

# IN BRIEF ... COVID-19

April 17, 2020



## BY THE NUMBERS

	Alberta*	Canada*	Global (WHO)#	Johns Hopkins^
Total Cases	2,397 (400 community transmission)	30,670	2,078,605	2,224,426
New Cases	239	84	77,846	89,961
Deaths	50 (0 new)	1,250 (202 new)	139,515 (8478 new)	153,177 (11,029 new)
Recovered	1,124	10,318	N/A	565,957

\*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
  - Apologizes to Albertans for not being forthcoming with the information about the outbreak in the maternity ward at the Foothills Hospital. Pledges she expects to be able to tell Albertans at the earliest opportunity of all outbreaks, without compromising patient or personal confidentiality.
  - All systems are back up and operational after an outage at the data centre. More and updated information will be provided early next week as they get through the backlog of work.
  - On new cases, CMOH said this was expected due to the surge in cases to increased testing and increased tracking which led to identifying households linked to the High River meat packing outbreaks that have now tested positive (now at 358 confirmed cases). AHS has a dedicated outbreak response team related to this outbreak.
  - The 400 cases from community transmission of unknown origin are concerning, and the CMOH will have more details about work to identify and track next week.
  - 32 of the 50 deaths have been from long-term care and seniors facilities. As a result CMOH has expanded testing in these areas, in addition to all other measures already in place, to do best to get early detection.
  - **NEW:** All residents and staff in senior's facilities experiencing outbreaks will be tested.
    - 34 continuing cares sites have at least one confirmed case of COVID
  - **NEW:** And all workers in outbreak sites will have access to testing.
  - 3831 tests completed in the past 24 hours, with nearly 93,000 tests completed overall. Maximum testing capacity is currently about 7000 tests per day.
  - AHS [take over operation of the Manoir du Lac continuing care facility in McLennan](#) after 26 residents and 11 staff have tested positive.
  - The Kearl Lake oilsands site outbreak now stands at 12 cases in Alberta linked to the site. There are also several other cases in other provinces directly related to the Kearl Lake site. AHS is working with other provincial agencies to do contact tracing.

- Premier Kenney reiterated the *Alberta Relaunch Strategy* and added a strong policy position to create a “wall of defence” around vulnerable seniors. The five points the government will pursue to ensure a safe re-opening of the province:
  1. Aggressive new system of mass testing, to get folks back to work. 20,000 tests a day.
  2. More precise contact tracing of those who are infected.
  3. Stronger border screening. We will deploy a more rigorous approach to international arrivals
  4. Enforce quarantine orders to ensure compliance and using smartphone app technology.
  5. Encourage and facilitate use of masks.
- In addition to the **Calgary South Health Campus**, the **Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital** is suspending labour and delivery services during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Devon General Hospital** will no longer be accepting patients in its emergency department to protect 14 long-term care residents at the hospital since they have a high risk of severe illness if exposed to the disease. Ten additional acute beds at the hospital will be converted into long-term care beds. The **Hardisty Health Centre Emergency Department** is also being closed, and emergency cases are to be treated at other locations, minimum 60 km away.
- City of Edmonton [extends the state of local emergency](#) and will reduce transit operations, has cancelled all public sport field bookings until the end of May, suspended the license of e-scooters, and expands pedestrian access on Victoria Promenade and Saskatchewan Drive.
- Edmonton’s **Street Performers Festival**, **Cariwest Festival**, The **Works Festival**, the Freewill **Shakespeare Festival** and St. Albert’s Northern Alberta **International Children’s Festival** have been cancelled, and other smaller festivals. The **Edmonton International Jazz Festival** has been indefinitely postponed.
- Edmonton Public Schools temporarily lays off 2,100 staff and Edmonton Catholic Schools temporarily lays off more than 700 staff. The Canadian Union of Public Employees suggest that more than 7,500 school support workers have been laid off in the province.

## OTTAWA

- Prime Minister Trudeau announced a [number of new financial supports](#) for the energy sector, cultural, heritage and sports sectors, entrepreneurs, innovators and pre-revenue firms, and small business and community support initiatives.
  - **Energy \$1.7 billion**
    - Up to \$1 billion to Alberta to clean up inactive oil and gas wells
    - \$200 million to the Alberta Orphan Wells Association (OWA) to clean up orphan oil and gas wells and wellsites. The OWA will be required to repay the full amount. As part of these agreements, Alberta has committed to implement strengthened regulation to significantly reduce the future prospect of new orphan wells. This will create a sustainably funded system that ensures companies are bearing the costs of their environmental responsibilities. The funding program will have oversight from a federal-provincial committee, and the federal government will ensure municipal and Indigenous engagement.
    - Up to \$400 million to Saskatchewan to clean up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells
    - Up to \$120 million to BC to clean up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells
    - \$750 million is allocated to Natural Resources Canada over two years, starting in 2020-21, to create a new repayable loan program to work with conventional and offshore oil and gas companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Of this amount, \$75 million will be allocated to investments in the offshore sector. A portion of these loans will be convertible to grants. This is also to assist firms to [comply with new methane regulations](#).

- Export Development Canada and Business Development Bank of Canada to extend credit to small and medium sized energy companies at risk through the Business Credit Availability Program. It is expected this will also be made available for small and medium-sized firms in forestry, retail, and others whose financing needs are larger than the current solutions available under the program.
- **Small business and community supports – \$962 million**
  - \$675 million to be spread between the six regional development agencies (i.e. Western Economic Diversification) to provide equivalent bridge financing to businesses unable to access the government’s broader support measures like Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
  - \$287 million for Community Futures Network, funded through the regional development agencies, to support rural businesses and communities, including through access to capital.
- **Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations - \$500 million**
  - New COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations, to be administered by Canadian Heritage via contribution agreements will provide funding to address financial needs, and will be provided in a manner consistent with Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account.
- **Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Pre-Revenue Firms - \$270 million**
  - \$20.1 million through Futurpreneur Canada to provide financing, mentoring and support tools to young entrepreneurs.
  - \$250 million through the Industrial Research Assistance Program, which provides advice, connections and funding to help Canadians small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take ideas to market. This includes firms that do not yet have revenue or in early stages of development.
- [Canada Day will be hosted virtually](#) not on Parliament Hill.
- The Government reports that they have made 7.5 million CERB payments to date.
- Minister of Transport announced [new measures requiring all air passengers to have a non-medical mask or face covering to cover their mouth and nose during travel](#). Air, marine, road or rail travellers will be asked to [cover their mouth and nose](#) as required by the provider.
- 125 members of the [Canadian Armed Forces with medical training will be deployed](#) in Quebec’s long-term care facilities.
- [Operating times for some Saskatchewan border crossings](#) into the US were revised.

## OTHER PROVINCES/TERRITORIES

- Ontario health officials have confirmed 564 new cases of COVID-19 in the province, along with 55 new deaths, the highest daily case increase and death toll reported since the outbreak began. The total number of cases now stands at 9,525 and 478 deaths. The province completed 8,899 tests in the last 24 hours, down from 9,001 tests processed Thursday.
- Quebec has another 941 new cases and 58 new deaths, for a total of 16,798 cases and 688 deaths. Premier François Legault said he takes "full responsibility" for the "deteriorating" situation in the province's long-term care facilities during the pandemic, and that he should have done more, much earlier in his government's mandate, to address staffing shortages.
- Manitoba announces [\\$300 million of new allocation for COVID-19 support](#) throughout the province.

- BC public health officials released a status report on COVID-19 outbreak in the province, and warned that while progress is being made there is still a need to keep all safety measures in place until at least mid-May.

## UPDATES

- At least 50 per cent more people died in China's virus epicentre of Wuhan than previously counted, with state media on Friday attributing the initial undercount to how overwhelmed the health system was coping with thousands of sick patients. The addition of 1,290 victims raised Wuhan's death toll to 3,869, the most in China. The total confirmed cases also increased by 325 to 50,333, accounting for about two-thirds of China's total 82,367 announced cases. The revised Wuhan figures raised China's death toll to 4,632.
- While Florida continues under a state-wide stay-at-home order, the Mayor of Jacksonville opens beaches and parks for the weekend.
- California is "now in a pandemic-induced recession," Gov. Gavin Newsom said Friday in an indication that, while official economic bodies have not declared a recession, the state is experiencing a serious economic downturn.
- 7 Midwestern governors announce their states will coordinate on reopening. Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky announced Thursday that they will work in close coordination to reopen the Midwest regional economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Similar collaborations have been undertaken by governors on the West and East coasts.

## 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>