

# COVID-19 UPDATE

The [RMWB Municipal Face Covering Bylaw](#) has been reactivated as of March 24. The [Provincial Mask Requirement](#) remains in place.

**Variant of Concern information on Page 2**

Rate per 100,000 pop.: **128.2**

R-Value (“Rest of Alberta” - Everywhere outside Edmonton and Calgary): **1.04**

(if above 1, then a sick person is likely to infect more than one other person)

**Schools Outbreak (5-9 Cases)**

- Holy Trinity High School

**Alert (2-4 Cases)**

- Ecole McTavish High School

**RMWB Case Outcomes: 107 Active Cases 1918 Resolved Cases 3 Deceased Cases**



**Cases Over Time**

- Fort McMurray 1887 (9 New)
- Rural RMWB 141 (no change)
- Alberta 146,885 (545new)
- Variants in AB 3317 (249 new)
- Canada 968,453



**Demographics (Active)**

- Fort McMurray 105 (up 3)
- Rural RMWB 2 (no change)
- Alberta 7922 (up 224)
- Alberta Hosp. 288 (up 11)
- Alberta Variants 2152 (up 180)
- Canada 44,186



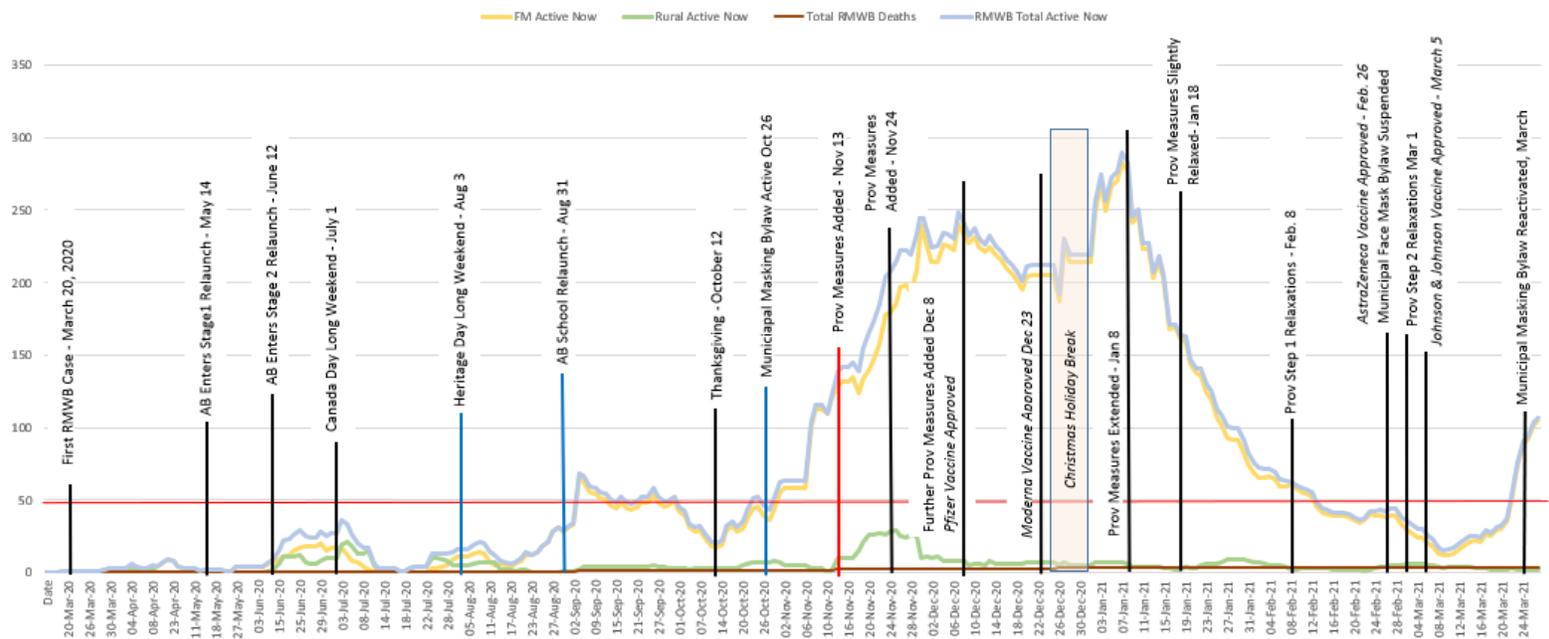
**Outbreaks**

- **Industrial:**
- CNRL Horizon
- CNRL Albion
- Kearl Lake
- Suncor Firebag Village
- Suncor Baseplant
- Syncrude Mildred Lake

