

COVID-19 UPDATE

Under the Provincial Restrictions, [Masks are mandatory in any indoor public space.](#)

Rate/100,000 pop.: **28.8**
 R-Value (Rest of Alberta Category): **1.10**

RMWB Case Outcomes: 24 Active Cases 1896 Resolved Cases 3 Deceased Cases

Variants as of Mar 17, 2021

AHS North Zone	
B.1.1.7 (UK)	17
B.1.351 (SA)	0
B.1.351 (Brazil)	0
Total:	17
Alberta	
B.1.1.7 (UK)	1169
B.1351 (SA)	17
B.1.351(BR)	2
Total:	1188

Cases Over Time

- Fort McMurray 1784 (no change)
- Rural RMWB 139 (no change)
- Alberta 140,127 (505 new)
- Variants in AB 1,188 (91 new)
- Canada 921,721

Demographics (Active)

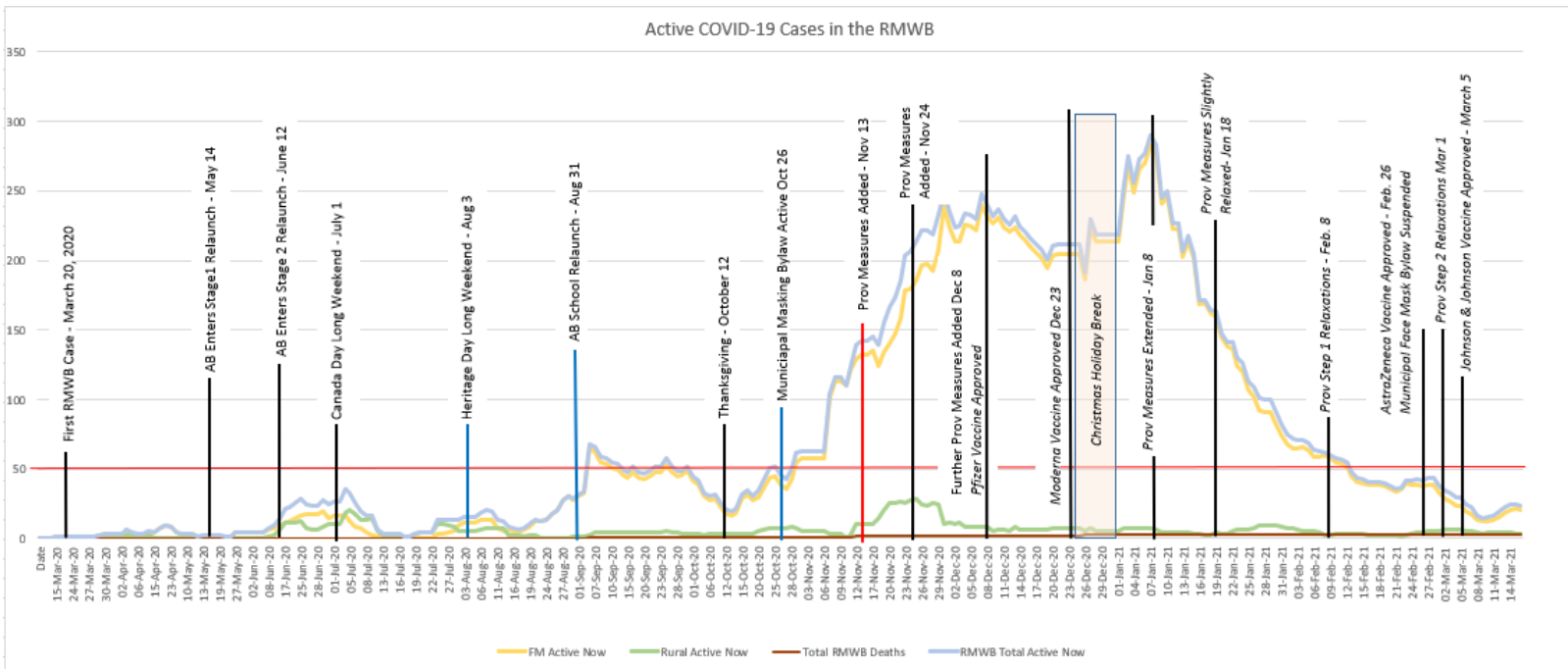
- Fort McMurray 21 (down 1)
- Rural RMWB 3 (no change)
- Alberta 5084 (up 166)
- Alberta Hosp. 264 (up 2)
- Alberta Variants 599 (up 64)
- Canada 31,948

Outbreaks

- **Industrial:**
 - CNRL Horizon
 - Kearl Lake
 - Suncor Firebag Village
 - Suncor Baseplant
 - Suncor Fort Hills
 - Syncrude Mildred Lake
- **School Alert (2-4 Cases)**
 - Holy Trinity High School

