

COVID-19 Update

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

Outline

1. MOH Update – Dr. Wadieh Yacoub
2. Current Topics – Dr. Chris Sarin & Simon Sihota
3. Community Profile – Eden Valley – Alicia Thompson and Louise Chappell
4. Questions

MOH Update

DR. WADIEH YACOUB, SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. CHRIS SARIN, DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Reminder - Privacy

- 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 September 16)

The **global** numbers:

- 29,925,969 cases
- 942,076 deaths

The numbers in **Canada**:

- 139,747 cases
- 9,193 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

Overview of COVID-19 in Alberta (as of September 16, 2020):



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

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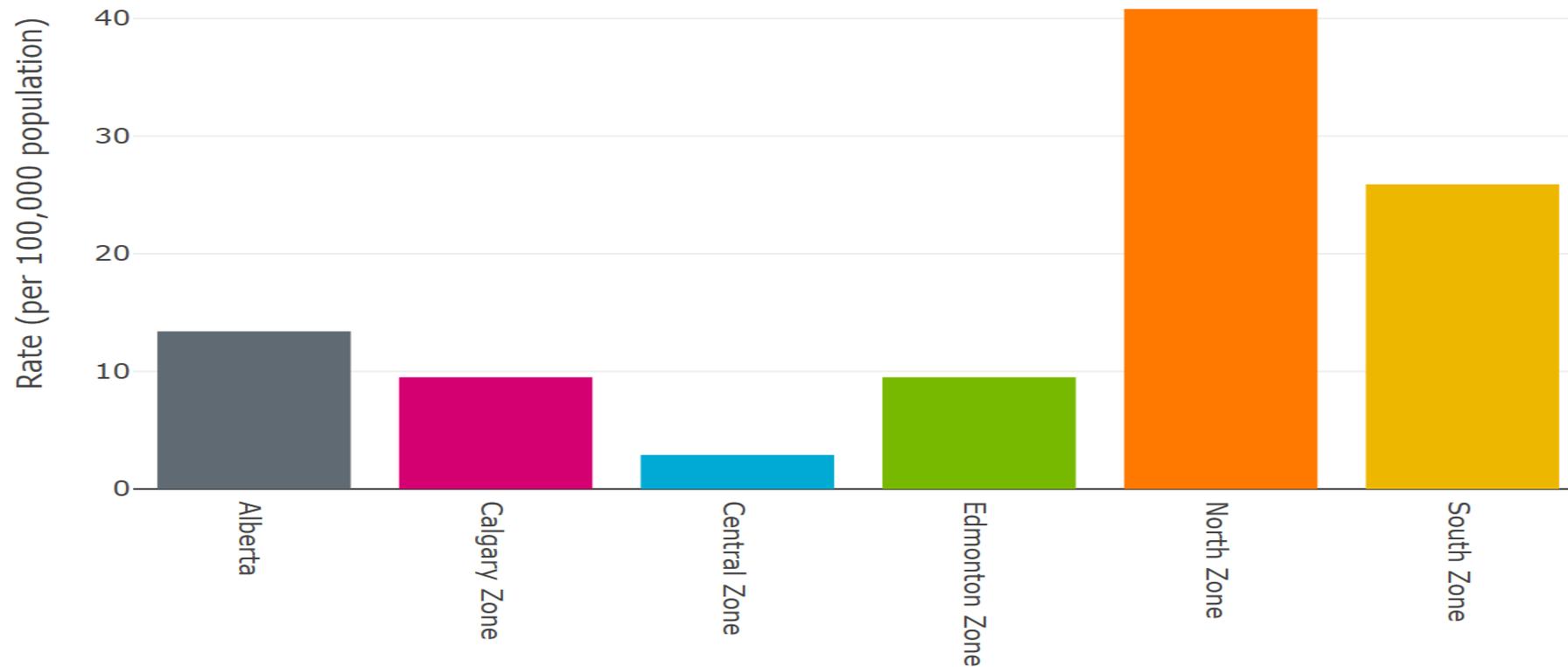
Current Situation – Alberta First Nations

Location	Total Cases	Active Cases	In Hospital	In ICU	Deaths
First Nation Communities	243	54	1 (current)	0 (current)	4
First Nations People in AB*	585	89	55 (ever)	12 (ever)	10

