

COVID-19 in First Nations People in Alberta: Health Zone breakdowns

Background

Alberta Health compiles a weekly report on COVID-19 in First Nations People in all of Alberta. This report includes information on cases among First Nations people living on and off reserve. We email it to a distribution list and the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (AFNIGC) posts it on their website (afnigc.ca). If you have any questions, or would like to receive it directly via email each week, please email Health.Surveillance@gov.ab.ca.

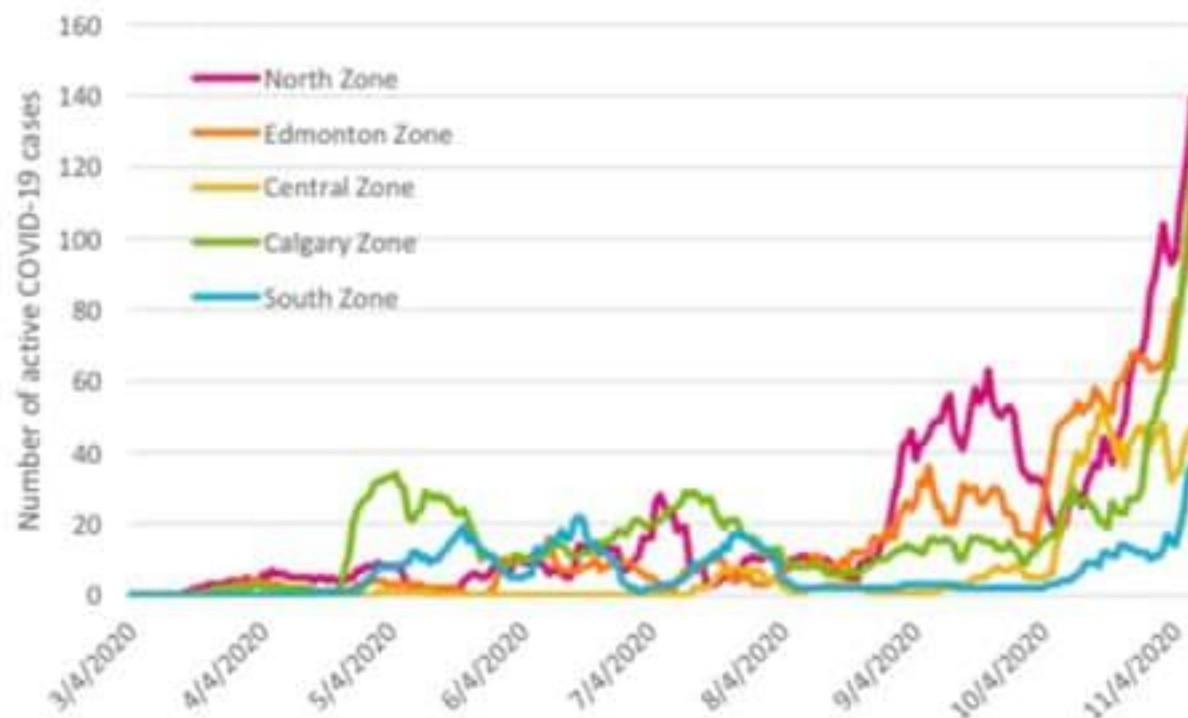
Through Health Co-Management, we were asked to provide, in partnership with AFNIGC, further details on COVID-19 cases by Health Zones (see attachment for a map of these areas). This document includes those details. They will also be presented to Health Directors at a meeting on Nov 19.

Please Note: We identify the location of cases by postal code of residence in our Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan records. Some people have not updated their address information and, therefore, they may be included in a different location than their current residence or may be missing location information. As a result, numbers provided here may differ from your experience. For information on how we identify First Nations people in our health datasets, please see the Data Notes in the Appendix.

