

# Provincial response COVID-19 pandemic

Information for Indigenous communities – April 9, 2020

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Thank you to everyone who is working hard to keep communities safe – from dropping off hampers to connecting with Elders. Every bit will help now and in the long term.

The best way to stop the spread is to keep physical distance while practising good hygiene:

- washing our hands regularly and for 20 seconds each time
- covering coughs and sneezes with our inner elbows or upper arms
- keeping a tall-person's distance between our bodies and people who don't live with us

Here is some of the latest information to keep yourself safe and connected to provincial support you may need.

## Taking care of finances

Many people in Alberta have been struggling to match payments with their incomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Look to these programs and services for support.

### Emergency isolation support

This program closed after successfully distributing about \$91.7 million to eligible people in Alberta. People who have stopped working because of COVID-19 may be able to get \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks through the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit**.

[Read the details and fill out the form](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ceb-application.html)

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### Price gouging

Some people in Alberta have chosen to take advantage of people's concerns about COVID-19.



Alberta's Consumer Protection Act covers many sales, but not private sales between individuals. If you are aware of a business that is overcharging, misleading or exploiting buyers, you can

[Reach the Consumer Investigation Unit](#)

- **Call toll free.** 1-877-427-4088
- **Visit online.** [www.alberta.ca/file-consumer-complaint.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/file-consumer-complaint.aspx)

## Renting

The Alberta government put temporary rent protections in place for people who are underemployed because of COVID-19. This is a time for landlords and renters to work together to find solutions while keeping people as safe as possible.

Anyone who owed unpaid rental fees before April 1 still owes those fees.

The Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service can still help tenants and landlords through telephone hearings.

[Submit a request for help](#)

<https://rocs.alberta.ca/ols-rtdrs#!/ols-login>

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Prevent the spread. Visit [Alberta.ca/COVID](http://Alberta.ca/COVID)

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Alberta

## Food assistance for school kids

Nine organizations in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray will share \$3 million to expand the school nutrition program. This funding adds to the \$15.5 million school authorities received for the nutrition program for the 2019-20 school year.

## Caring for each other

This is a hard time to be away from the people we care about, especially when we are used to seeing them all the time.

## Housing and homelessness

The Alberta government announced \$60 million to support vulnerable people in Alberta. That includes:

- **\$25 million for homeless shelters** to apply safe physical distancing and isolation
- **\$5 million for emergency women's shelters** that normally get funding from the province
- **\$30 million for community or civil society organizations**, like Family and Community Support Services, to help them stay connected with their community members and co-ordinate services and programs

The federal government will invest \$20 million to increase spaces in shelters in Alberta. Another \$50 million will go to women's shelters and sexual assault centres.

## Elder care

We are taking extra measures to be sure elders in seniors homes or long-term care centres are especially safe. That means

- Allowing visits only from a person who provides a service that facility staff cannot.
- Testing all visitors before they enter the facility.
- Securing buildings to make sure only approved people enter

If you know or are an elder at home, you can call 211 to learn about resources available. Read more online at <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid19-guidance-visitation-restrictions-seniors.pdf>

## Mental health supports

This can be a hard time for people's mental wellness. The Assembly of First Nations put together this tip sheet to help people find ways to cope well:

[https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CoronaVirus\\_Factsheet\\_RED\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CoronaVirus_Factsheet_RED_ENG.pdf).

Sometimes, coping becomes too hard.

### Reach out for help if you need it

- **Kids Help Phone:** 1-800-668-6868
- **Mental Health Help Line:** 1-877-303-2642
- **Addiction Help Line:** 1-866-332-2322

## Getting ready

Spring weather in Alberta can be hard on the environment. Unfortunately, people can be, too, and we can all do our part.



Please watch for updates on emergency management in a future newsletter.

## Indigenous jobs in emergency management

The Government of Alberta has 29 sole-source contracts with Indigenous communities with jobs for 232 people for about 3 months. Between 10 and 15 per cent of permanent and seasonal wildfire staff identify as Indigenous.

There is room in each contract to hire more crews if they are needed to manage wildfires according to provincial priorities.

## Resources

Visit [alberta.ca/COVID](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID) for the latest information about provincial programs and supports.

You can also call 310-4455 to speak with someone who can help you find the information you need.