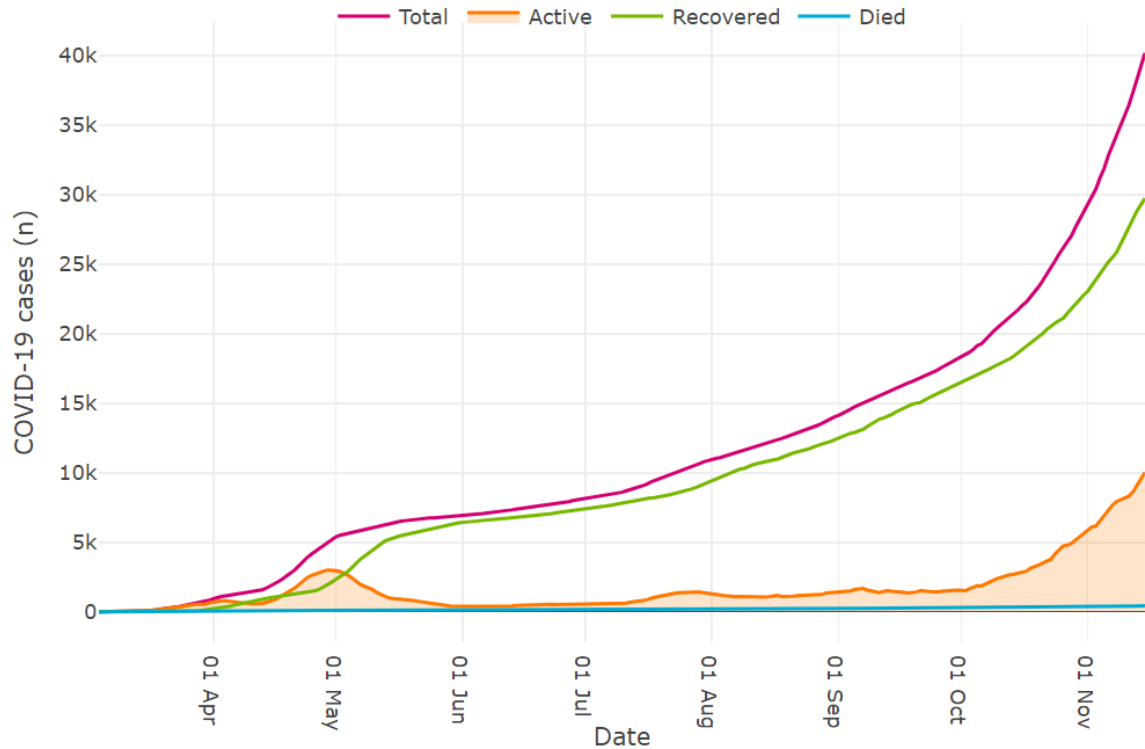
Severe outcomes

Geospatial

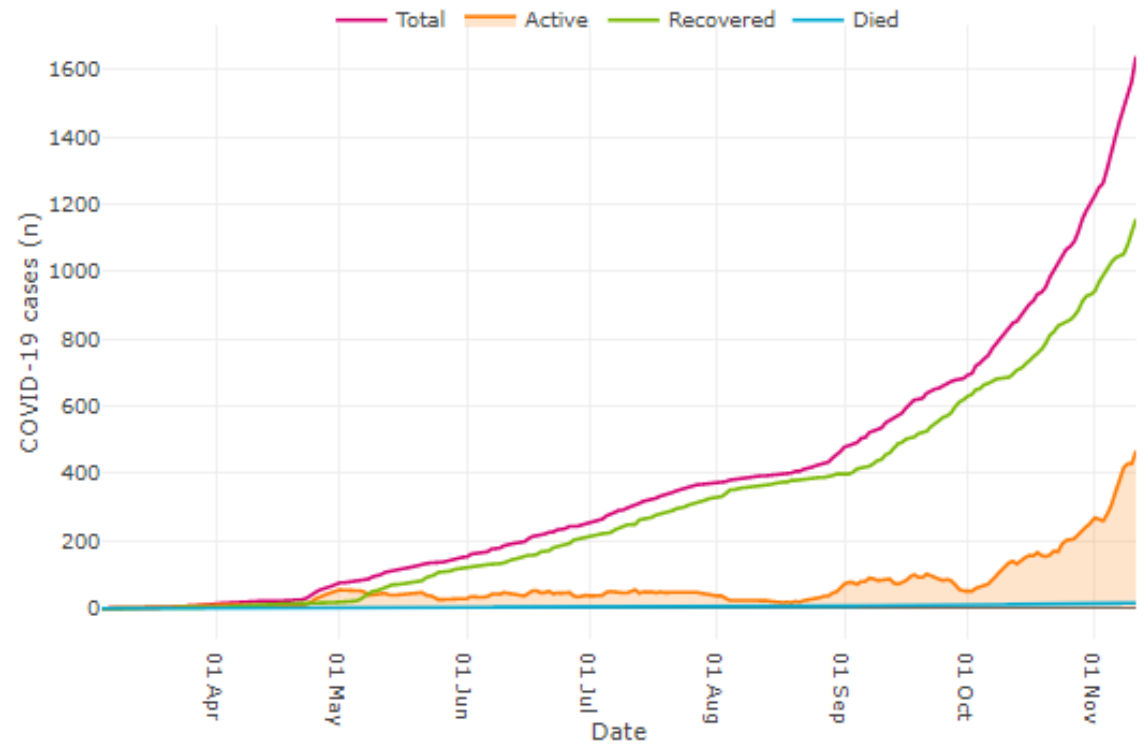
Data notes



# COVID-19: First Nations report



All Alberta



First Nations in Alberta



# COVID-19: First Nations report

## Summary

- Average age for COVID cases that died is 82 years (range: 27-106)
- Average age for COVID cases hospitalized with an ICU stay is 60 years (range: 4-89)
- Average age for COVID cases hospitalized is 62 years (range: 0-102)
- Average age for COVID cases not hospitalized is 36 years (range: 0-120)



Figure 10: Rate of total hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths among COVID-19 cases in Alberta

## Summary

- Average age for COVID cases not hospitalized is 32 years, (range: 0-89)
- Average age for COVID cases hospitalized is 46 years, (range: 0-90)
- Average age for COVID cases hospitalized with an ICU stay is 47 years, (range: 20-88)
- Average age for COVID cases that died is 65 years, (range: 29-88)

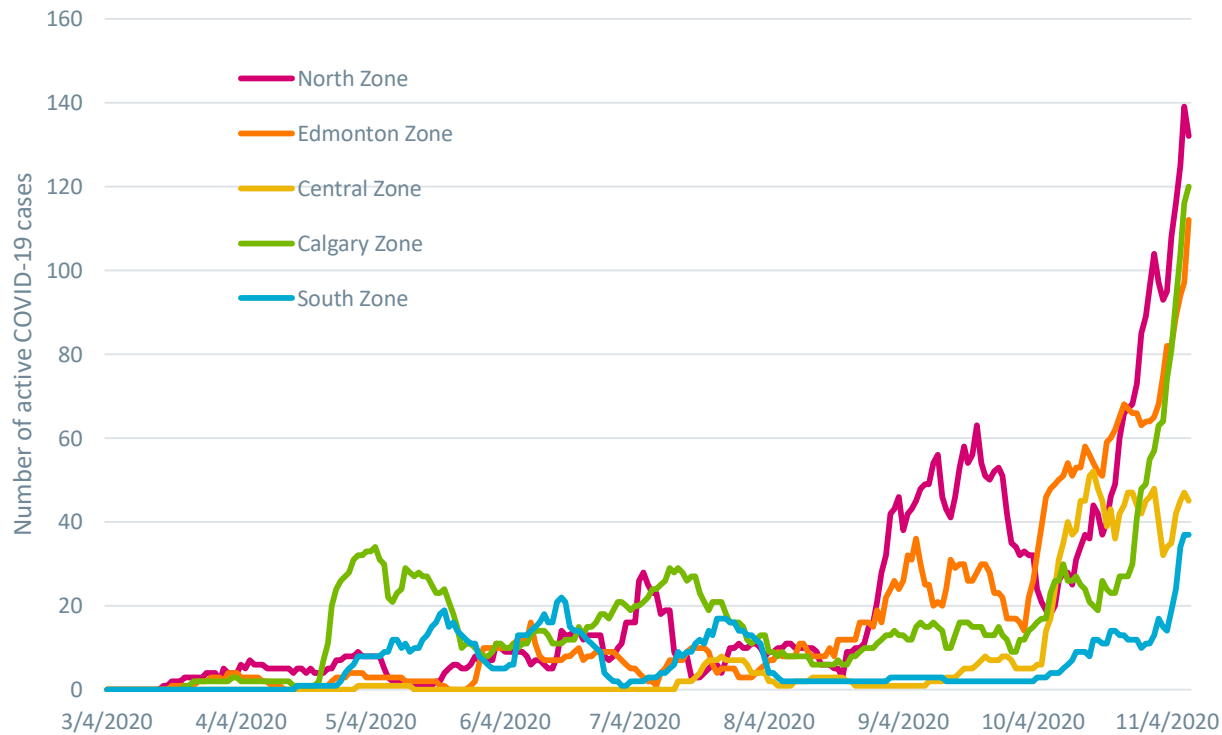


Figure 6: Rate of total hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths among COVID-19 cases in First Nations people

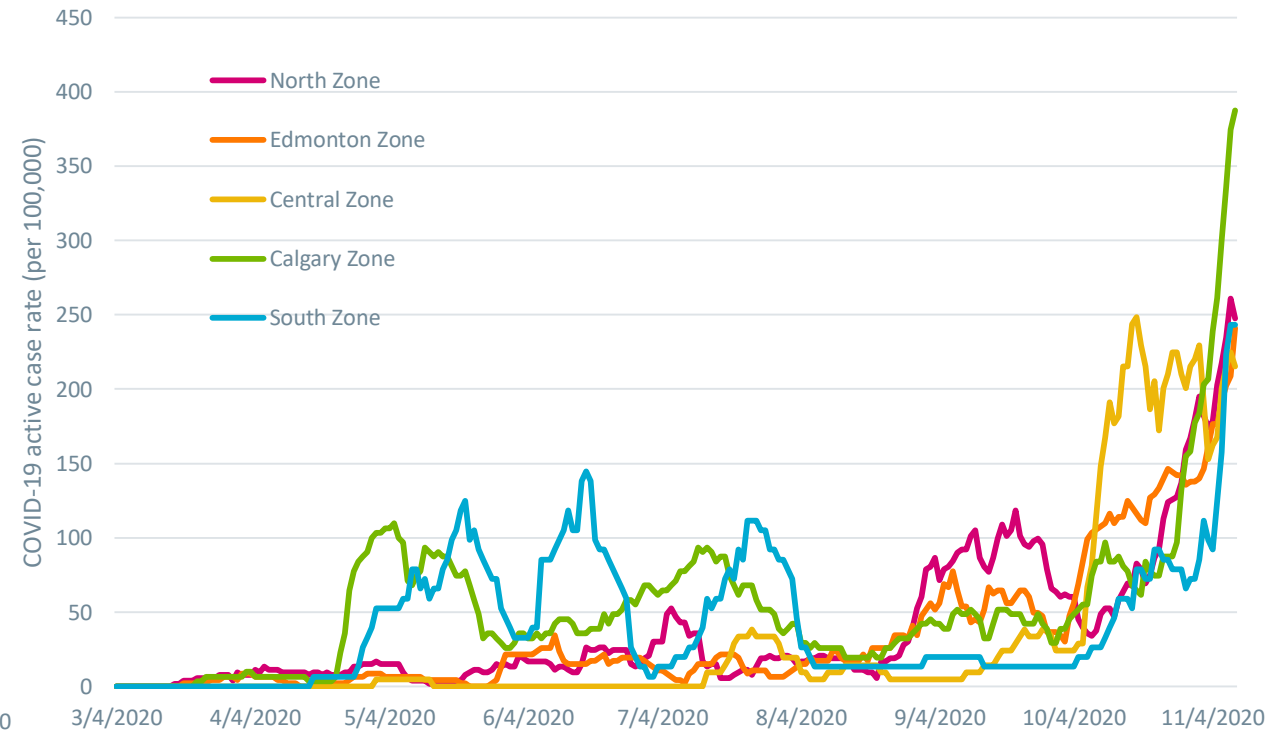
- First Nations people more likely to be hospitalized
- First Nations people experiencing severe outcomes are younger

# Questions: Health Zone

## Number of active cases



## Rate of active cases (factors in population size)



# Questions: Health Zone

- Cases had the following *types of exposure*:
  - 37% (558/1,523) were a close contact of a known case
  - 44% (668/1,523) had an unknown exposure
  - 16% (237/1,523) were linked to an outbreak
  - 4% (60/1,523) were related to travel

## COVID-19 in First Nations People in Alberta: Health Zone breakdowns

### Background

Alberta Health compiles a weekly report on COVID-19 in First Nations People in all of Alberta. This report includes information on cases among First Nations people living on and off reserve. We email it to a distribution list and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC) posts it on their website ([afnigc.ca](http://afnigc.ca)). If you have any questions, or would like to receive it directly via email each week, please email [Health.Surveillance@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Health.Surveillance@gov.ab.ca).

Through Health Co-Management, we were asked to provide, in partnership with AFNIGC, further details on COVID-19 cases by Health Zones (see attachment for a map of these areas). This document includes those details. They will also be presented to Health Directors at a meeting on Nov 19.

**Please Note:** We identify the location of cases by postal code of residence in our Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan records. Some people have not updated their address information and, therefore, they may be included in a different location than their current residence or may be missing location information. As a result, numbers provided here may differ from your experience. For information on how we identify First Nations people in our health datasets, please see the Data Notes in the Appendix.

### All Alberta First Nations

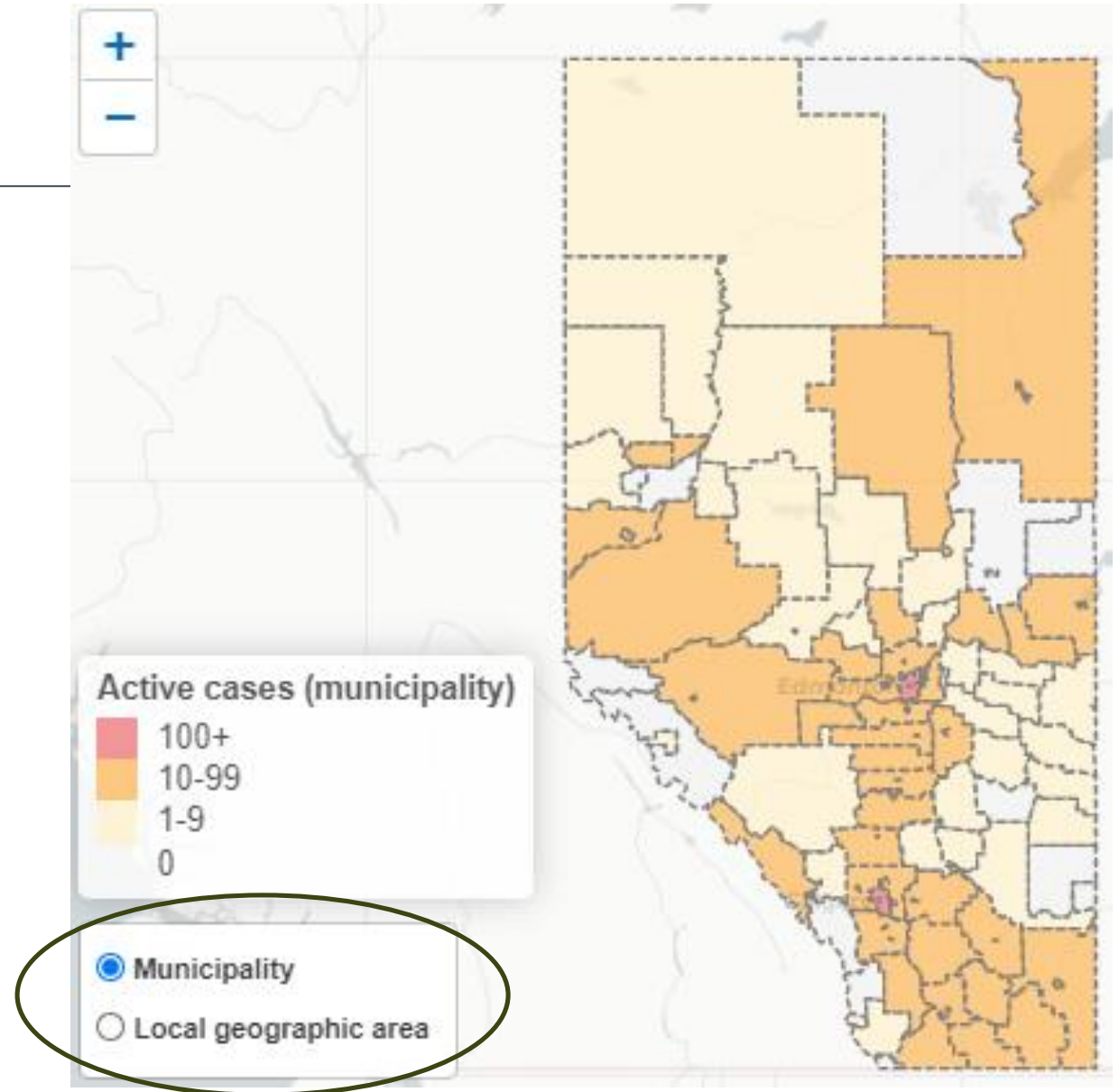
- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
  - 1,523 COVID-19 cases (including 2 cases with unknown location in Alberta)
  - 100 hospitalizations (15 in ICU)
  - 16 deaths
- The average age of cases is 30 years (range: less than 1 year to 90 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
  - 37% (558/1,523) were a close contact of a known case
  - 44% (668/1,523) had an unknown exposure
  - 16% (237/1,523) were linked to an outbreak
  - 4% (60/1,523) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 446 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic.