* 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 (as of Sept 16)

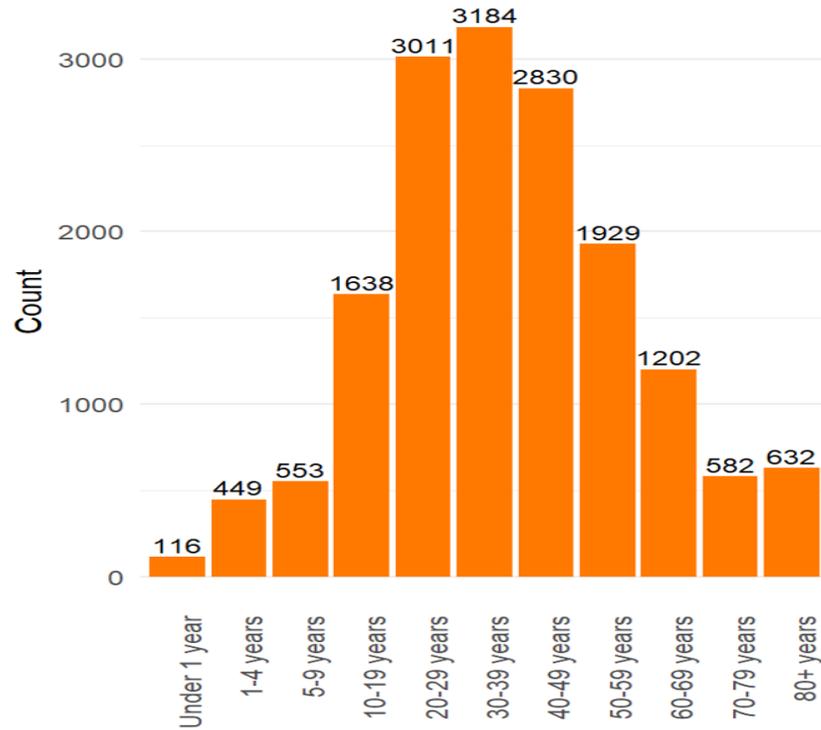


Source: AB Health and AFNIGC <http://www.afnigc.ca/main/index.php?id=home>

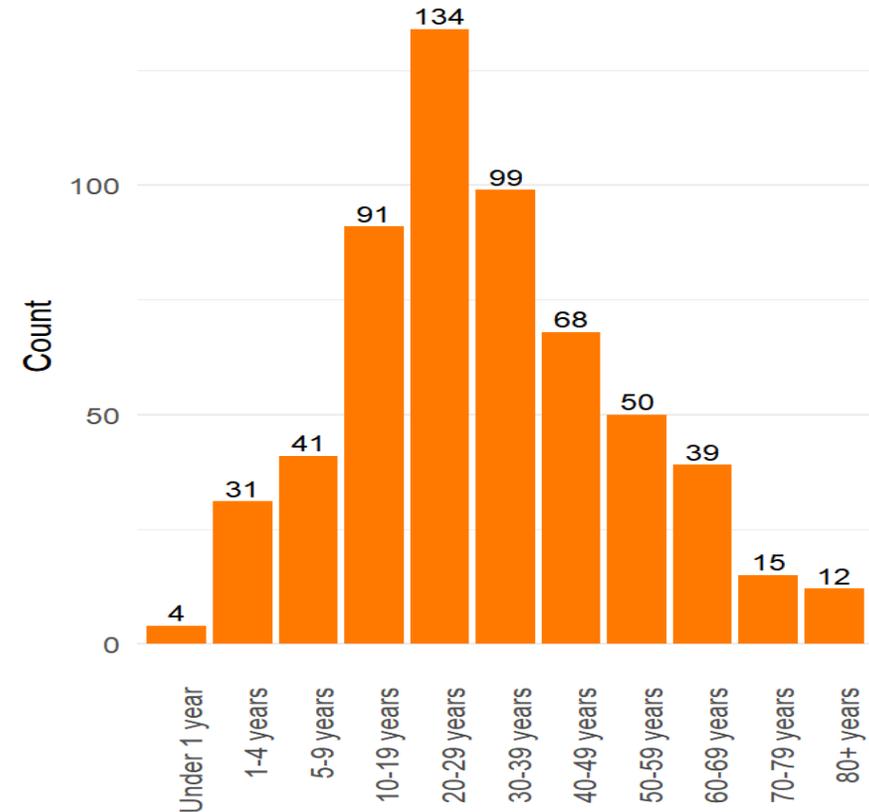
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COVID-19 cases by age group

ALBERTA



FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES



Alberta COVID-19 Testing Criteria

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 September 13): First Nations Communities in Alberta

44

Communities Reporting
Data

43

Communities doing
testing

1

Communities not reporting
data

6,011

Number of swabs in stock

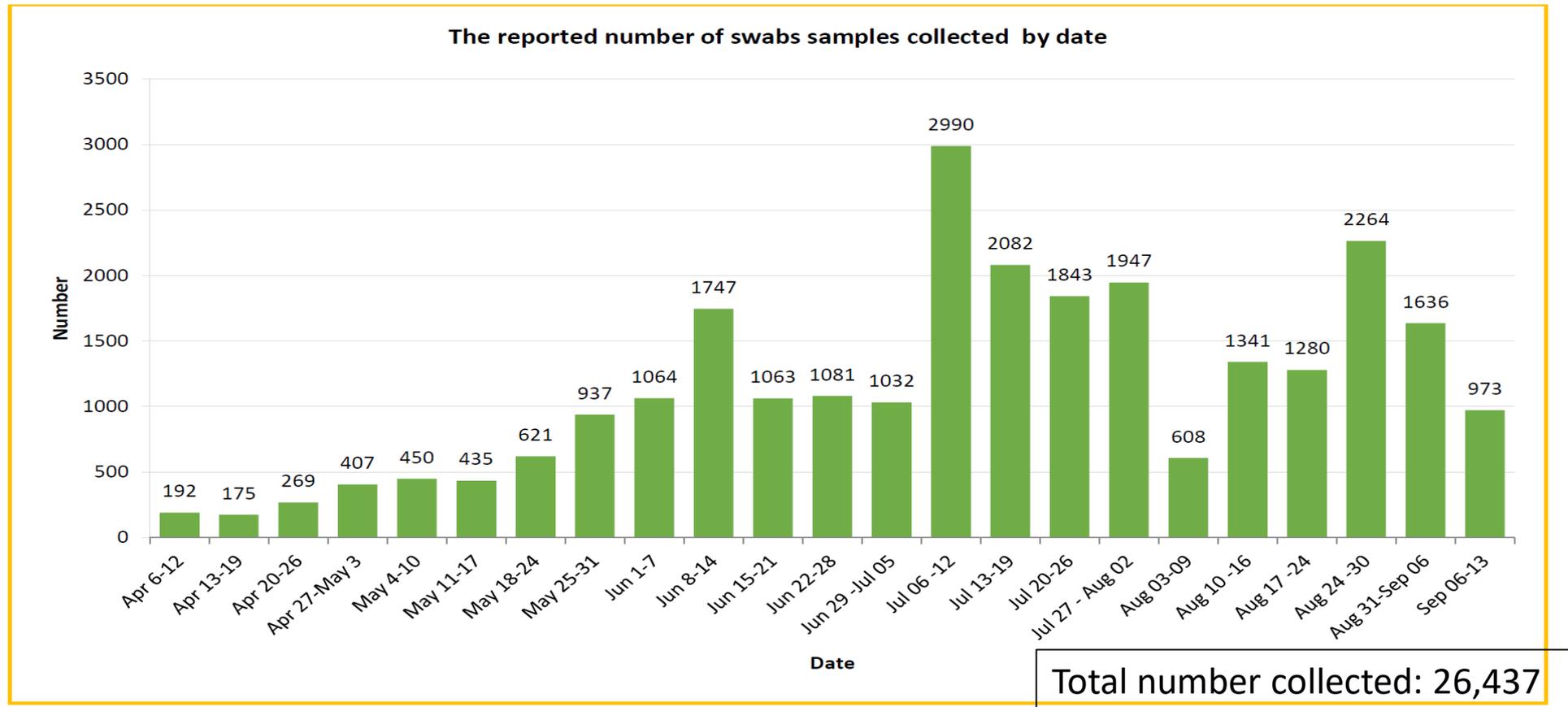
26,437

Number of swab samples
collected to date

4,640

Patients seen with COVID-19
like symptoms to date

Number of COVID-19 Swabs Collected in First Nations Communities by Date (as of Sept 13)



FNIHB Monitoring Metrics

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

DR. CHRIS SARIN, DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SIMON SIHOTA, REGIONAL MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

Back to School During COVID-19

Q & A

DR. CHRIS SARIN, DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

What happens if a student comes to school with symptoms of COVID-19?

- Students should be assessed daily for symptoms of COVID-19 before the start of the school day using the [daily screening questionnaire](#).
- **Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of illness must not enter a school.** They must stay home and seek health care advice. Parents can call Health Link 811, their local health centre, or fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if their child should be tested.

What if a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school?

- The symptomatic student must be masked and isolated immediately (ideally in a separate room) and picked up as soon as possible.
- If a separate room is not available, or the child is not able to stay in a separate room by themselves, the child/student should be kept at least 2 metres away from other children/students
- All surfaces or items they touched need to be cleaned and disinfected or stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 72 hours.
- The isolation space must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

What happens if there are cases of COVID-19 identified at a school?

If there is a **single confirmed case** of COVID-19 in a school:

- An “alert status” will be triggered and the school will work with public health officials to identify close contacts.
- Community public health staff will notify the school administration of an alert status.
- The school will send out a letter to the students/parents/guardians and staff to notify them of the alert.

What happens if there is more than 1 case of COVID-19 identified at a school?

An outbreak of COVID-19 within a school is defined as two or more confirmed cases (staff and/or student) within a 14 day period (one incubation period) OR two or more confirmed cases (staff/child) that are epidemiologically linked.

- If an outbreak is declared by an MOH, extra public health measures will be taken to control the spread of illness in the school.
- Community public health staff will notify the school if an outbreak is declared.
- FNIHB MOH will provide the school a letter to send to notify them of the outbreak in the school, what actions are being taken to mitigate the risk of spread and a reminder to monitor for symptoms
- In the majority of situations, school closure would not be required.

Who is considered a close contact in a school?

In general, when there is a case of COVID-19 in a school a **close contact** is:

- Any individual who has shared a classroom with the case.
- Anyone who has been within 2 metres of a case for more than 15 minutes while they were infectious.
- Anyone who has shared food or drink or had contact (such as hugging or kissing) with a case.
- Anyone seated within 2 rows on a bus (in front of, behind, or beside the case). If students move around the bus to different seats, all individuals on the bus would be considered close contacts.

Public health staff will work with schools to contact students/parents/guardians who have been in close contact with a confirmed case and to determine which school staff members would also be considered close contacts.

If students and staff wear masks at school, would they still be considered close contacts?

- Wearing a mask helps to prevent respiratory droplets from contaminating other people or surfaces. Masks are helpful in preventing the spread of COVID-19 with small amounts of contact (e.g. standing beside each other for a short time).
- However, wearing a mask is not considered enough to guarantee prevention of the spread of COVID-19 among students or staff in close contact with a positive case. They would still be considered close contacts.

When do students or staff need to stay home from school (self-isolate)?

- Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat or runny nose, **MUST** legally self-isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and should be tested for COVID-19. They cannot go to school or attend any public place.
- Anyone identified as a close contact of a confirmed case must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of exposure. They cannot go to school or attend any public place. Even if they test negative for COVID-19, they must stay in isolation for 14 days.

When can a staff member or student return to school after a negative test?

- A symptomatic person who tests negative can return to school when their symptoms resolve **except if** they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case.
- An asymptomatic person who tests negative can return to school right away **except if** they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case.
- Close contacts of cases need to complete a 14 day isolation period. If they develop symptoms during this time, they should get tested and they would then need to self-isolate for 10 days after from the onset of symptoms.

Scenario

The community Health Nurse assesses a school age child with a cough and runny nose.

What are the nurse's recommended actions?

Discussion

- New or worsening chronic cough and runny nose are symptoms that are covered by the [CMOH Order 05-2020](#) and require mandatory isolation.
- Notify the parent/guardian that the student is legally required to isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- Testing should be offered and prioritized.
- Information should be obtained from the parent/guardian regarding school attendance, location of school, grade
- Determine if the child is a contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, or associated with an outbreak

Other Considerations

- COVID-19 activity currently within the school
- Incidence of COVID-19 within the area
- Notification of school required?
- School relaunch stage

Next Steps

Notification

- Schools will be notified of confirmed of COVID-19 when they occur
- Additional action should be discussed with MOH, CDC team, and EPHO team including outbreak management

Additional Resources

COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire

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

ISC-FNIHB Returning to School During COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions (Coming Soon!)

<https://www.onehealth.ca/ab/ABCovid-19>

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

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

Alberta Health Services – Back to School During COVID-19

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17212.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>

Update on Relaunch Guidance Documents

SIMON SIHOTA, REGIONAL MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC
HEALTH SERVICES

New and Updated Guidance Documents

Guidance for Singing and Vocal Performance

- <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-singing-and-vocal-performance>

Guidance for Live Instrumental Music

- <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-live-instrumental-music>

Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation

- <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-sports-physical-activity-and-recreation.pdf>

New - Guidance for Singing and Vocal Performance

Informal group singing by the general public should **not** occur at this time, including:

- Karaoke singing
- Audience singing
- Singing in other informal settings where there is not a recognized leader such as a conductor or teacher

Singing indoors is permitted, but it is considered a high risk activity.

- Everyone participating in singing should wear a mask.
- A number of outbreaks internationally and in Alberta have been linked to congregational singing.

New - Guidance for Live Instrumental Music

- Playing musical instruments may proceed both indoors and outdoors where 2 metre physical distancing is possible between musicians.
- Wherever possible, music performances should be held in outdoor settings to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Sharing of instruments, equipment, and other items should be avoided. If certain items must be shared, clean and disinfect them between use by different individuals.
- Individuals at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 should not play wind instruments, and should not be near those playing wind instruments.

Updated – Guidance on Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation

- **50 person mini-leagues can be formed** for sports, physical activity and recreation that involve physical interaction of participants at a distance of less than 2 metres.
- A mini-league can be comprised of multiple teams, but to a **maximum of 50 individuals**.
- Game play should be limited to teams in the same mini-league.
- Teams that belong to other mini-leagues should not play each other.
- Individuals should limit the number of cohorts/mini-leagues they belong to.
- It is recommended that mini-leagues appoint a responsible person whose role is to ensure cohort rules and other public health guidance are followed.

Refer to: <https://www.alberta.ca/guidance-documents.aspx> for more information on these documents and many others.

Community Profile: Eden Valley

ALICIA THOMPSON & LOUISE CHAPPELL, STONEY TRAIL WELLNESS CENTER

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

Stoney Trail Wellness Center

Eden Valley, Alberta

COVID-19 Response



BEARSPAW
FIRST NATION

Preparing for Covid-19

- Daily meetings held with STWC staff (Collaboration)
- Assigning team leads to specific roles and building teams with community members
- Following up on new Covid-19 information sessions, policies, and protocols.
- Collection of Community Information/Education/Training
- Disaster Management Team
- Isolation Center
- Cell Tower
- Additional Training for Health Team

During Covid-19

- 24/7 Security Staff
- Training Center
- Home Visits
- Data Collection
- Facebook Updates

Covid-19 Testing and Tracing

- Testing Tents/Trailers
- Drive Thru Testing
- Home Testing
- Testing Results
- Positive Results/ Close Contact Tracing
- Support and Reassurance

Food Security and Community Support

- Community Encouragement and Involvement
- Donations
- Morley Food Bank
- Food Storage
- Stock Pile Food

Covid-19 Now

- Security and screening
- Food Security Available
- Covid-19 Testing Available
- Weekly updates/Telehealth Sessions
- Stage 2 Funding in place
- Continued Training and Education to Community/ Inter Agencies
- Close Monitoring
- Flu Clinic

Questions

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

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

EMAIL: VCHELP@FNTN.CA OR

SAC.CDEMERCENCIESAB-URGENCESMTAB.ISC@CANADA.CA

QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

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

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

EMAIL: VCHELP@FNTN.CA OR

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QUESTIONS: VCHELP@FNTN.CA

Acknowledgments

Louise Chappell & Alicia Thompson, Stoney Trail Wellness Center

Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, Senior Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Chris Sarin, Medical Officer of Health

Simon Sihota, Regional Manager, Environmental Public Health Services

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

FNIHB Technical Team

Questions?

VCHELP@FNTN.CA

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