

# COVID-19 UPDATE

On Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Alberta declared a State of Public Health Emergency.

## Fort McMurray

- 9 New Cases over weekend
- 50 Active (-6)
- 8122 Recovered (+15)
- 8190 Ever
- 18 Deaths (0 new)
- 63 cases per 100,000 pop
- **Vaccination:**
  - 75.7% First Dose
  - 70.2% Second Dose
  - Vaccinations are a percentage of those eligible, which now includes 5-11 year olds.

**AHS North Zone Data:**  
**56 Hospitalizations (-9)**  
**6 ICU (-1)**  
**392 Deaths Ever in North Zone**

## Rural RMWB

- 0 New Cases
- 1 Active (+0)
- 481 Recovered (+0)
- 484 Ever
- 2 Deaths (0 New)
- 24.6 cases per 100,000 pop
- **Vaccination**
  - 75.7% First Dose
  - 65.1% Second Dose
  - Vaccinations are a percentage of those eligible, which now includes 5-11 year olds.

## Alberta

- 806 New Cases over weekend (325 on Nov. 26, 253 on Nov. 27, 228 on Nov. 28)
- 4,850 Active (-167)
- 335,009 Ever
- 3,242 deaths (+7)
- 77 ICU (-13)
- 432 Hospitalizations (-23)
- **Vaccination**
  - 80.8% First Dose
  - 75.9% Second Dose
  - Vaccinations are a percentage of those eligible, which now includes 5-11 year olds.
  - Statistics as of end of day Nov. 28 compared to Nov. 25, 2021

## Outbreaks in RMWB:

Elsie Yanik Out of School Care  
 Suncor Fort Hills

**R-Value for "Rest of Alberta" is 0.80**

## School Status:

Alert (2-4 Cases)  
 Elsie Yanik

Alert (5-9 Cases)  
 none

## Travel Changes Effective Today, November 30, 2021:

Starting today, all air, train, or ship travellers over age 12 in Canada must be fully vaccinated before boarding and must provide proof. Molecular tests will no longer be accepted as an alternative. There are very limited exemptions to this rule.

Negative PCR tests less than 72 hours old for travellers entering Canada remain mandatory, except in cases where travel is less than 72 hours by land or air.

Travellers from southern African countries including South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini are now banned. Anyone who has arrived from those countries in the last 14 days are asked to quarantine and seek testing. Canadians and other permanent residents returning to Canada through another country must get a negative Covid-19 test result in the third country, and be tested upon arrival in Canada, and quarantine until negative test result, and test again on day 8.

## Omicron Variant: "O"

On November 9, a new variant of Covid-19 was identified in South Africa, in testing efforts to explain a steep rise in Covid-19 cases in the region.

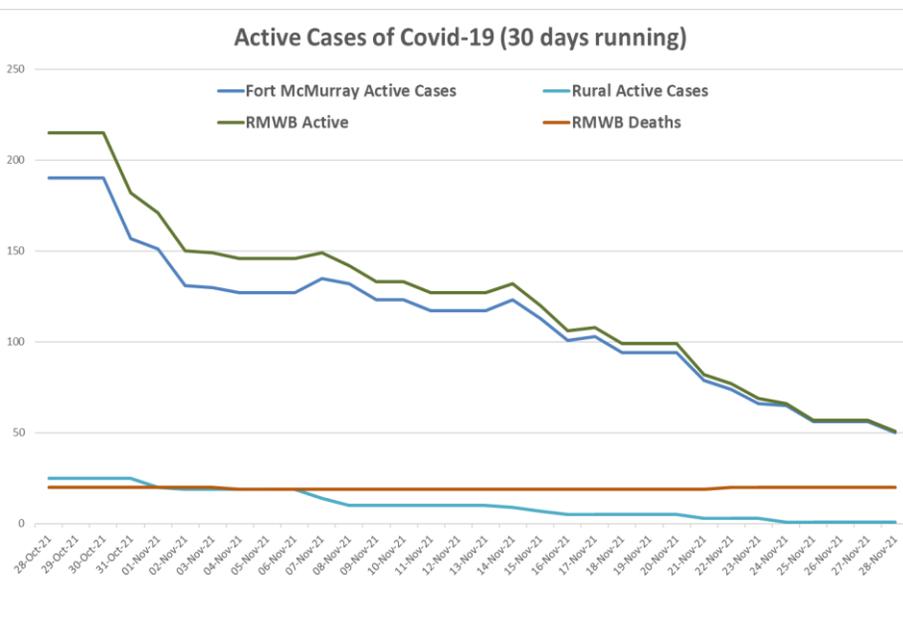
What we know:

