

COVID-19 Restrictions

Effective November 13

Understanding Alberta's new temporary public health measures

COVID-19 measures in Alberta

Alberta's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, announced additional public health measures to respond to rising COVID-19 spread and protect the health of Albertans.

Together, these new measures will help protect our health care system, keep schools and businesses open, and protect vulnerable Albertans.

These measures affect Edmonton and surrounding areas, Calgary and surrounding areas, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and Red Deer.

What is changing?

Effective November 13, the Alberta government is implementing new targeted measures to protect the health system and limit the spread of COVID-19.

- In all regions under watch or enhanced status, restaurants, bars, lounges and pubs will be required to stop liquor sales by 10 p.m. and close by 11 p.m.
 - This measure allows businesses to stay open but will help limit the duration of risky behaviour associated with social mingling, coupled with the consumption of alcohol.
 - Similar measures are in place in B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.
 - This measure is mandatory and will be in effect from November 13-27.
- There will be a two-week ban on group fitness classes, team sport activities and group performance activities in Edmonton and surrounding areas, Calgary and surrounding areas, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and Red Deer.
 - The ban does not include individual exercises, training or equipment use.
 - It also does not apply to junior/collegiate/university or professional sports, as they already have additional public health measures in place to limit the risk of exposure.
 - This measure – which includes practices, games and competition – is mandatory and will be in effect from November 13-27.
- Attendance at wedding or funeral ceremonies will also be limited to no more than 50 in these regions.
 - This measure will be in place until we see less stress on our healthcare system
- All faith-based leaders are asked to limit their gatherings to one-third capacity per service.
 - This measure will be in place until we see less stress on our healthcare system
- For offices that are able, please reduce the number of employees in the workplace at one time.
- Finally, we are asking all Albertans in communities with watch or enhanced status to avoid any social gatherings in their homes, and to avoid attending social gatherings outside their community.

For more information please visit www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx

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Why is this happening?

These measures are specifically targeted to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in areas where we are seeing an increase in cases.

These measures follow the same data-driven approach that has been used since the beginning of the pandemic.

There is evidence that the activities being restricted are those that have an inherent risk of large spreading events, and with positivity rates rising in the province, the risk of a single case transmitting to many must be reduced.

We must reduce the spread of COVID-19. We all must limit our interactions wherever possible. By working together, we can all protect each other, reduce the spread and lift these measures as soon as possible.

We need all Albertans help to follow these new measures as closely as possible in order to flatten the curve.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 cases in Alberta, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

Supports for Alberta businesses

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extremely difficult time for Albertans and Alberta-based businesses.

To help Alberta businesses survive during this trying time, the Government of Alberta has a number of programs and grants available to help offset costs associated with COVID-19. For a full list of supports for businesses, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>

Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grants

One of the government's Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers up to \$5,000 in funding for eligible small- and medium-sized businesses, cooperatives and non-profits to offset a portion of their relaunch costs.

Businesses and non-profits that were affected by COVID-related closures can use these funds as they see fit, including implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission such as physical barriers, purchasing personal protective equipment and disinfecting supplies, paying rent and employee wages, replacing inventory and more.

Application intake is now open, and most payments are issued within 10 business days following submission. For information – including edibility and guidelines, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx>

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