COVID-19 in First Nations People: Health Zone breakdowns | November 11, 2020

Classification: Protected A

# Questions: maps

- Two different geographies: municipality and local geographic area
- Total cases, active cases, recovered, deaths



# Questions: maps

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- Relaunch map
- Municipalities only (except in Edmonton and Calgary)
- Threshold: more than 10 active cases and a rate of 50 or more (per 100,000)
- Enhanced measures in place



# Questions: testing approach

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- Recent change to focus testing capacity on highest value testing
  - Symptomatic, Outbreaks, and Known Exposures
- In high risk situations, MOHs can authorize targeted expanded testing for a limited time
  - e.g. gathering with an unknown number of exposures
- Testing value is highest with fast turn around times – increasing speed is the reason for focused testing



# Questions: AHS contact tracing change

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- With increased case numbers, AHS contact tracers are not able to keep up.
- Until capacity is increased, cases will be asked to notify their own contacts except for priority settings (health care and continuing care).
- An online portal to make contact tracing more efficient has been activated as of last week.

# AlbertaFNIGC

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- Sit on the advisory committee for COVID-19 testing
- Distribute information on AlbertaFNIGC website regarding weekly counts as received from Alberta Health
- Created an educational document – “COVID-19 Information for First Nations in Alberta” that is available on the AlbertaFNIGC website (afnigc.ca)
- Provide links to updated research documents, websites, and reputable scientific YouTube videos to explain COVID-19 and any ongoing developments

# Questions?

VCHELP@FNTN.CA

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<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx>

Alberta



# COVID-19 Vaccine

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Government of Canada is tracking all potential drugs and vaccines in development in Canada and abroad.

Only vaccines that are safe and effective will be approved for use in Canada.

Because there will be limited quantities at first, once a vaccine is approved for use, key populations will need to be prioritized.

- Governments will work together and continue to seek input from independent experts, like the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), to make decisions about how to prioritize vaccination

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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Key priority populations include:

- Those at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19
- Those most likely to transmit COVID-19 to those at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 and workers essential to maintaining the COVID-19 response
- Those contributing to the maintenance of other essential services for the functioning of society
- Those whose living or working conditions put them at elevated risk of infection and where infection could have disproportionate consequences, including Indigenous communities

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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## Resources:

**GOC: What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine for Canada**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/know-vaccine.html>

**GOC: Drugs and vaccines for COVID-19: List of authorized clinical trials**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/list-authorized-trials.html>

**GOC: Preliminary guidance on key populations for early COVID-19 immunization**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-key-populations-early-covid-19-immunization.html>

**WHO: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Vaccines**

[https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-vaccines?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-rj9BRCAARIsANB\\_4AAxOOBqLWgELI\\_aRRKE8mHuBXJzfxYzZe3E-RdyCfC1vkgJT0rpK5caAsR2EALw\\_wcB](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-rj9BRCAARIsANB_4AAxOOBqLWgELI_aRRKE8mHuBXJzfxYzZe3E-RdyCfC1vkgJT0rpK5caAsR2EALw_wcB)

# Targeted Public Health Measures

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New targeted public health measures were announced on November 12.

Targeted measures apply to all communities on the enhanced list (purple zones). Additional measures may apply to the Calgary and Edmonton areas, and the cities of Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge and Red Deer.

Unless otherwise indicated, measures are in place until we see less stress on our health care system.

See GOA COVID-19 Info for Albertans website for more information:

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>



# Mandatory Targeted Public Health Measures

	All enhanced (purple) zone areas	Calgary & Area	Edmonton & Area	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Red Deer
15-person limit on family & social gatherings ( <a href="#">CMOH 36-2020</a> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50-person limit on wedding and funeral services (indoor & outdoor) ( <a href="#">CMOH 37-2020</a> )	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ban on indoor group fitness classes & team sports (Nov 13-27) (CMOH 37-2020)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ban on group singing, dancing & performing activities (Nov 13-27) (CMOH 37-2020)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Restaurants/pubs stop liquor sales by 10pm, close by 11pm (Nov 13-27) (CMOH 37-2020)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

# Voluntary Targeted Public Health Measures

	All enhanced (purple) zone areas	Calgary & Area	Edmonton & Area	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Lethbridge	Red Deer
Mask use encouraged in all indoor workplaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Employers in office settings to reduce employees in the workplace at one time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Faith-based gatherings limited to 1/3 capacity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Limit of 3 cohorts, plus child care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No social gatherings inside your home or outside of your community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Indoor Gathering Limits

Social Gatherings	Audience Event
<p><b>Mandatory Limit (applies to communities on the <a href="#">enhanced list</a>):</b> 15 people  <a href="#">CMOH Order 36-2020</a></p> <p><b>Limit (for communities not on the enhanced list):</b>            50 people</p>	<p><b>Mandatory Limit for wedding and funeral services (applies to communities on the <a href="#">enhanced list</a>):</b> 50 people  <a href="#">CMOH Order 37-2020</a></p> <p><b>Voluntary Limit (communities on the <a href="#">enhanced list</a>):</b> Faith-based gatherings limited to 1/3 capacity at one time</p> <p><b>Limit on seated audience event (for communities not on the enhanced list):</b> 100 people</p>
<p><b>Social gatherings are where people:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- move freely to mix with others</li> <li>- have two-way conversations</li> <li>- share food, laugh, play games</li> </ul>	<p><b>Audience-type events are where people:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are seated spectators of an organized performance or activity</li> <li>- maintain 2 metres distance from others</li> <li>- limit movement and interaction with others</li> <li>- receive one-way information (not conversational)</li> </ul>

# Reminder - Enforcement of Public Health Orders

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Individuals who violate a [public health order](#) may be subject to a \$1,000 fine. Courts can also administer fines up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.

If you are concerned someone is not following public health orders:

- Remind the person that not following public health orders is against the law and puts people at risk.
- Speak with your local Community Health Nurse or CDC Case Manager.
- Submit a complaint to Alberta Health Services health inspectors [online](#) or by calling 1-833-415-9179. Complaints that require an immediate response can also be reported to your local police force.

