

COVID-19 Update - Verbal Report

Item 6.9 (First item of business)

Andre Corbould, City Manager

February 9, 2022

Agenda

- Guiding principles
- Current status - Edmonton Zone
- Provincial announcement highlights
- AHS update - guest: Dr. Sikora
- Insights from BIAs and regional municipalities
- Response to provincial changes
- City Workforce matters
- Legal considerations
- Questions

Our Guiding Principles

1. The ***advice and guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta*** guides whether it is safe to relaunch facilities, services and programs.
2. ***City resources*** will be taken into consideration as we relaunch.
3. ***GBA+*** is important to ensure inclusion and equity.
4. ***Vibrancy & Safety***
5. ***Local economy***
6. The citizen-informed ***City Plan will guide the choices we make*** to be a healthy, urban, climate resilient city that supports a prosperous region. Reopening must consider the strategic goals, guidelines, outcomes intentions and directions as described in The City Plan.

Current Status - Edmonton Zone C

Indicator (Edm Zone unless indicated)	Wed Dec 22	Wed Dec 29	Tue Jan 4	Wed Jan 12	Tue Jan 25	Tues Feb 1	Mon Feb 7
Total Cases to Date	107,391	111,639	119,510	136,302	153,854	159,403	163,289
Active cases Zone Active cases Edm.	2,539	6,216	12,760 9,166	22,727 16,740	17,052 13,151	10,954 8,056	8,298 5,891
Hospitalizations	94	99	117	264	552	635	641
ICU	31	30	32	23	43	46	61
Vaccine 5+ (Edm) One Two Three	86.9% 80.0%	87.2% 81.0%	87.5% 81.2%	88.0% 81.6%	88.7% 82.4% 36%	89.1% 83.3% 38.1%	89.3% 83.9% 39.2%
Active Case Rate / 100K - city of Edm.	181.4	433	883	1,612.6	1,266.9	971.6	572
Positivity Rate	14.5%	31.6%	37.3%	37.1%	35.6%	31.5%	31.3%

Provincial Announcement Highlights

STEP 1 - Feb. 9

- Restrictions Exemption Program eliminated
- Capacity limits in large facilities and entertainment venues (500+) remain in place, but food and beverages are now allowed in seats and during intermission
- Capacity limits for locations not covered under the REP program removed (places of worship, indoor/outdoor dining and malls)
- No change to outdoor events and facilities (maintain 2 m distancing between households)

As of Feb. 14

- No masking requirement for ages 12 and under
- No masking children & youth in schools

Provincial Announcement Highlights

STEP 2 - March 1st - *pending hospitalizations trend down*

- Indoor masking is eliminated
- No capacity limits on venues
- No limits on indoor and outdoor social gatherings
- Youth screening for entertainment and sport removed
- Restaurant and Bar interactive activities permitted (eg: dancing, darts, billiards).
- Resumption of regular liquor service serving and consumption times
- Mandatory work from home lifted
- All remaining school requirements removed

Provincial Announcement Highlights

STEP 3 - TBD - *pending hospitalizations trend down*

- Outbreak protocols lifted in continuing care facilities
- Mandatory isolation becomes a recommendation only

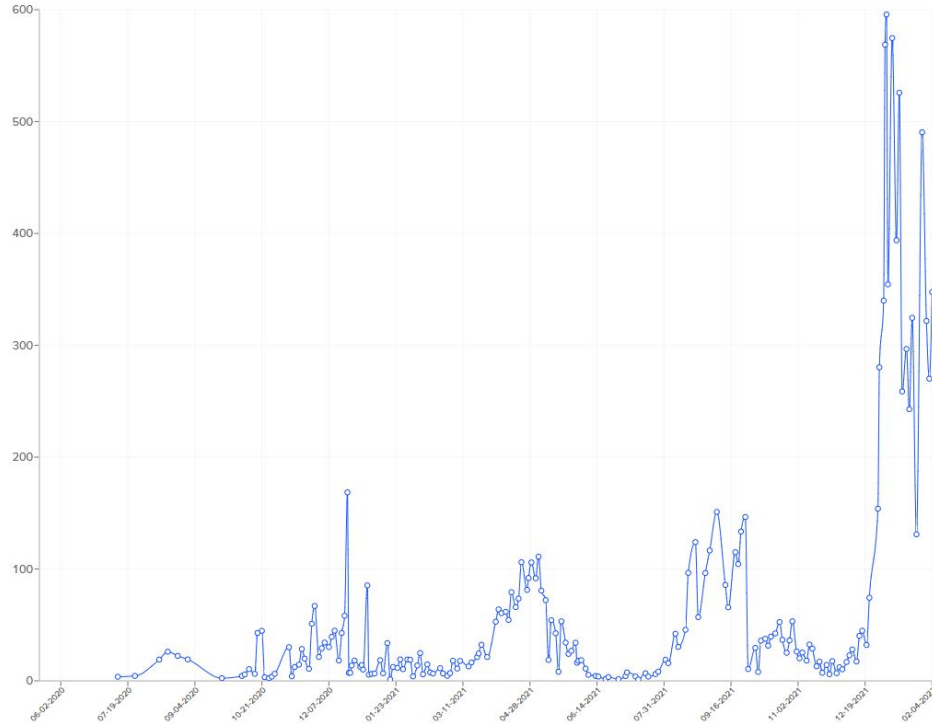
Alberta Health Services - Update - Wastewater

Edmonton:

- Raw
- Average
- Exact

Retrieved:

February 8, 2022



Alberta Health Services - Update

- Principles that should be undertaken for public health

Insights From Our Business Community

- Business Improvement Area Engagement
 - Mixed feelings on removal of REP
 - If province removing REP the City should follow suit
 - Need to be consistent within Edmonton region
 - Fatigue of operators enforcing rules

Insights From the Region

- Regional Chief Administrative Officers
- City of Calgary officials

Response On Provincial Changes

- Active COVID-19 Symptom Screening at COE Recreation Centres
- The City's Face Covering Bylaw is in effect, direction from Council would be required to either align with the provincial changes or exceed provincial regulations:
 - Face coverings for ages under 12
 - Face coverings in public places

Restrictions Exemptions Program (REP) is Rescinded

Options For Consideration:

- End participation in the restrictions exemption program when the provincial program ends
- Maintain active screening in City facilities
- Maintain vaccine/negative test requirement for City owned and operated facilities only
- Maintain vaccine/negative test requirement for all REP eligible businesses in Edmonton

Face Covering Order / COE Bylaw Alignment - Effective Feb 14

Options For Consideration:

- No change to City Bylaw - Masks still required for ages 2+ in public places
- Bylaw change to align to province - No masks for children 12 and under
- Use City Manager discretion to exempt children 12 and under from current Bylaw

Face Covering Mandate Lifted - Proposed March 1

Options For Consideration:

- End the Temporary Mandatory Face Covering Bylaw, in conjunction with provincial direction
- Maintain a face covering mandate in all City facilities
- Maintain a face covering mandate on transit and in transit spaces
- Maintain the Bylaw in all public spaces

Consideration - Capacity limits

Options:

- Have no capacity limits in facilities
- Maintain capacity limits at 50% fire code in all COE owned and operated indoor facilities
- Implement capacity limits in all indoor public facilities

City Workforce Matters

Workplace Control Measures

- COVID-19 control measures will remain in place for a minimum period of 4 weeks after the public health orders on gatherings and masking end (tentatively ending in Step 2 on March 1)

Return to Workspaces

- Employees temporarily working from home will return to the office 4 weeks after the work from home order ends (tentatively scheduled to end in Step 2 on March 1)

Legal considerations

- City bylaw/jurisdiction
- Provincial law/jurisdiction

Back To Basics

- Get your first, second or booster vaccine as soon as you are eligible
- Stay home if you are not well
- Use at-home rapid test kits to test if you have symptoms
- Wear a high quality, well-fitting mask
- Physical distance when in public spaces
- Wash your hands often

Questions?

Edmonton