- [Omicron was classified as a Variant of Concern on Nov. 26 by the World Health Organization.](#)
- Omicron is unique in that it has over 30 mutations and may be more contagious than previous variants according to WHO.
- No cases identified in Alberta as of yet.
- 5 cases identified in Canada: 4 in Ontario and 1 in Quebec.
- 99.8% of last weeks screened cases were positive for the Delta variant, all non-Delta cases from travellers are being re-screened for Omicron.
- Unimmunized and partially immunized close contacts of confirmed case in any returning traveler will be asked to quarantine for 14 days.



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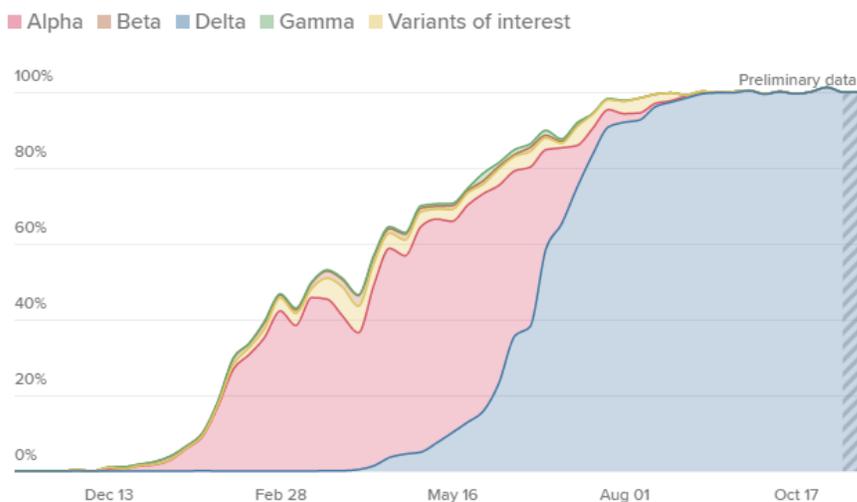


Variants (number of cases)	AHS North Zone	Alberta
Alpha (B.1.1.7 UK)	6249	45,870
Beta (B.1.351 South Africa)	34	180
Delta (B.1.617 India)	13,354	60,584
Gamma (P.1. Brazil)	768	2924
Kappa (B.1.617.1 India 2)	0	19
Omicron (B.1.1.529)	0	0

**Variant Names:**  
 Variants follow the Greek alphabet; this system was announced by the World Health Organization last May. Not all variants that are named are considered “Variants of Concern” or VOCs. “Variants of Interest” or VOIs are not publicly tracked in the same way. Some letters are skipped, such as “Nu” as it sounds too much like “new”.

## COVID-19 Variants in Canada

Percentage breakdown of variants detected in COVID-19 samples collected across Canada.



Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta are designated variants of concern: COVID-19 viruses with mutations that increase transmissibility, severity or other public health impacts. Variants of interest are other variants which have potentially harmful mutations, but which currently lack evidence for increased risk to public health.

The most recent estimates are delayed because sequencing can take several weeks. Newer estimates are based on limited data and may change as new samples are added.