# FNIHB MOH Update

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DR. WADIEH YACOUB, SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. CHRIS SARIN, DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

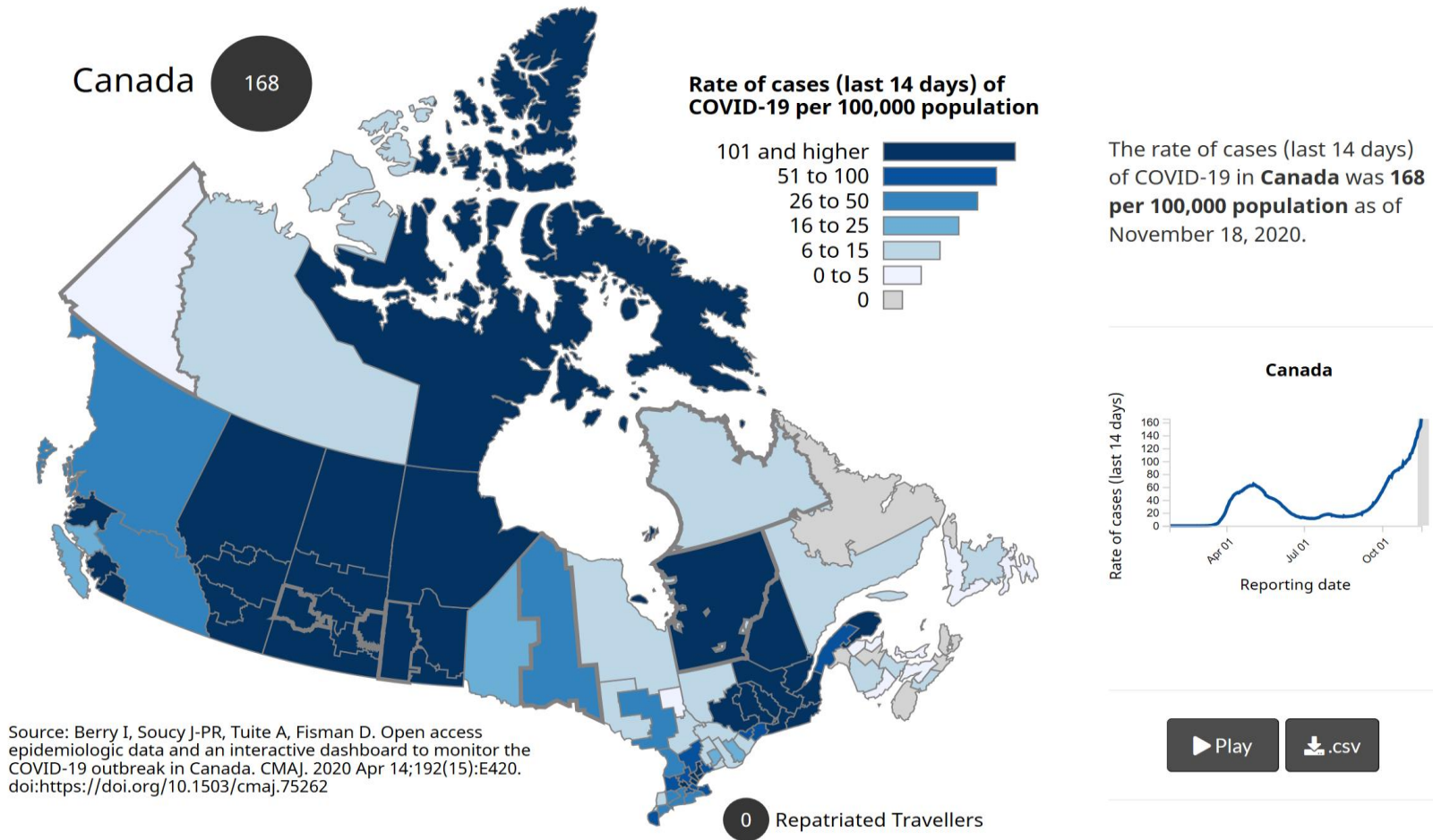
QUESTIONS: [VCHELP@FNTN.CA](mailto:VCHELP@FNTN.CA)

# 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 – Canada (as of November 18)



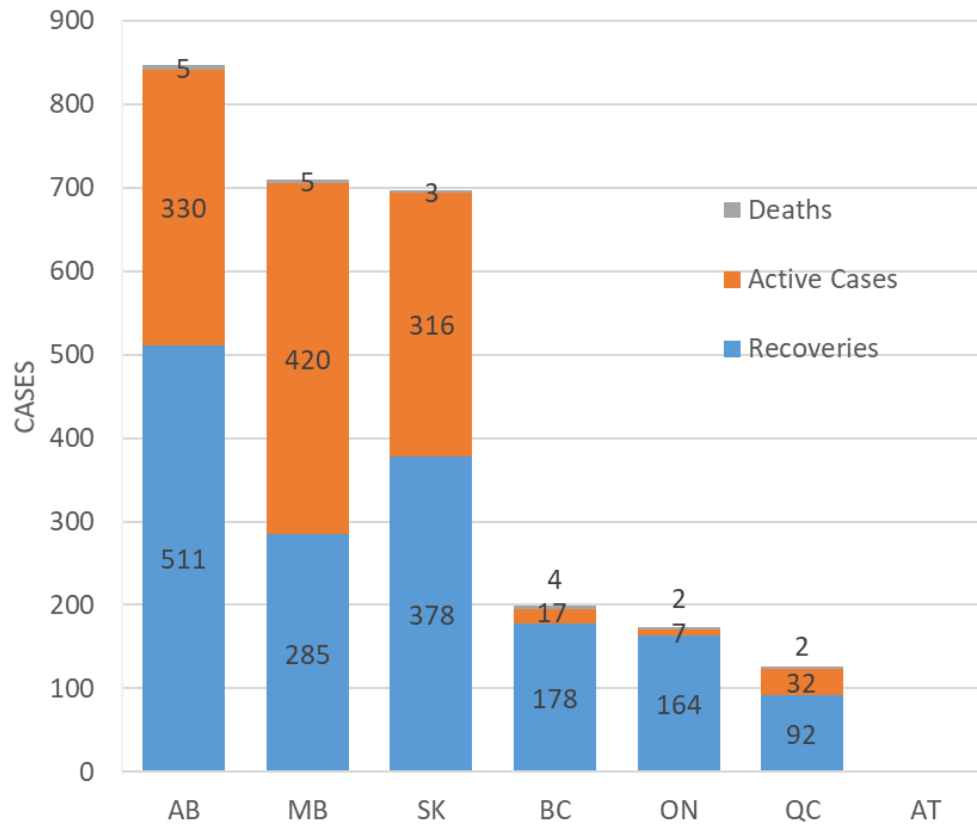
Public Health Agency of Canada [https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/dashboard/?stat=rate&measure=total\\_last14&map=hr&f=true#a2](https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/dashboard/?stat=rate&measure=total_last14&map=hr&f=true#a2)