OSCA has released [“The Oil Sands Industry Covid-19 Response and Management Lessons Learned”](#)

\*as of end of Mar.28 compared to Mar. 27 \*\*Active Cases take recoveries into account

Active COVID-19 Cases in the RMWB



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

### Helpful Links:

#### Municipal Response:

[rmwb.ca/covid19](http://rmwb.ca/covid19)

[WBCentral.biz](http://WBCentral.biz)

#### Provincial Response:

[Alberta.ca/covid19](http://Alberta.ca/covid19)

[AB School Outbreaks](#)

[Printable Posters and Fact Sheets](#)

[Vaccination Information](#)

[Current Domestic Travel Recommendations:](#)

#### Federal Response:

[Canada.ca/covid19](http://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](http://FuseSocial.ca/covid-19-resources)

### Variants of Concern

Variants are viruses that have changed or mutated while reproducing inside an infected person's cells. The variant can be spread to others and may continue to mutate as it moves from person to person.

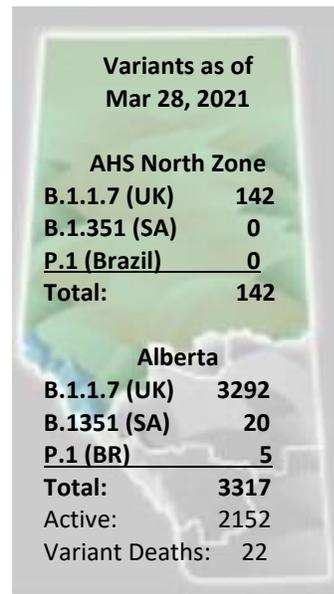
New variant strains of COVID-19 were recently identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil, and have since been identified in many other countries around the world. These strains are known as variants of concern, as they appear to spread more easily than other COVID-19 strains.

Although the variants are more contagious, they can be prevented the same way as the original virus:

[Follow all mandatory public health measures](#)

[Get tested if you have any symptoms](#)

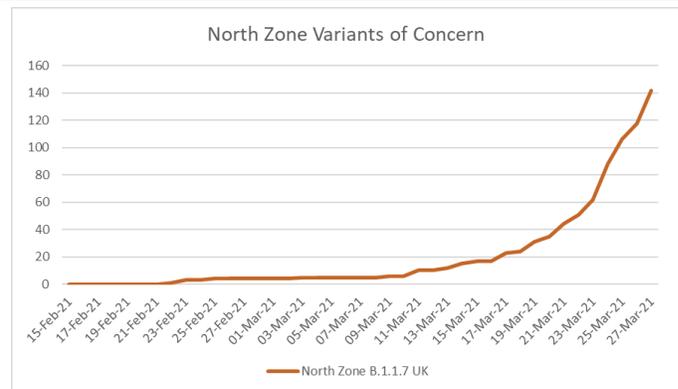
[Know the isolation and quarantine requirements for the different strains](#)



AHS does not release local statistics for the RMWB at this time, only for the AHS North Zone as highlighted in green in the map to the left.

While this area is very large, it does give indication of spread. AHS has now started tracking active variant cases, deaths resulting from variant cases, and what percentage of all active cases are variants.

**Today, Variants represent 27.2% of all active Covid-19 cases.**



### The Path Forward

[Roadmap to help Albertans understand how restrictions will be eased in steps.](#)

**Step 1:** Began Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>

**Step 2:** Began March 1<sup>st</sup>, expanded March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Step 3:** May be reconsidered when hospitalizations remain under 300 and are trending downwards, along with new cases and active case counts.