*as of Mar.17 compared to Mar. 16

**Active Cases take recoveries into account



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The Provincial Operations Centre escalated their response to Level 3 on December 8, 2020

Path Forward – Currently in Step 2

The Path Forward - For more details visit alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures

STEP 1 <600 hospitalizations	STEP 2 <450 hospitalizations	STEP 3 <300 hospitalizations	STEP 4 <150 hospitalizations
<p>Restrictions eased Feb. 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants • Indoor fitness • Children's sport and performance activities 	<p>Restrictions eased March 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further easing of indoor fitness activities • Libraries <p>Restrictions eased March 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banquet halls, community halls, conference centres and hotels • Collegiate sport and recreation activities • Further easing of performance activities • Retail 	<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult team sports • Casinos, racing centres and bingo halls • Further easing of youth sport and recreation activities • Indoor social gatherings, with restrictions • Indoor seated events (movie theatres and auditoria) • Museums, art galleries, zoos, interpretive centres • Places of worship 	<p>Potential easing in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amusement parks • Concerts (indoor) • Festivals (indoor and outdoor) • Funeral receptions • Indoor entertainment centres and play centres • Performance activities (singing, dancing and wind instruments) • Sporting events (indoor and outdoor) • Tradeshows, conferences and exhibiting events • Wedding ceremonies and receptions • Workplaces (lift working from home) • Day and overnight camps
<p>Step 1 began February 8th</p>	<p>Step 2 began March 1st, and expanded March 8th</p>	<p>The earliest Step 3 could happen is March 22 (3 weeks after Step 2 begins).</p> <p>Step 4 could possibly begin 3 weeks after Step 3 begins.</p>	

Helpful Links:

Municipal Response:

rmwb.ca/covid19

WBCentral.biz

Provincial Response:

Alberta.ca/covid19

[AB School Outbreaks](#)

[Printable Posters and Fact Sheets](#)

[Vaccination Information](#)

[Current Domestic Travel Recommendations:](#)

Federal Response:

Canada.ca/covid19

Indigenous Resources:

[Athabasca Tribal Council](#)

[First Nation Telehealth Network](#)

[Northeastern Alberta](#)

[Aboriginal Business](#)

[Association \(NAABA\)](#)

Other Resources:

FuseSocial.ca/covid-19-resources

Variants of Concern

Scientists and public health officials around the world are studying these variant strains, including how the current vaccines may help protect against them.

Current evidence suggests these variants of concern are more contagious and can spread more easily than the original COVID-19 strain.

While it is not yet clear whether these new variants tend to cause more severe illness, there is concern about the impacts if they become common in our communities. The increased spread of COVID-19 would result in more illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Symptoms in variant cases are the same as usual COVID-19 symptoms, including cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, and sore throat. See the full [list of symptoms](#).

Learn more about [COVID-19 variants](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

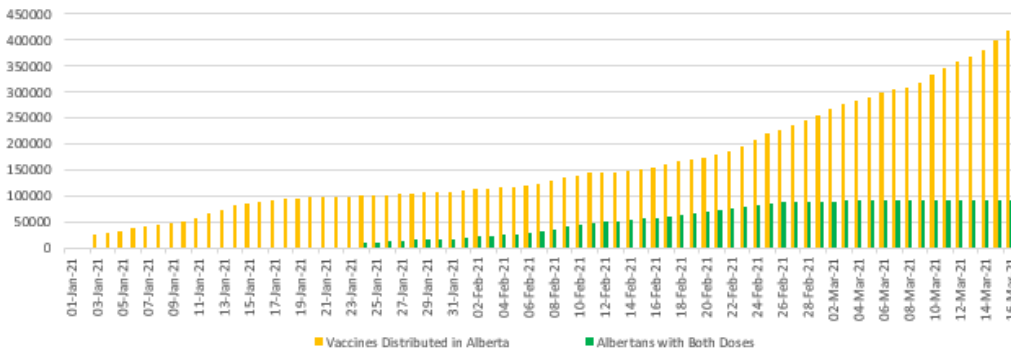


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Vaccine Updates – Sign up [here.](#)

Vaccine Distribution in Alberta



Vaccination Progress as of March 17:

4118,663 doses of vaccine have been administered in Alberta, **21,171** (297 were 2nd doses) in the last 24 hours.
92,378 Albertans have received both doses and are fully immunized.
 Rate of vaccination is **9468.0** doses per 100,000 population.
158 adverse events following immunization have been reported.

Second Dose: Emerging evidence shows first doses of the vaccine are at least 80% effective at preventing severe illness. Second doses are necessary to ensure you're protected for as long as possible. Starting March 10, second doses will be administered up to 4 months later so all Albertans over 18 are protected with the first dose faster. This change is in line with British Columbia and other jurisdictions.

Vaccine Roll Out News

Booking March 18:

Pharmacies: All eligible age groups, no matter the birth year:

Phase 1: Born 1946 or earlier

Phase 2A: Born 1947-56, FNMI born 1962-71

*Available at participating pharmacies. No walk-ins.

Online Booking: By birth year: one year added each day:

Born 1954 or earlier

FNMI born 1969 or earlier

Starting March 19 at 8am:

Phase 2A: Born 1955-56, FNMI 1970-71

Call Health Link 811:

By birth year, one year added each day:

Born 1954 or earlier

FNMI born 1969 or earlier

AstraZeneca: Born 1957-61, FNMI 1972-76

*FNMI – First Nations, Métis, Inuit



Vaccines approved by Health Canada:

- [Pfizer BioNTech](#), approved Dec. 9, 2020
- [Moderna](#), approved Dec. 23, 2020
- [Astra-Zeneca](#), approved Feb. 26, 2021
- [Janssen](#), approved Mar. 5, 2021

Learn more about vaccine safety [here.](#)

Sign up to be notified when it is your turn [here.](#)

Book your appointment online [here.](#)
 FNMI book your appointment by calling Health Link 811.



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Vaccination Program

Early Phase 1 (December 2020): Complete

- Health-care workers in intensive care units
- Respiratory therapists
- Staff in long term care and designated supportive living facilities

Phase 1A (January to March 2021):

- Vaccinations are being offered to key populations across the province:
- Respiratory therapists
- Health-care workers in intensive care units, emergency departments, COVID-19 units, medical and surgical units, and operating rooms
- Paramedics and emergency medical responders
- Staff in long term care and designated supportive living facilities
- Home care workers
- All residents of long-term care and designated supportive living, regardless of age
- First Nations, Métis and persons 65 years of age and over living in a First Nations community or Métis Settlement
- Seniors 75 years of age and over, no matter where they live.

Phase 2: April to September 2021:

Phase 2: Group A (Booking begins March 15 by year of birth)

- Albertans aged 65 to 74, no matter where they live
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis people aged 50 and older no matter where they live

Phase 2: AstraZeneca (Limited Supply Remaining)

The following groups are eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine early, while supply lasts:

- Albertans born 1957 to 1971 (turning 50 to 64)
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) persons born 1972 to 1986 (turning 35 to 49)

How to book:

The following birth years can call 811 to book appointments for the remaining doses:

- Born 1957-61
- FNMI born 1972-76

AstraZeneca cannot be booked online or in pharmacies at this time.

Not Yet Eligible: Phase 2 is broken into 4 groups. Vaccinations for Group B will begin once Group A has been completed. Timelines are subject to change depending on supply. Details on how to get the vaccine will be released prior to each group.

Phase 2: Group B (UPDATED March 15)

• Albertans born 2005 to 1957 (16 to 64) with any one of the following high-risk underlying health conditions:

- Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen (a missing spleen or a spleen that is no longer working)
- Cancer (anyone with a new diagnosis of or treatment for all forms of cancer in the last year, except non-invasive skin cancer)
- Chronic heart disease and vascular disease:
 - Including: congenital heart disease, chronic heart failure, heart or kidney disease from high blood pressure, and a history of a stroke
 - Not including: high blood pressure alone
- Chronic kidney diseases requiring regular medical monitoring or treatment
- Chronic Liver disease due to any cause (for example: cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis, and hemochromatosis)
- Chronic neurological disease (for example: epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, MS, muscular dystrophy and dementia)
- Chronic respiratory (lung) diseases:
 - Including: COPD, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, and severe asthma that required an asthma-related emergency department visit or hospital admission in the past year
 - Not including: mild or well-controlled asthma
- Diabetes requiring insulin or other anti-diabetic medication to control
- Immunosuppression: a weakened immune response due to disease or treatment, including:
 - anyone undergoing chemotherapy or treatment for HIV, genetic disorders of the immune system
 - people receiving long-term medical treatment to control severe inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus
- Pregnancy: anyone who is currently pregnant
- Severe mental illness or substance use disorder requiring a hospital stay during the past year (for example: schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders and others)
- Severe obesity: a Body Mass Index of 40 kg/m² or more
- Severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay:
 - Including: individuals with Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and others
- Not including: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients

[Detailed clinical breakdown of these conditions and who is eligible](#)

Confirming eligibility

- A doctor's or pharmacist's note is not required to get the vaccine. However, you may want to talk to your doctor or pharmacist to help you understand if your condition is on this list

