



# The VOICE of Albertans with Disabilities

June 26, 2020

## July is Disability Pride Month!

This annual observance is used to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities. Using bold images and strong words, disability pride awareness dates, parades and festivals both uplift and challenge.

Disability Pride is the idea that people with disabilities should be proud of their disabled identity. The movement for disability pride has its roots in the pride awareness events of other minority communities, such as Black pride and LGBT pride. The United States' first Disability Pride Parade was held in Boston, MA in 1990. Disability pride parades have since spread to many locations across the U.S., including San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Silicon Valley/Santa Clara County, and internationally, such as Norway, the United Kingdom, and South Korea. The Chicago Disability Pride Parade describes the goals in its mission statement: To change the way people think about and define "disability"; To break down and end the internalized shame among people with Disabilities; and To promote the belief in society that Disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity in which people living with Disabilities can take pride.

One organizer of Disability Pride Week at the University of Washington expressed her desire to change society's concept of people with disabilities, moving away from the medical model of disability: "I want to promote a different understanding of 'disability' beyond the medical model. I want people to realize the issue of 'disability' as a socially

created problem," Luetzow said. The medical model of disability is presented as a problem of the person, directly caused by trauma, disease, or other health condition, which requires sustained medical care. On the other hand, the management of the problem within the social model of disability requires social action and cultural, individual, community, and large-scale change.

## Disability Pride Month

### July 2020

**July is Disability Pride Month!**

**This annual observance is used to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.**





[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca); [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

## Coronavirus: Alberta eases 30-day limit on prescription refills

By Caley Ramsay Global News

Alberta pharmacists will soon be able to dispense larger quantities of prescription drugs, after a 30-day limit was put in place amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting on June 15, pharmacists in Alberta can once again hand out up to a 100-day supply of prescription drugs.

“We are confident that now is the time to adjust our guidance to help Albertans make fewer visits to pharmacies and to support pharmacists in reducing the volume of prescriptions to fill,” Health Minister Tyler Shandro said in a media release Wednesday.

The move to limit prescriptions to a one-month supply was announced in March amid concerns of world-wide drug supply shortages. This made sure pharmacies could supply people with the prescriptions they needed and the move was backed by pharmacy organizations such as the Alberta Pharmacists’ Association and the Alberta College of Pharmacy.

The province said Wednesday that while supply levels appear to be returning to normal, some drugs are still in limited supply. Pharmacists are asked to use their professional judgement and dispense a 30-day supply for drugs that continue to have shortages.

“Drug shortages are an increasing problem for Canadians, and in some cases, COVID has made this worse,” said Greg Eberhart with the Alberta College of Pharmacy.



“Therefore, as Alberta Health relaxes this policy, pharmacists should use their professional judgment to limit the dispensed quantities of specific drugs that continue to be short, and continue their commitment to appropriate drug therapy. We will continue to work with Alberta Health and other provincial and national partners to monitor drug shortages.”

A drug shortage list is posted for pharmacists on the Alberta Blue Cross website for reference. The province said Albertans can also access a list of drugs in short supply on the Drug Shortages Canada website.

The province said it will work with pharmacies to continue to monitor the drug supply and if a shortage presents itself again, limits could be reintroduced.

## Where to get PPE in Edmonton & Calgary - Masks for Albertans program

The City of Calgary

- Calgary Neighbourhoods
- Social Programs
- Youth Employment Centre
- Seniors Services Home Maintenance program
- Fair Entry – Municipal building location
- Youth Justice
- Calgary Housing
- Calgary Community Standards - Bylaw
- Corporate Security
- Calgary Police Service
- Calgary Parks
- Calgary Transit

Partners

- University of Calgary
- Calgary Public Library
- Calgary Zoo
- Heritage Park
  - Aero Space Museum
  - Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens’ Association
  - Calgary Chinese Community Service Association



*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**



[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca); [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

- Carya
- The Salvation Army
- Jewish Family Service Calgary
- Centre for Newcomers
- Immigrant Services Calgary
- Catholic Family Service
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary
- Calgary Food Bank
- Calgary Counselling Centre
- Community Kitchen Program
- The Alex
- Alpha House
- Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly



#### The City of Edmonton

- Public Libraries
- Pharmacies
- RCMP
- Public Transit
- Food Banks
- A&W, McDonald's Canada, or Tim Hortons drive-thrus

- Call 211 if you cannot access a drive-thru partner and are not able to access masks through alternate municipal or community providers listed.
- Go to [alberta.ca/masks](http://alberta.ca/masks) for more information on the proper care and use of face masks.
- Go to [alberta.ca/covid19](http://alberta.ca/covid19) for the most up-to-date information on restrictions to contain COVID19.