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# COVID-19 Across On-Reserve First Nations Communities Canada by Status (All Provinces)

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 Epi Update (November 18, 2020)

## National Summary



- 2,751 COVID-19 Cases
- 1,608 Recoveries
- 1,122 Active Cases
- 130 Hospitalizations
- 21 Deaths

### Hospitalizations per region:

- AB – 38
- BC – 17
- SK – 25
- MB – 28
- ON – 14
- QC – 8
- AT – 0

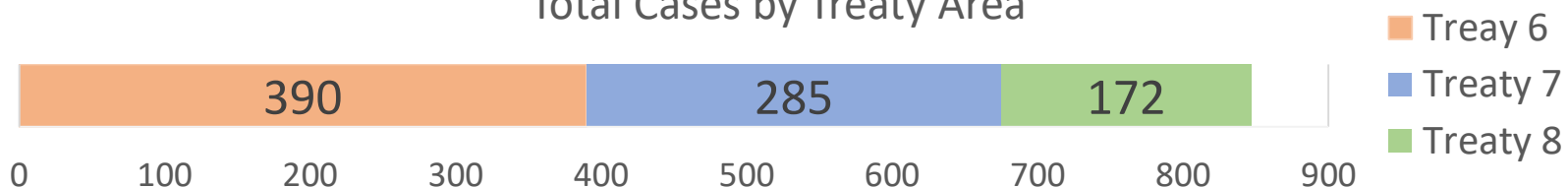


# COVID-19 in First Nations in Alberta (on Reserve Only)

Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (November 18, 2020)



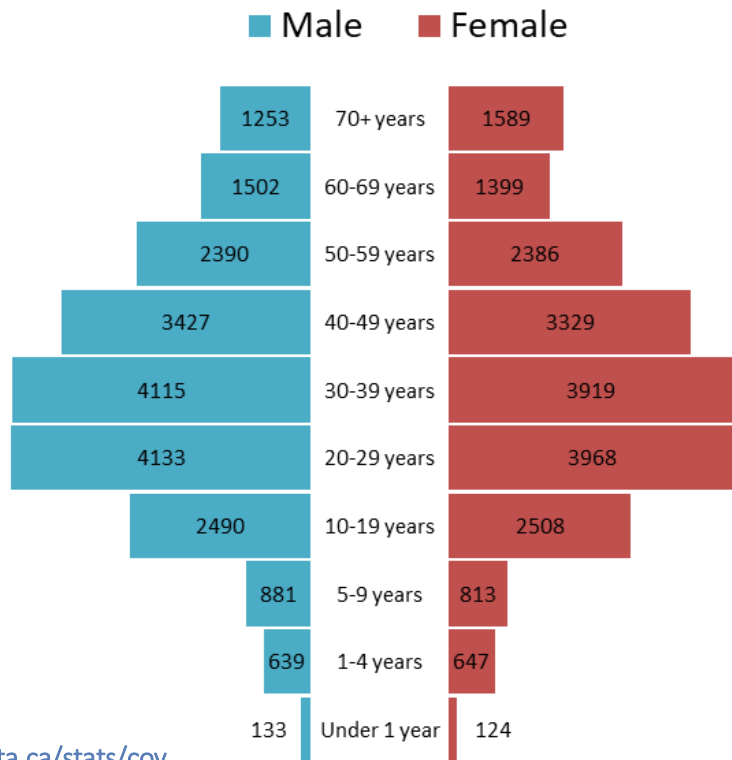
Total Cases by Treaty Area



# Age and gender distribution of on-reserve COVID-19 cases in comparison to all Alberta

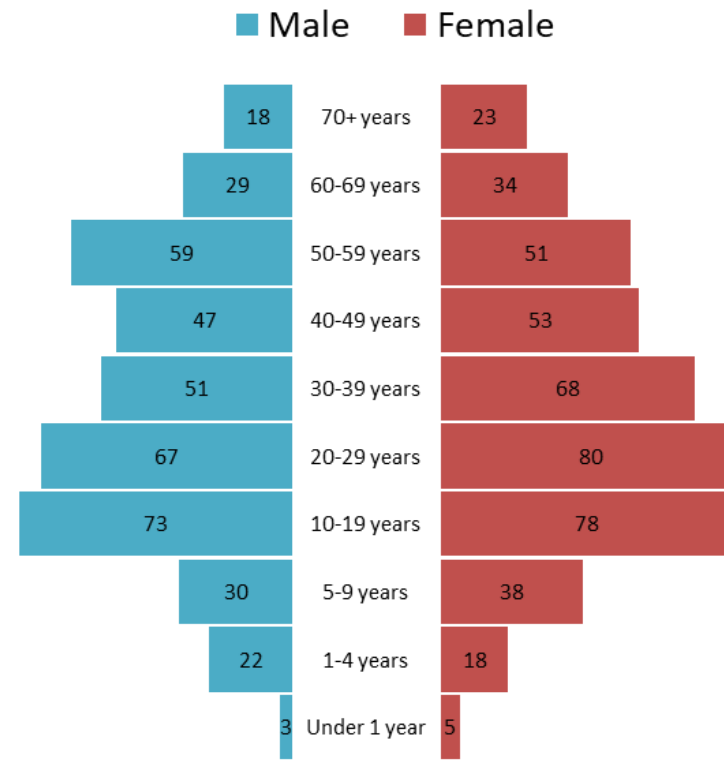
Source: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (November 18, 2020)

## ALL ALBERTANS



Counts

## FIRST NATIONS (ON RESERVE)



Counts

Source:  
<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm>  
 (November 17, 2020)

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# Severe Outcomes

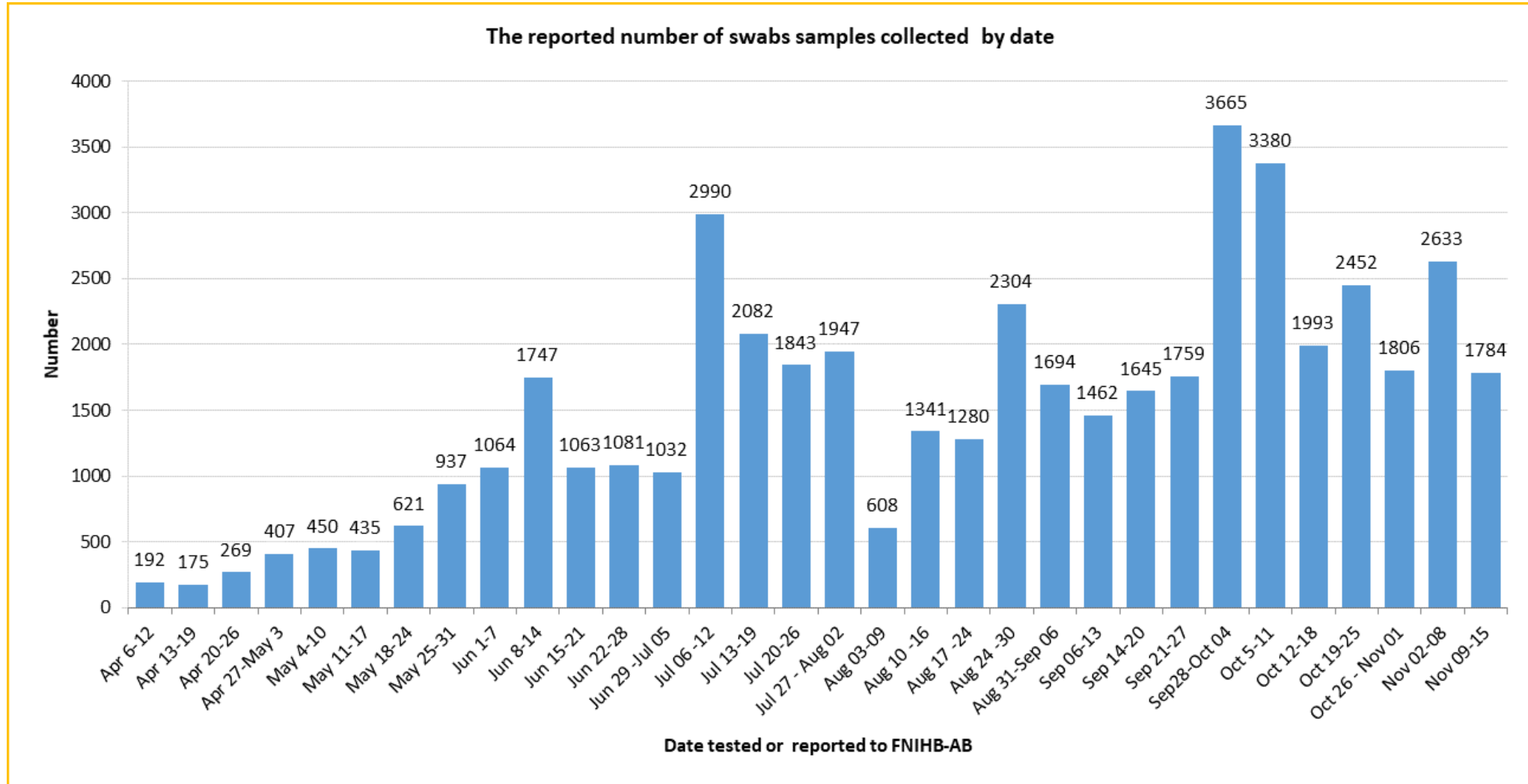
Sources: FNIHB COVID-19 ER System via Synergy in Action (November 18, 2020) & <https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm> (November 17, 2020)

	Hospitalized ever	Currently in hospital	ICU ever	Currently in ICU	Deaths
First Nations (on reserve)	38	4	11	2	5
All Albertans	1493	287	268	57	443
	Fatality rate per 100 cases	Hospitalization rate per 100 cases	Average age of fatality (Range)	Average age of hospitalization (Range)	
First Nations (on reserve)	0.59	4.5	63 years (29-78)	50 years (17-86)	
All Albertans	1.1	3.6	82 years (27 – 106)	62 years (0 - 103)	

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# Test Volume

Sources: Community Reports to FNIHB-AB (November 18, 2020)



QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# Contributing Factors to Increased Cases

Sources: Community Reports to FNIHB-AB (November 18, 2020)

Gatherings

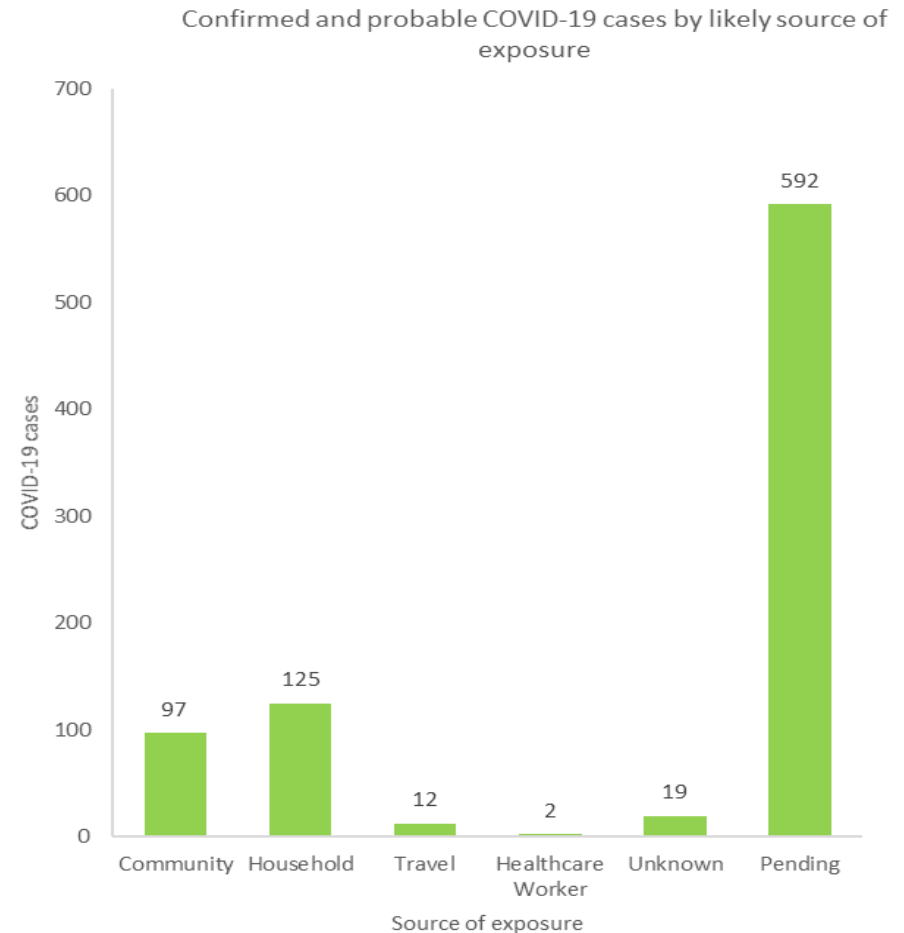
Non-essential travel

Community transmission

Challenges with isolation (Non-compliance)

Occupational exposure

Overcrowding



# Important Reminders/ Updates

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# Alberta COVID-19 Testing Criteria

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Testing is available to:

- any person exhibiting any [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
- all workers and/or residents at specific outbreak sites

Asymptomatic testing has been paused for people who have no known exposure to COVID-19.

FNIHB MOHs will provide guidance to prioritize testing in First Nation communities with cases.

# Reminder – Preventing Transmission in Healthcare Settings

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Preventing the risk of transmission amongst staff and clients/patients remains important.

Measures to prevent transmission in healthcare settings should continue to include:

- continuous masking (HCWs must wear a medical mask [procedural/surgical]),
- staff and client screening,
- restricting the number of staff and clients/patients in the setting at any one time;
- physical distancing between all individuals at all times;
- enhanced cleaning/disinfection



# Updated Guidance – Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

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A non-medical mask or face covering can be homemade or purchased, and should:

- be made of at least 3 layers
  - 2 layers should be tightly woven material fabric, such as cotton or linen
  - the third (middle) layer should be a filter-type fabric, such as non-woven polypropylene fabric
- Filters add an extra layer of protection against COVID-19 by trapping small infectious particles. Consider wearing a mask that includes a filter or filter material as one of its layers, such as:
  - non-woven polypropylene fabric, which can be found as:
    - a craft fabric
    - the non-woven fabric that's used to make some reusable shopping bags
    - a disposable filter inserted into a pocket on the mask

Reusable masks with a non-woven filter layer should be washed daily, and can be washed multiple times. Disposable filters should be changed daily or as directed by the manufacturer.

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada [https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html#\\_blank](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html#_blank)

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

# Outbreak-Related Definitions

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**Outbreak** is defined as: *“The occurrence of cases of disease in excess of what would normally be expected in a defined community, geographical area or season”* (World Health Organization, 2018).

- NOTE: A common source of infection or the identification of transmission between cases are not requirements for an outbreak. The epidemiologic features of an outbreak and subsequent public health actions are assessed through the outbreak investigation process.

**Alert:** A warning sign that the situation may evolve into an outbreak. The threshold for triggering an alert is dependent on the specific setting.

**Public Reporting:** The minimum number of cases marking the threshold for public reporting of COVID-19 outbreaks.

# Definition of an Outbreak of COVID-19 by Setting

Type of Setting	Alert	Outbreak	Public Reporting
Congregate Settings (Continuing Care, Long-term Care, Group home, DSL)	One symptomatic resident or staff member	One confirmed case	Two confirmed cases
Child Care Facilities (Daycares, Head Start, etc.)	One confirmed case OR two symptomatic individuals within 48 hours	Two confirmed cases (staff/child) within 14 days or two confirmed cases that are epidemiologically linked	Five confirmed cases
Schools	One confirmed case	Two confirmed cases within a 14 day period where disease could have been acquired or transmitted in the school	Five confirmed cases
Public Settings (Restaurants, Rec Centres, etc.)	n/a	Five confirmed cases	Five confirmed cases

# Update - COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist (For Children Under 18)

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This new screening checklist (as of November 2) applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten to Grade 12, including high school students over 18.

Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, child care or other activities.

Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

The checklist can be found at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist>

# Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC)

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The Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic (AIVCC) has opened its virtual doors.

- Provides services to rural and urban First Nations, Métis and Inuit patients and families
- Provides same day, primary care services
- Services provided through a secure telephone and/or video system.
- Official public launch December 1, 2020

To book a same day appointment, please call 1.888.342.4822.

For more information please see:

- [www.aivcc.ca](http://www.aivcc.ca) or email [info@aivcc.ca](mailto:info@aivcc.ca)
- Facebook page - Alberta Indigenous Virtual Care Clinic

# 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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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)

# Acknowledgments

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Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health - Alberta Health

Lea Bill, Executive Director - Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre

Amy Colquhoun, Manager, Population Health Assessment - Alberta Health

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, ADM, Public Health and Compliance – Alberta Health

Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, Senior Medical Officer of Health -FNIHB

Dr. Chris Sarin, Deputy Medical Officer of Health - FNIHB

Simon Sihota, Regional Manager, Environmental Public Health Services – FNIHB

Ibrahim Agyemang, Senior Epidemiologist - FNIHB

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

FNIHB Technical Team



# Questions?

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VCHELP@FNTN.CA

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA