

MASK Distribution

Premier Jason Kenney said that the public mask program, which was first announced last month, will see 40 million masks distributed to residents. Alberta's chief medical officer of health Dr. Deena Hinshaw said her recommendation is for Albertans to wear a mask if they are going somewhere where they will be two metres from another person.

Albertans will soon be able to order single-use masks at drive-thru restaurants across the province for free, with no purchase required. The province is providing 20 million non-medical grade masks — four per person — for distribution at more than 600 A&W, Tim Hortons and McDonald's locations starting in early June, Health Minister Tyler Shandro announced Friday. The measure is intended to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in situations where physical distancing isn't possible.

"This program will help Albertans get back to work and enjoy every-day activities safely as we all continue to work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout our province," Shandro said, promising more details in "the next few weeks."

The masks, which have three layers and ear loops, are not considered personal protective equipment and are not part of the supply of masks being sent to first responders or health-care workers, Shandro said.

"Even if you don't have an A&W, a McDonald's or a Tim Hortons in your community you will be able to get your four masks," he said.

The government also plans to distribute the masks at more high-risk gathering locations such as transit and places of worship.

The fast-food companies are not charging the government to distribute the masks, Shandro said. The program is expected to cost the government less than a dollar a mask plus \$350,000 to distribute masks beyond the drive-thrus.

Guidelines on wearing non-medical masks have been provided by the government and include several health measures people should follow when putting on and taking off the face covering.

- You must wash your hands immediately before putting it on, before taking it off and immediately after

taking it off

- It should fit well (non-gaping)
- Do not share it with others
- Avoid touching your face mask while using it
- Continue practising good hand hygiene
- Change a cloth mask as soon as it gets damp or soiled
- Put it directly into the washing machine or a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine and then disposed of
- Cloth masks can be laundered with other items using a hot cycle and then dried thoroughly
- Masks that cannot be washed should be discarded and replaced as soon as they get damp, soiled or crumpled
- Dispose of masks properly in a lined garbage bin
- Don't leave discarded masks in shopping carts, on the ground, etc.



Some people are expressing concerns about how Albertans who have disabilities will be able to access masks. The distribution of masks will begin in early June. No purchase is necessary at the drive-thru. If a family member, friend or neighbour can't help, Albertans may contact 211 for support in obtaining their masks. For people who live in rural areas, or who are otherwise unable to access the masks through the drive-thrus, 211 will provide assistance to access the masks by mail while supplies last.

About 95 per cent of Albertans are located within 10 kilometers of the almost 600 restaurant partner locations across Alberta. Masks are also being shipped directly to the following groups:

- Municipalities outside a 50 km radius of drive-thrus
- First Nations
- Metis
- Long Term Care Centres
- Seniors Self Contained Units
- Homeless Shelters
- Women's Shelters
- Street Outreach programs
- Senior Organizations – including Calgary Meals on Wheels
- Addiction Treatment Centres

Education for Life Bursary

To mark the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 1998, Voice of Albertans with Disabilities initiated the Education for Life Bursary program. With this program, we



www.vadsociety.ca; vad@vadsociety.ca
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

support students who have a disability to achieve their post-secondary goals. Submit a completed application form to VAD by July 15. Information available at: <https://vadsociety.ca/support/bursaries>



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was established in 2006 to bring global attention to the need for all citizens to take responsibility in preventing elder abuse.

Research what resources are available in your community:

- Healthy Aging Collaborative Online Resources and Education: <https://corealberta.ca/>
- Call 211 or visit www.ab.211.ca for local resources

If you believe a senior requires additional supports, call:

- 911 or local police if you suspect immediate danger, or the Family Violence Info Line at 310-1818
- Mental Health Help Line at 1-877-303-2642
- Addiction Help Line at 1-866-332-2322

Alberta Relaunch Strategy

PANDEMIC RESPONSE (Prior to May 14)

During the pandemic response, the strongest public health guidelines to manage COVID-19 and foundational elements to support relaunch were put in place.

Early actions allowed some activities to resume on or prior to May 14:

Some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries.

- Dental and other regulated health-care workers such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists,

respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dieticians and more can resume services as long as they follow approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.

- Golf courses, with restrictions.
- Boat launch access in select provincial parks.
- Vehicle access to parking lots and staging areas on public lands and parks.
- Alberta Parks' online campground reservation system opens May 14 for bookings at select campgrounds starting June 1 onward, with some restrictions in place. Out-of-province bookings will not be processed.
- With enhanced testing capacity and contact tracing ability, along with a rapid response plan in place in the event of possible outbreaks, Alberta is ready to take the first incremental steps to reopen some businesses and services starting May 14.

STAGE 1 (Starting May 14)

Stage 1 allows some businesses to resume operations starting May 14 with enhanced infection prevention and controls in place.

Cities of Calgary and Brooks reopened more gradually due to higher case numbers and have fully entered Stage 1 as of June 1.

- Business operators can determine if they are ready to open and ensure all guidance for workplaces is met.
- Mask use is strongly recommended in crowded public spaces, like mass transit, that do not allow for physical distancing of 2 metres apart.

Lifted restrictions

- Retail businesses like clothing, furniture and book stores.
- All farmers' market vendors.
- Hairstyling and barber shops.
- Cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars can reopen for table service at 50% capacity.
- Some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries to resume gradually.
- Museums and art galleries.
- Daycares and out-of-school care, with occupancy limits.
- Day camps, including summer school, with occupancy limits.
 - Post-secondary institutions will continue course delivery, with flexibility for in-person delivery once the existing public health order



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity



www.vadsociety.ca; vad@vadsociety.ca
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities



prohibiting in-person classes is lifted.

- Places of worship and funeral services, if they follow sector-specific guidance.
- Dog parks and playgrounds, unless restricted by municipal authorities.

Continuing restrictions

- Gatherings of more than 15 people indoors or more than 50 people outdoors is not permitted, unless otherwise identified in public health orders or guidance, such as workplaces, places of worship or in restaurants.
- Gatherings under these limits must follow physical distancing and other guidance.
- Public attendance at businesses, facilities and events that have close physical contact is not permitted, including: arts and culture festivals, major sporting events and concerts.
- Movie theatres, pools, recreation centres, arenas, spas, nightclubs and gyms will remain closed.
- Visiting patients in health care facilities will remain limited.
- In-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12 students will remain prohibited.

Recommendations

- People over 60 or those with pre-existing health conditions should continue limiting contact with people outside their immediate household and staying home as much as possible. If you do go out, do so carefully.
- Travel outside the province is not recommended.
- Remote working is advised where possible.
- Download the ABTraceTogether mobile contact tracing app and use it when in public.
- Progression to Stage 2 will be determined by the success of Stage 1, considering health care system capacity, hospitalization and ICU cases, and infection rates.

STAGE 2 (Timing TBD)

Stage 2 will allow additional businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with 2 metre physical

distancing requirements and other public health guidelines in place.

Lifted restrictions

- Potential opening of K-12 schools, with restrictions.
- Libraries, with restrictions.
- More surgeries scheduled, including backlog elimination.
- Services offered by some allied health disciplines like acupuncture and massage therapy.
- More personal services like artificial tanning, esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatments and reflexology.
- Larger gatherings permitted in some situations (number of people to be determined).
- Restaurants, cafes, lounges and bars continue operating at reduced capacity.
- Movie theatres and theatres, with restrictions.

Continuing restrictions

- Visits to patients in health care facilities will remain limited.
- Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will remain closed.
- Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events will not be permitted.

Recommendations

- Travel outside the province is not recommended.
- Progression to Stage 3 will be determined based on success of stages 1 and 2.

STAGE 3 (Timing TBD)

Stage 3 timing will be determined based on health indicators. Some restrictions and enhanced protection controls will remain in place.

Lifted restrictions

- Fully reopening all businesses and services, with some restrictions.
- Larger gatherings permitted (number of people to be determined).
- Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major



Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity



www.vadsociety.ca; vad@vadsociety.ca
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VADisabilities

- sporting events will be permitted with restrictions.
- Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will reopen, with restrictions.
- Industry conferences can resume, with restrictions.
- No restrictions on non-essential travel.

Continuing restrictions

- Physical distancing restrictions will be maintained.

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx>

Strive Work

Virtual 8 Week Training Session

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Strive 4 Work is delivering the next 8 week training session virtually!

Employment skills development and training facilitated through an online video conferencing platform. A great opportunity to increase your skills while staying safe at home!

Eligibility Criteria

- Experience a barrier to employment (medical condition, permanent injury, disability, mental health issue, etc.)
- NOT eligible for Employment Insurance (EI)
- Must be 18+

No Computer or Internet? No Problem!

Accepted participants are provided with ALL materials needed to complete the online training.



APPLY TODAY

Program starts

June 29, 2020

To apply or for more information call:

780-777-5834

EMPLOY
Abilities

Together, We Hold the Power!

Full Participation - Accessibility - Equity