

IN BRIEF ... COVID-19

April 13, 2020



BY THE NUMBERS

	Alberta*	Canada*	Global (WHO)#	Johns Hopkins^
Total Cases	1,732	24,804	1,776,867	1,905,935
New Cases	81	421	N/A	N/A
Deaths	46 (2 new)	734 (17 new)	111,828	118,623
Recovered	877	7,186	N/A	446,336

*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:
 - To date, 77,007 people have been tested in Alberta. Positive tests have stayed relatively constant at about 2% for the past few weeks.
 - Capacity is currently about 7,400 tests per day, with the hope to reach 9,000 daily tests by the end of the month, depending on supply of needed materials.
 - Testing is now being expanded to any Albertan who has a fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
 - Step 1 stay home.
 - Step 2 complete [AHS online assessment form](#) in order to arrange testing. There is no reason to call 811 if you complete the form.
 - Testing all symptomatic Albertans will give a more complete picture of trends, however it is expected there will be a corresponding increase in the number of daily cases.
 - In response to a question about loosening restrictions, the CMOH said they are monitoring the trends and looking closely at the numbers, and will look to relax some of the public health restrictions only when they are confident that such action will not create a climate for a rapid spike in new cases.
 - Albertans and Canadians need to be prepared that COVID-19 will have impacts on their daily lives for months, including isolation, travel restrictions, quarantines and limits on gathering may be in place longer than some others.
- Alberta to begin a [clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine](#) led by researchers at the UofA and UofC.
- To support non-profits and charities, Alberta announced a [matching grant program](#) for donations to non-profits and charities with COVID-19 fundraising initiatives, to a maximum of \$2 million. Additionally, the province announced it would be [sharing PPE and ventilators](#) with BC, Ontario and Quebec, even as some medical professionals are saying there is a shortage in PPE supplies for non-AHS locations in the province.

OTTAWA

- Dr Theresa Tam said a significant portion of the deaths in Canada are linked to outbreaks in several long term care facilities (nearly half of all COVID deaths) is the "tragic legacy of this pandemic." She reiterated the need for all care facilities to follow the [infection prevention guidelines and controls](#) from the Public Health Agency.

- On Saturday, April 11, Parliament [passed Bill C-14, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2](#), which allows for [additional supports for businesses and non-profits](#) including a 75% wage subsidy for employers to retain employees; refund certain employer-paid payroll contributions like EI and CPP payments; and revises the criteria for determining revenue loss.
- [Health Canada approved a portable COVID-19 test kit](#) called the Spartan Cube. The automated test can be operated by non-laboratory personnel in settings such as airports, border crossings, doctors' offices, pharmacies, clinics, and remote communities.
- To date, 428K tests, 5.7% confirmed positive. The Public Health Agency of Canada reports 73% of Canadian cases are related to community transmission and 27% are related to travel or being exposed to a traveller.

OTHER PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

- Quebec is launching investigations into processes and procedures at a number of seniors residences following a deadly weekend. Provincial authorities will inspect all of the province's 200 long term care facilities
- Ontario sees a jump of more than 400 new cases and now has nearly 7500 COVID-19 cases. Plans to significantly increase testing is go in effect this week, with the goal of 8,000 tests per day, and to expand that to up to 16,000 daily tests by early May.
- Manitoba to keep non-essential businesses closed until the end of April.

UPDATES

- WHO warned that lifting restrictions quickly and across the board could result in a second wave of infection that could fully overwhelm the health system. WHO calls for vigilance in maintaining supplies, available resources and cautious, conservative easing of restrictions supported by enhanced testing and monitoring. ["You can't replace lockdown with nothing."](#) (31 minute mark) said Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director WHO Health Emergencies Program. "You must replace lockdown with a very deeply educated, committed, empowered and engaged community. We will have to change our behaviours for the foreseeable future." The only way out of this is to find the virus."
- Edmonton's Fringe Festival announces it will cancel the 2020 event.
- The total global number of cases is expected to surpass 2 million mark later today.

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://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd>