

[COVID-19: State of public health emergency. Mandatory measures in effect provincewide.](#)

Government offices are closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 3. [See the list of services available.](#)



[← Alberta's COVID-19 response](#)

 

## COVID-19 info for Albertans

Taking action to protect lives and livelihoods with precise measures to bend the curve, sustain small businesses, and protect the health care system.

- > [Stronger public health measures](#)
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## Current situation

[Stronger mandatory measures](#) are in effect across the province as of Dec. 8 to help reduce cases and protect the health system.

- [Complete information for Albertans](#)
- [Vaccine distribution has begun](#)
- [Chief Medical Officer updates](#)

## Cases in Alberta

- 88,933 Total cases
- 1,352 Cases on Dec. 18
- 68,832 Recovered cases
- 841 Deaths
- 19,260 Active cases\*
- 777 In hospital
- 151 In intensive care\*\*
- 2,620,400 Total tests completed  
(18,502 on Dec. 18)
- 1,605,776 People tested

[View all case and outbreak data →](#)

*Updated Dec. 19. Numbers are current as of end-of-day Dec. 18.*

*\*Active cases include both community cases and hospitalizations. \*\*ICU cases are a subset of those in hospital.*

## Information for Albertans

### [Bend the curve](#)

Stronger mandatory public health measures are in effect provincewide to address rising cases.

## [Translated resources](#)

Resources are available in Arabic, 中文, हिंदी, 한국어, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Af-Soomaali, Español, Français, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt and Urdu.

## [Get tested](#)

COVID-19 testing is available to all Albertans with symptoms, close contacts and anyone linked to an outbreak.

## [Isolate or quarantine](#)

You must isolate for 10 days if you have a core symptom, or quarantine for 14 days if you're a close contact of a confirmed case or travelled outside Canada.

# Prevent the spread

## Help prevent the spread

All Albertans have a responsibility to [help prevent the spread](#). Take steps to protect yourself and others:

- practice [physical distancing](#)
- [wear a mask](#) - they're mandatory in all indoor public spaces, workplaces and places of worship
- practice good hygiene: wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching face
- [monitor for symptoms](#): cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat
- [isolate](#) for the legally-required 10 days if you have any symptoms or 14 days if you're a close contact of someone with COVID-19
- take the [COVID-19 self-assessment](#)  to get tested

Learn more ways to prevent the spread →

## How it spreads

COVID-19 is transmitted through tiny droplets of liquid produced by people who have the virus.

These droplets spread by:

- coughing, sneezing, talking, laughing, and singing

- touching objects or surfaces the virus has landed on and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth (bath towels, kitchen utensils, door knobs, etc.)

People who have COVID-19 can spread it to others before they start to feel sick.

COVID-19 is not widely spread by being airborne, which means it doesn't stay in the air long and won't go very far. But if you are too close to someone with COVID-19 you can get sick by breathing in air that contains droplets with the virus.

We think the virus generally only survives for a few hours on a surface or object, but it may be possible for it to survive several days under some conditions.

[Help prevent the spread →](#)

## Get immunized to prevent influenza

All Albertans over 6 months old should get an influenza immunization (flu shot) this year. It won't prevent COVID-19, but it will reduce your chances of getting sick with the flu or spreading it to others.

By keeping influenza counts low, we can:

- make sure our health care system has capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- let health care workers focus on treating people with other illnesses and injuries
- reduce outbreaks in care facilities

The vaccine is available free of charge to all Albertans starting October 19.

[How to get a flu shot →](#)

## Symptoms and testing

### Monitor your symptoms

COVID-19 symptoms can be mild and are similar to influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

- Core symptoms: cough, fever (over 38°C), shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
- Other symptoms: stuffy nose, painful swallowing, headache, chills, muscle or joint aches, feeling unwell in general, new fatigue or severe exhaustion, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite), loss of sense of smell or taste, conjunctivitis (pink eye).
- Symptom of serious illness: difficulty breathing or pneumonia.

Get tested and isolate if you have symptoms →

*Last updated: October 1*

## Get tested if sick or at risk

Priority testing is available to:

- 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

Find out how to get tested →

*Last updated: October 20*

## Isolate or quarantine if required

Isolation can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Under public health order, you are legally required to:

- isolate for 10 days if you have any [core symptom](#) that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose\* or sore throat\*
- quarantine for 14 days if you returned to or entered Alberta from outside Canada or are a close contact of a person with COVID-19, plus an additional 10 days from the onset of symptoms, should they occur

*\*Children under 18 are exempt from mandatory isolation for runny nose or sore throat but should stay home until well.*

Learn how to isolate and quarantine →

*Last updated: October 29*

## Assess your risk of severe illness

COVID-19 can cause serious respiratory illness. Because it is a new virus with no treatment or immunity in people, it is important for people with any symptoms to stay home and isolate to keep it from spreading.

Most people – about 80% – recover without needing special treatment. However, it can cause serious illness in some, and there is a risk of death in severe cases.

While we are still learning about COVID-19, serious illness appears to develop more often in people who are older or have pre-existing conditions.

Assess your risk of severe illness →

## Treatment

There is no proven treatment for COVID-19 at this time. Supportive care is being used to treat patients with COVID-19 and some medications are being tested to see if they help severely ill patients.

*Last updated: Dec. 9*

## COVID-19 vs. Influenza

### Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause respiratory illness in people, ranging from mild common colds to severe illnesses.

Novel coronaviruses, like COVID-19, are new strains of the virus that have not been previously identified in humans. This means people have no immunity against it, and it has no vaccine or proven treatment.

### COVID-19 vs. Flu

In some ways, COVID-19 is similar to influenza (also known as the flu), but there are also key differences.

#### Similarities

- Both cause respiratory disease.
- Both are spread by small droplets from the nose and mouth.
- Neither is spread through the air over long distances and times.

#### Differences

- COVID-19 does not have a specific vaccine or treatment available.
- COVID-19 does not appear to transmit as efficiently as influenza:
  - mainly people with symptoms seem to be spreading the disease, but asymptomatic transmission is possible and symptoms may be very mild, so transmission is possible even if the person is feeling well
  - controlling its spread is possible when people with symptoms are isolated
- COVID-19 causes severe disease and mortality in more cases than the flu. On average:
  - COVID-19 has resulted in 1 to 2 deaths per 100 cases
  - Flu results in 1 death in every 1,000 flu cases

Because COVID-19 can cause serious illness, it is critical to keep it from spreading by having [people with symptoms follow mandatory isolation requirements](#)

# Financial supports

## Individuals and families

Financial support programs are available to help individuals and families facing hardship because of COVID-19.

Programs include supports for those experiencing unemployment or individuals in quarantine or isolation who require financial assistance.

[See all federal support programs](#)



## Businesses

Businesses can access supports to help with COVID-19-related challenges, including:

- avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs
- accessing financial support, loans and credit

Supports are also available for self-employed individuals.

[See all federal support programs](#)



## Small- and medium-enterprise relaunch grant

Funding is available for small- and medium-sized businesses, co-ops and non-profits impacted by COVID-19 to offset a portion of their relaunch costs.

Recipients can use these funds as they see fit to help offset a portion of their relaunch costs, such as implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission.

[Learn more →](#)

## Education property tax freeze

Residential education property tax rates will be frozen at last year's level – reversing the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020. This will save households \$55 million.

[Learn more →](#)

# Get help

## Mental health and addiction



The COVID-19 pandemic can have a significant impact on mental health.

Online resources are available if you need advice on handling stressful situations or ways to talk to children.

- [Help in Tough Times](#)  (AHS)
- [Mental health and coping with COVID-19](#)  (CDC)
- [Talking with children about COVID-19](#)  (CDC)
- [COVID-19 information for young kids and students](#)  (PDF, 122 KB)

If you need to talk, call the 24-hour help lines:

- Mental Health Help Line at [1-877-303-2642](tel:1-877-303-2642)
- Addiction Help Line at [1-866-332-2322](tel:1-866-332-2322)

## Family and sexual violence

If you or someone you know is at risk of family or sexual violence, help is available.

### Family violence

- Call our 24-hour Family Violence Info Line at [310-1818](tel:310-1818) to get anonymous help in over 170 languages.
- Chat live online with the [Family Violence Info Line](#)  for support in English (8 am – 8 pm)

### Sexual violence

- Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence can provide assistance in finding sexual assault support services (9 am – 9 pm daily):
  - Call [1-866-403-8000](tel:1-866-403-8000) | 215+ languages
  - Text [1-866-403-8000](tel:1-866-403-8000) | English
  - [Chat online](#)  | English

### Other resources

- [Family violence during COVID-19 information sheet](#)  (multiple languages)
- [Find information on shelter and financial supports](#)
- [Learn how to recognize and prevent family violence](#)

## Child neglect and abuse

Children are at a higher risk for neglect and abuse during times of uncertainty and crisis.

Call our Child Neglect and Abuse Helpline at [1-800-387-KIDS](tel:1-800-387-KIDS) (5467) for help with child neglect and abuse.

Call the 24-hour child abuse hotline at [1-800-387-KIDS](tel:1-800-387-KIDS) (5437) if you think a child is being abused, neglected or sexually exploited.

Learn the signs of abuse →

## Consumer protection

The *Consumer Protection Act* prevents suppliers from grossly raising prices with no explanation beyond what is reasonable for goods that are readily available. Unlike commercial sales, the act does not explicitly cover private sales. Act with consideration and caution.

### File a consumer complaint

If you see prices for products or services skyrocket because of COVID-19, you can report it through our [Report-a-Ripoff submission form](#) or by calling 1-877-427-4088.

## Cyber security

Cyber security incidents involving malware and fraudulent activities, including identity theft, are being reported across Alberta in the wake of COVID-19.

- Anyone who receives a call asking for credit card information should hang up immediately and call the non-emergency line for local law enforcement.
- Albertans are encouraged to continue to exercise caution when clicking on links or providing personal information to people and organizations that request that information, unsolicited.

Learn about cyber security →

# Info for organizations and vulnerable Albertans

## Caregivers support

Nearly one million Albertans act as caregivers for loved ones experiencing challenges related to illness, disability or aging. These caregivers need support too.

Caregivers can get psychosocial and other peer and community supports by calling the toll-free caregiver advisor line at [1-877-453-5088](tel:1-877-453-5088) or going online to [caregiversalberta.ca](https://caregiversalberta.ca) [↗](#).

## Charities and not-for-profit organizations

\$30 million has been provided to charities, non-profits and civil society organizations to support their COVID-19 response.

## Disability service providers

Disability service providers play an essential role in supporting people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information see [COVID-19 information for disability service providers](#)

## Expectant parents

Currently, evidence does not suggest:

- being pregnant increases your risk of getting COVID-19 or having serious complications
- COVID-19 is transmitted to your baby during pregnancy, delivery or through breastmilk

However, there is always an increased risk of preterm or stillbirth with any significant maternal illness.

Talk to your health care provider if you have questions or are worried about leaving your home to attend appointments.

If you aren't feeling well, [take the online assessment to arrange testing](#) 

For more information, read the AHS [COVID-19 and Pregnancy guide](#) .

## Faith-based organizations

New restrictions are in effect for places of worship in communities on the enhanced list. [Learn more.](#)

## Homeless shelters and service providers

Shelters and temporary or transitional housing facilities provide an essential service in Alberta during this time.

- These facilities are exempt from the mass gathering public health order and may provide shelter to more than 50 people – as long as risk mitigation strategies are followed, including maintaining a minimum of 2 metres distance from one another.
- All non-essential gatherings inside these facilities must include no more than 50 people.
- For more information, read:
  - [Exemptions related to public health orders](#) 
  - [Shelter guidance: preventing and controlling and managing COVID-19](#).  (AHS) (PDF, 764 KB)

We are working with community-based organizations, homeless shelters and women's shelters to:

- update pandemic plans with guidelines and information specific to COVID-19
- expand shelter capacity and help current service providers to maintain physical distancing practices by finding additional space to house people

\$30 million has been committed to adult homeless shelters and women's emergency shelters to support their COVID-19 response.

*Last updated: Aug 12*

## Seniors and congregate care residents

Government issued public health orders to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, among seniors and vulnerable groups for the following settings:

- Long-term care facilities
- Licensed supportive living facilities, including seniors lodges and group homes
- Licensed residential addiction treatment centres (under the Mental Health Services Protection Act)

Find updated guidelines and standards →

*Last updated: April 15 at 5:35 pm*

## Volunteers

Volunteers play many important roles in communities across our province.

Volunteers and volunteer organizations must follow all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to protect themselves and those they help.

- Volunteers and employees may work together at distances of less than 2 metres, where unavoidable.
- Volunteer organizations must take actions to prevent the transmission of infection among employees, volunteers and the people they are helping.
- Proper hygiene and cleaning practices must be followed within the volunteer organization.
- Any employee or volunteer with symptoms, including cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat, is required by law to isolate and may not participate in volunteer or workplace activities.

[Information for non-health care volunteers](#) ↓ (PDF, 43 KB)

# Government response

## Public health actions

Alberta's public health officials are carefully monitoring the situation in Canada and around the world. They are:

- working closely with federal, provincial and territorial partners to share information and assess potential health risks
- ensuring our health system is responding effectively
- ensuring front-line health professionals have information about the virus so they can:
  - take recommended actions
  - promptly report potential cases to public health officials
- updating isolation and self-monitoring recommendations for returning travellers as required
- tracing all close contacts of confirmed cases, testing and isolating those who are symptomatic, and asking even those who feel well to isolate for 14 days after their last contact with the case
- granting law enforcement the authority to enforce public health orders and issue fines to anyone violating a public health order
- protecting Albertans in congregate care facilities by updating standards and guidelines
- making testing available to all Albertans with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat)

[View all public health orders →](#)

*Updated: April 15 at 11 am*

## COVID Care Teams

We are working with the cities of Calgary and Edmonton to access local agencies and organizations to provide on-the-ground support to communities experiencing a high number of cases of COVID-19, compared to other areas across the province.

Residents in these communities may face barriers that could contribute to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission:

- employment in public-facing, higher risk jobs – e.g. front-line health care, maintenance, transportation
- live in higher density, multi-family or multi-generational homes
- are a newcomer to Alberta and may not have supports in place
- have English language barriers
- earn a lower than average income

To help address these barriers, COVID Care Teams will:

- distribute care packages with masks, sanitizers and [translated resources](#)
- refer people to 811 for additional information in multiple languages
- inform residents of the nearest COVID-19 assessment and testing centres
- connect people to transportation to COVID-19 testing facilities, if needed
- refer people to AHS for self-isolation options for people unable to safely do so at home
- provide information about financial supports for people who need to isolate

News: [Outreach will help Albertans connect to COVID-related resources](#)(December 15, 2020)

### Support the Alberta Bits and Pieces Program

[Submit your offers of products or services](#) to the Alberta Bits and Pieces Program if you're interested in supporting the COVID-19 response.

If there is a requirement for your product or service, you will be contacted directly.

The program is named after the “bits and pieces program” established by Canada’s Minister of Munitions and Supply during the Second World War, C. D. Howe. The program coordinated innovative production and procurement efforts from across the Canadian economy to support the war effort.

## Chief medical officer updates

Regular updates from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, [Alberta's chief medical officer of health](#).

- [Holidays during COVID-19](#) (Dec 17, 2020)
- [Herd immunity and the Great Barrington Declaration](#) (Oct 28, 2020)

## Transcripts

- [December 18, 2020](#)
- [December 17, 2020](#)
- [December 16, 2020](#)
- [December 15, 2020](#)
- [December 11, 2020](#)
- [December 10, 2020](#)
- [December 9, 2020](#)
- [December 8, 2020](#)
- [December 7, 2020](#)

## Protecting families and the economy



### [Stronger public health measures](#)

Mandatory, provincewide restrictions are in effect to protect the health system and slow the spread of COVID-19.



### [International Border Testing Pilot Program](#)

Eligible international travellers returning to Alberta may be able to participate in a pilot program that is safely exploring reduced quarantine periods.





## [Alberta Biz Connect](#)

Workplace guidance and supports to help businesses and non-profits affected by COVID-19 operate safely and support their recovery.



### [K-12 learning during COVID-19](#)

Parents and students can learn how to attend school safely and what to do if a student shows symptoms of illness.

## COVID-19 regional status map

Find out the number of active cases in your area and sign up to be notified if your region changes to watch or enhanced status.

[View the map](#)  
↗

[Sign up for notifications](#) →



COVID-19 INFORMATION

## HELP RELAUNCH, SAFELY

Prevention starts with awareness. Be informed on how you can protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Isolate if you're feeling sick
- When out, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap
- Cover coughs and sneezes and stay home if you are sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Wear a mask in public places where keeping a distance of 2 metres is difficult

STAY INFORMED  
[alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

COVID-19 INFORMATION

## PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Keep at least 2 metres (about the length of a hockey stick) between you and others. If you are too close to someone who coughs or sneezes, you risk breathing in tiny droplets that could contain the COVID-19 virus.

Help support a healthy relaunch by following public health measures, practicing physical distancing and good hygiene, and continuing to act responsibly.

STAY INFORMED  
[alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

COVID-19 INFORMATION

## OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND KEEPING ALBERTANS SAFE

The safety of customers and staff of Alberta business is a priority. That's why this business is committed to:

- Cleaning regularly, especially in high traffic areas
- Wiping down and disinfecting surfaces
- Providing access to hand sanitizer
- Encouraging staff to stay home and away from others if sick
- Helping Albertans maintain physical distancing of 2 metres
- Having staff wear a face mask, where possible

STAY INFORMED  
[alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

## Resources

[COVID-19 posters and fact sheets](#)

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\) COVID-19 updates](#)

[World Health Organization COVID-19 updates](#)

Government of Canada COVID-19 updates:

[English](#) | [French](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#)

## News

## Situation updates

- [Update 162: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 18)
- [Update 161: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 17)
- [Update 160: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 16)
- [Update 159: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 15)
- [Update 158: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 14)
- [Update 157: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 11)
- [Update 156: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 10)
- [Update 155: COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta](#) (December 9)

## News releases

- [Rapid testing expands to include vulnerable Albertans](#)(December 17)
- [First Alberta health-care workers get COVID-19 vaccine](#) (December 15)
- [Outreach will help Albertans connect to COVID-related resources](#)(December 15)
- [Celebrating kindness for seniors during COVID-19](#)(December 15)
- [More than 25,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine en route to Alberta](#)(December 14)
- [Supporting world-class COVID research in Alberta](#) (December 10)

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