**Step 4:** Could possibly begin 3 weeks after Step 3 begins.

### FAQs

- Day camps will not be permitted over spring break.
- Working from home is mandatory unless the employer requires the employee's physical presence to operate effectively. This requirement is in effect until Step 4.
- All indoor social gatherings are prohibited – public and private.
- Out-of-town visitors cannot stay in other people's homes, regardless of where they are coming from. Exception for child returning home from post-secondary.
- Travel inside Alberta: If you must travel:
  - follow physical distancing and gathering restrictions
  - take all necessary precautions to protect your health and the health of others
  - download and use the [mobile contact tracing app](#) while out in public

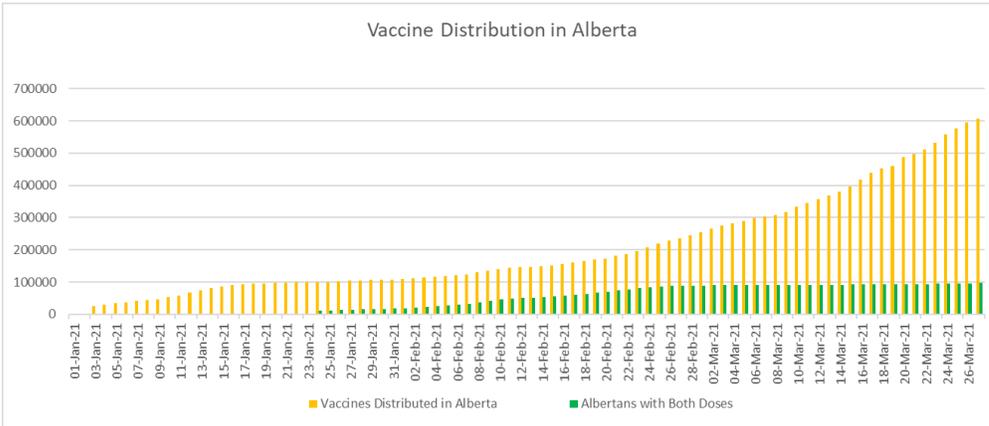
More information can be found [here](#).



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## Vaccine Updates – Sign up [here](#).



### Vaccination Progress as of March 28:

**608,302** doses of vaccine have been administered in Alberta.  
**13,579** (1114 2<sup>nd</sup> doses) in the last 24 hours.  
**97,561** Albertans have received both doses and are fully immunized.  
Rate of vaccination is **13,750.5** doses per 100,000 population.  
**200** adverse events following immunization have been reported.

Alberta is temporarily suspending use of AstraZeneca for anyone under the age of 55. This is a precautionary measure. There are no reported cases of the blood clot issues in Alberta or Canada. Studies to determine what vaccines people who had a first dose of AstraZeneca should receive. AstraZeneca is still recommended for people 55 and older.

**Phase 2B starts tomorrow – anyone with underlying health issues.**

## Vaccine Roll Out News

### Now Booking:

#### Pharmacies:

Phase 1: Born 1946 or earlier

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

Phase 2B: Born 1957-63\*

\*Available at participating pharmacies. No walk-ins.

#### Online Booking:

Phase 1: Born 1946 or earlier

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

Phase 2B: Born 1957-59

### Call Health Link 811:

Phase 1: Born 1946 or earlier

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

Phase 2B: Born 1957-59

\*FNMI – First Nations, Métis, Inuit



### Vaccines approved by Health Canada:

- [Pfizer BioNTech](#), approved Dec. 9, 2020
- [Moderna](#), approved Dec. 23, 2020
- [AstraZeneca](#), 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:
- 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
- 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

#### Vaccine Information: [More Info Here](#)

All 3 vaccines help our bodies learn how to protect us against future infection from the virus that causes COVID-19, but use a different mechanism to get the attention of the immune system:

- AstraZeneca uses a viral vector vaccine, a harmless common cold adenovirus, to teach immune system how to recognize and fight the real virus. It does not use the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Moderna and Pfizer use a mRNA technology to teach cells how to make a protein to trigger an immune response and make antibodies to fight the real virus. It does not alter your DNA.

While all 3 vaccines are highly effective, Moderna and Pfizer appear to be slightly more effective than AstraZeneca:

- Moderna and Pfizer are 80-90% effective in preventing severe illness and death

- AstraZeneca is about 60-70% effective in reducing infection and 80% effective in preventing severe illness and death. It may be less effective preventing spread to others, but evidence is still emerging.

## Starting Tuesday, March 30

### Phase 2: Group B

• 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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