All Alberta First Nations

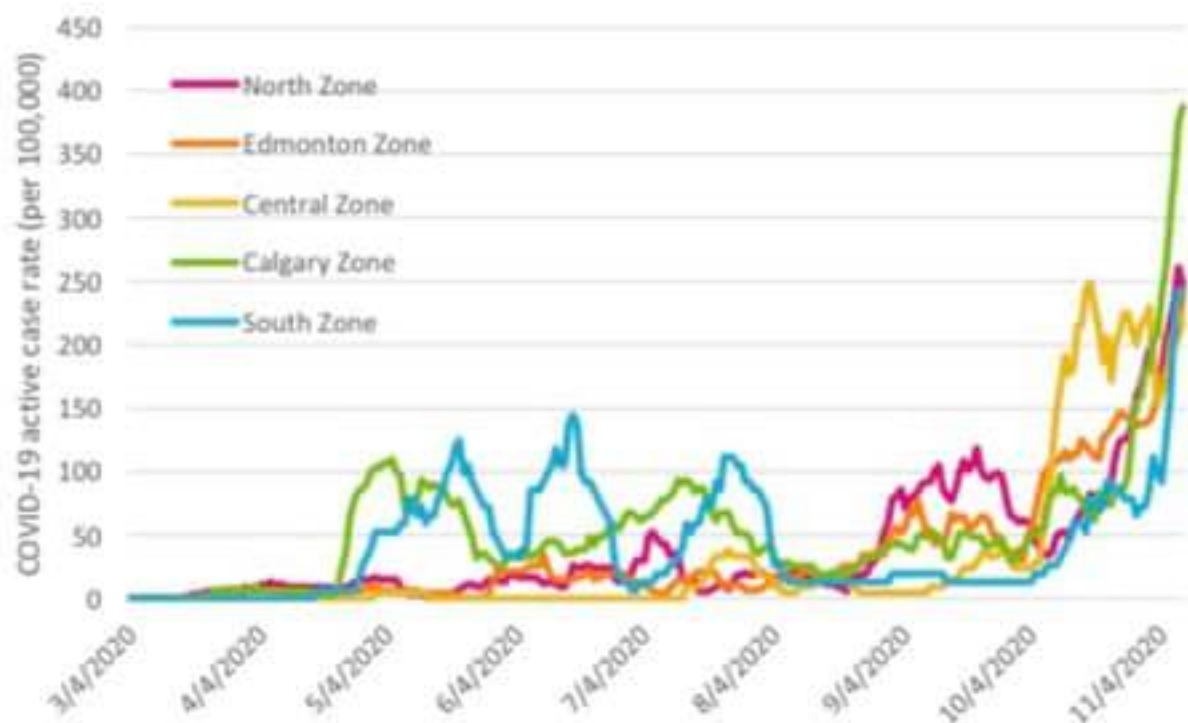
- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 1,523 COVID-19 cases (including 2 cases with unknown location in Alberta)
 - 100 hospitalizations (15 in ICU)
 - 16 deaths
- The average age of cases is 30 years (range: less than 1 year to 90 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 37% (558/1,523) were a close contact of a known case
 - 44% (668/1,523) had an unknown exposure
 - 16% (237/1,523) were linked to an outbreak
 - 4% (60/1,523) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 446 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic.

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in Alberta by Health Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



- The figure above shows total case numbers, but the following figure shows active case rates over time, which account for the number of First Nations people in each Health Zone. It shows that, when the size of the population is factored in, COVID-19 active case rates are currently highest in the Calgary Zone.

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in Alberta by Health Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



South Zone

- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 133 COVID-19 cases
 - 6 hospitalizations (2 in ICU)
 - 1 death
- The average age of cases is 32.5 years (range: 1 year to 87 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 50% (67/133) were a close contact of a known case
 - 35% (46/133) had an unknown exposure
 - 12% (16/133) were linked to an outbreak
 - 3% (4/133) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 37 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic (see Figure).

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in South Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



Calgary Zone

- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 336 COVID-19 cases
 - 21 hospitalizations (5 in ICU)
 - 3 deaths
- The average age of cases is 31 years (range: less than 1 year to 88 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 36% (121/336) were a close contact of a known case
 - 44% (148/336) had an unknown exposure
 - 16% (55/336) were linked to an outbreak
 - 4% (12/336) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 120 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic (see Figure).

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in Calgary Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



Central Zone

- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 160 COVID-19 cases
 - 5 hospitalizations (1 in ICU)
 - 1 death
- The average age of cases is 28.5 years (range: 1 year to 83 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 17% (27/160) were a close contact of a known case
 - 72% (115/160) had an unknown exposure
 - 9% (15/160) were linked to an outbreak
 - 2% (3/160) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 45 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic (see Figure).

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in Central Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



Edmonton Zone

- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 398 COVID-19 cases
 - 37 hospitalizations (3 in ICU)
 - 4 deaths
- The average age of cases is 28 years (range: less than 1 year to 89 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 31% (124/398) were a close contact of a known case
 - 37% (149/398) had an unknown exposure
 - 26% (103/398) were linked to an outbreak
 - 6% (22/398) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 112 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic (see Figure).

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in Edmonton Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



North Zone

- As of November 9, 2020, there has been a total of:
 - 494 COVID-19 cases
 - 30 hospitalizations (4 in ICU)
 - 7 deaths
- The average age of cases is 30 years (range: less than 1 year to 90 years old)
- Cases had the following types of exposure:
 - 44% (124/494) were a close contact of a known case
 - 43% (149/494) had an unknown exposure
 - 9% (103/494) were linked to an outbreak
 - 4% (22/494) were related to travel
- As of November 9, 2020 there were 132 active cases, which is higher than at any other point during the pandemic (see Figure).

Figure: Number of active COVID-19 cases in First Nations people living in North Zone, March 4 – Nov 9, 2020



Appendix

Data Notes

Each COVID-19 case is assigned a First Nations status if they are on the cumulative First Nations Status Registry. The First Nations Status Registry is a listing of all Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) registrants who have ever been associated with a First Nations group number since 1983. Furthermore, if an individual without ever showing a First Nations group number is on an AHCIP account for which the main registrant has had a First Nations group number at some point since 1983, the individual is also placed on the First Nations Status registry.

The Provincial Surveillance Information system (PSI) is a laboratory surveillance system which receives positive results for all Notifiable Diseases and diseases under laboratory surveillance from Alberta Precision Labs (APL). The system also receives negative results for a subset of organisms such as COVID-19. The system contains basic information on characteristics and demographics such as age, zone and gender.

Active cases are those still in their infectious period who have not yet recovered. Cases are considered to have recovered 14 days after their test sample was collected (or for those who were not tested, the date the case was reported to Alberta Health), as long as they are not in hospital. Hospitalized cases are considered to have recovered 10 days after they are discharged from hospital.

Information such as hospitalizations and ICU admissions are received through enhanced case report forms sent by Alberta Health Services (AHS).