Last Updated: November 26, 2021 at 03:39 pm EST

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

The QR Code is now the only acceptable form of proof of vaccination for facilities participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP). Download or print yours here: [Alberta Covid Records](#)

For more information on the REP program and Holiday Guidance, visit [COVID-19 public health actions | Alberta.ca](#)

- Active Public Health Orders:**
- [Order 50-2021](#) – Introduces the QR code requirement for the Restrictions Exemption Program.
  - [Order 47-2021](#) – Lowers outdoor gathering size capacity from 200 to 20.
  - [Order 46-2021](#) – Outlining Restrictions Exemption Program for quick service restaurants
  - [Order 45-2021](#) – Outlining conditions of Restrictions Exemption Program
  - [Order 44-2021](#) – Outlining public health measures to protect Alberta’s health system from Covid-19.
  - [Order 34-2021](#) – Outlining Covid-19 masking restrictions for Stage 3 of Alberta’s Open for Summer Plan.

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Vaccinations	Fort McMurray	Rural	Provincial
75+ Fully Vaccinated	79.7%	97.8%	92.9%
60-74 Fully Vaccinated	84.6%	94.5%	93.0%
40-59 Fully Vaccinated	83.8%	79.7%	84.5%
20-39 Fully Vaccinated	71.6%	61.2%	76.5%
12-19 Fully Vaccinated	80.2%	59.6%	77.7%
5-11 First Dose	4.0%	1.4%	4.7%

## Fort McMurray Walk-in Clinic:

Thickwood Medical Plaza

103-108 Wolverine Drive

Hours of Operation:

Mon. to Fri.: 9am – 8pm

Sat. & Sun.: 9am – 4pm

## Vaccinations for Children 5-11 Years Old:

Children aged 5-11 are now eligible for a “Pediatric” vaccine. Vaccines may only be booked through AHS or 811 (not pharmacies). Appointments are available now.

- Health Canada has approved the Pfizer vaccine for use in this age group, and it is also approved in the USA.
- The children’s dose is 1/3 of the regular vaccine.
- The vaccine is 90.7% effective in preventing illness and no serious side effects were identified.
- Children should wait at least 14 days between the Covid-19 Vaccine and the seasonal flu shot, or other childhood immunizations.

### How to book:

- Book Online here: [Registration \(alberta.ca\)](https://www.alberta.ca/registration)
- Or Call 811

### More Information:

- Read this message from Dr. Hinshaw: [Covid-19 vaccine for children age 5 to 11 | Alberta.ca](#)
- Review this AHS webpage on importance of immunizing children: [COVID-19 Immunization for Children Under 12 | Alberta Health Services](#)
- Participate in the telephone townhall for parents who have questions about children’s vaccinations.

## Telephone Townhall with Dr. Deena Hinshaw

Date: Today, Tuesday November 30, 2021

Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm

Pre-Register [HERE](#). You will be contacted at the phone number provided to join the event.

## Second and Booster Doses:

The following groups are eligible for booster doses:

- Immunocompromised
- Albertans 70+
- Residents of seniors’ supportive living
- Any First Nations, Métis, and Inuit person over 18.
- Health care workers
- Travellers who received two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen
- Must wait 6 months after second dose.

Second Doses must wait at least 8 weeks after second shot.

[More info here.](#)

## Key Messages from AHS:

- Vaccines are a critical way to limit the spread of COVID-19. They are effective and safe. Immunization protects your health, as well as the health of your loved ones and the community.
- Expanding vaccine coverage to 5-11 year olds provides these children with protection from COVID-19 as well as protection for their families, siblings, friends and classmates.
- Only vaccines that are safe and effective will be approved for use in Canada. After a vaccine is approved for use, evidence on safety and effectiveness is reviewed by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization who provide recommendations on immunizations for individuals and for public health programs.
- It’s understandable that parents want to have as much information as possible before getting their child immunized. If you have questions, we recommend that you reach out to your child’s pediatrician, your family physician, primary healthcare provider or call Health Link at 811 and talk to a registered nurse.