[https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx?utm\\_source=redirect&utm\\_medium=sticker&utm\\_campaign=Covid19&utm\\_term=masks](https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=sticker&utm_campaign=Covid19&utm_term=masks)

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17048.aspx>

## How to use a Cloth Mask

Masks can become contaminated on the outside or when touched with hands. It's important that masks are used and disposed of properly. If worn incorrectly, you

can accidentally spread infection instead of preventing it.

#### What to do

- Wash or sanitize your hands:
  - before putting it on
  - before taking it off
  - after taking it off
- Tighten with ties or ear loops to reduce gaps
- Keep nose, mouth and chin covered at all times
- Remove if wet, torn or dirty and dispose in lined garbage bin
- Store cloth masks in a sealed bag until it can be washed in hot, soapy water



#### What not to do

- Don't touch your face under the mask
- Don't touch the front of the mask – remove or adjust using the ties or ear loops
- Don't wear it under your nose or your chin
- Don't wear a wet, torn or dirty mask
- Don't wear the same mask for a long period of time – change when it becomes damp
- Don't share with another person

#### How to care for your cloth mask

- Store masks in a sealed and clean storage bag and place in a dry area of your home.
- Put cloth masks directly into the washing machine or in a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine. Throw out the bag after you've used it to store masks.
- Launder with other items using a hot cycle, and then dry thoroughly.
- Inspect the mask for damage prior to reuse.

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/989e490e-5959-4a20-bfc7-b126b08ea996/resource/523f7856-31f5-4af1-be62-3a48a0acad4c/download/covid-19-guidance-for-wearing-non-medical-masks.pdf>



*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**



[www.vadsociety.ca](http://www.vadsociety.ca); [vad@vadsociety.ca](mailto:vad@vadsociety.ca)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

## Home Accessibility Tax Credit

Home Accessibility Tax Credit (HATC) Renovations that make homes safer or more accessible for seniors or the disabled may qualify for a tax credit. If you are a senior or hold a valid disability tax certificate or are supporting a qualifying individual, up to \$10,000 in expenses can be claimed.

### Who Qualifies For the HATC?

Seniors aged 65 years or older, as well as taxpayers who hold a valid DTC, are considered qualified. Qualified individuals may claim this credit directly. If you are supporting someone who qualifies directly, you may be entitled to claim this credit on his behalf. If you claim the amount for an eligible dependant, caregiver amount, or amount for infirm dependants age 18 or older for the qualifying person, you may be eligible.

For example, imagine your elderly father resides with you and you spend \$10,000 installing a wheelchair ramp to make your home more accessible. If you are eligible to claim the caregiver amount for your father, you may claim the ramp expense on your tax return.

### What Expenses Qualify?

Generally, if the qualifying renovation allows better accessibility or improves safety, and is permanent it is eligible. Examples of qualified renovations include

- Grab bars and handrails
- Walk-in tubs or wheel-in showers
- Widening doorways for wheelchair accessibility
- Lowering cabinets
- Ineligible expenses include
- Household appliances or home-entertainment devices
- Routine maintenance
- Housekeeping costs

### How To Claim the HATC

To claim the HATC on line 31285 of your tax return,

complete the HOME Worksheet. Fill in the dates, types of expense, and names (and GST/HST numbers) of contractors or other tradespeople who performed the renovation. If you completed the work yourself, you may only claim the expense of supplies – not your own labour. If a family member performed the renovation, he/she must be registered for the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax in order to claim the labour cost. Include this GST/HST number on the HOME Worksheet along with the family member's name. As with most expenses, it not necessary to submit receipts with your tax return although it is important to retain your supporting documents in case CRA requests them.

### Double (or even Triple) Credit

Many accessibility renovations also qualify as medical expenses. You may claim the same expense for both the HATC and as an eligible medical expense if the expense qualifies for both. Some provinces, such as British Columbia and New Brunswick, offer an additional provincial credit. In effect, the same expense can be claimed three times on your tax return. For example, a senior resident of British Columbia who installs a walk-in tub to improve accessibility may claim three credits. If the expense totals

\$10,000, it breaks down as:

\$10,000 X 15% = \$1,500 federal credit for HATC

\$10,000 X 10% = \$1,000 provincial credit for British Columbia Seniors' Home Renovation Tax Credit

\$10,000 worth of medical expenses (both federal and provincial credits)

Resources:

CRA Home Accessibility Tax Credit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/programs/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/federal-government-budgets/budget-2015-strong-leadership/home-accessibility-tax-credit-hatc.html>



*Together, We Hold the Power!*

**Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity**