

— Opening soon

Alberta's relaunch strategy



Alberta 



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Message from Premier Jason Kenney

Albertans have responded to the worst global pandemic in over a century with the cooperation, and resilience that runs deep in our provincial character. Your efforts and tremendous sacrifices have so far succeeded in containing the spread of the virus far below the devastating scale of the outbreak in many other places, and well below the capacity of our healthcare system to look after vulnerable Albertans.

Our success has been built on a sound pandemic response plan, implemented by Dr. Hinshaw and our team at Alberta Health, who saw COVID-19 coming before many others did. They acted quickly and prudently to ensure our stockpile of medical supplies and aggressive testing regime would be the best in Canada, and among the very best in the world.

Our relaunch strategy, developed with the advice of public health officials, is our path to carefully and gradually lift the restrictions imposed on our economy, and our lives. Our province is facing the most severe economic conditions since the Great Depression, and it will take heroic efforts to get Alberta working again. This will be achieved by carefully moving through the stages of our relaunch strategy while ensuring we all continue to follow public health guidelines.

With Alberta's relaunch strategy, we can finally begin to shift our focus from the fear and anxiety of the past few weeks and start looking with hope and cautious confidence towards the future. Together, we will move through the stages of the relaunch strategy with the same determination and commitment to personal and collective responsibility that Albertans have shown over the past two months.

With the care and common sense Albertans are best known for, we will all stay safe together and begin the process of rebuilding our beautiful province.

Premier Jason Kenney



Message from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Over the past several months the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Albertans from across the province. Many have suffered with the virus, many others have suffered from restrictions as a result of public health measures that have required fundamental changes in the way we live, work and play.

I am grateful for the collective efforts and sacrifices of Albertans that have built a barrier between our communities and what could have been an overwhelming surge of cases. I have had your safety and well-being in mind through every recommendation that I have made and I will continue to work to protect your health as we move forward.

I want to stress that the fight against this virus is far from over. Alberta's relaunch strategy is the next phase in our collective efforts to protect each other. We must continue to work together to manage risk, use common sense and remain vigilant to contain this virus. Each stage of our relaunch will be advanced after careful consideration.

Please continue to wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, maintain physical distance from others, stay socially connected, and look out for your friends, family and community as we progress through each stage. We will need each other through every stage of this relaunch and into the future.

We are all in this together.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Overview

While we face a long road to recovery, there are good signs our collective efforts of physical distancing, good hygiene practices, and staying safe together are helping slow the spread of COVID-19.

That has given government confidence to begin implementing Alberta's relaunch strategy, a plan that puts safety first while gradually reopening businesses and activities to the public, and getting people back to work.

Unlike other provinces such as Quebec, we were able to safely keep areas like construction, manufacturing and energy operating over the last several weeks by enforcing physical distancing and following the guidance of our Chief Medical Officer of Health. Thanks to that, we are starting from a strong place, and we will be able to apply that same guidance to other businesses across the province.

To be successful, we must ensure the sacrifices we have already made to contain the virus are not wasted. Continued care, common sense and resilience will move us forward. Here are some of the highlights of how we plan to get there.

Conditions for relaunch

To prepare for the first stage of relaunch, we must have the following elements in place.	
	Enhancing our nation-leading COVID-19 testing capacity
	Robust and comprehensive contact tracing, aided by technology, to quickly identify and notify people who are at risk
	Support for those who test positive to enable isolation and containment of spread
	Stronger international border controls and airport screening
	Public use of masks in specified crowded spaces, or mass transit
	Strong protections for the most vulnerable, including those in long-term care
	Rapid response teams to deal with future outbreaks
With these foundational elements in place, we will ensure a safer reopening.	

Key measures and timing

Getting to each stage of relaunch will depend on our ability to keep infection rates low, and well within the capacity of the healthcare system. Health measures we will be watching include:

	Percentage of tests that are positive
	Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU) rates

Confirmed cases will be monitored in real-time to inform proactive responses in localized areas of the province.

We need to learn as we go and evaluate as we take careful, considered steps from one stage to the next. There may be times we need to take a step back, but in time, we will adjust and move forward together.

Continuous evaluation of health triggers could result in restrictions being removed or reapplied in some localized areas of the province.

Early actions

Because of the sacrifices Albertans have made to prevent the spread, we are ready to take some steps that will allow some activities to begin:

	Alberta Health Services will resume some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries as soon as May 4.
	Dental and other regulated health-care workers such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dietitians, chiropractors, optometry and more will be allowed to resume services starting May 4, as long as they are following approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.
	Vehicle access to parking lots and staging areas on public land and parks will open on May 1.
	Alberta Parks' online campground reservation system will open on May 14 for bookings at select campground starting June 1 onward.
	Access to boat launches will open in select provincial parks May 1.
	Golf courses can open on May 2, with restrictions including keeping clubhouses and pro shops closed. These will be able to open consistent with other businesses that will be open in stage one.

Relaunch stage highlights

Stage 1 (as early as May 14)	Stage 2 (timing to be determined based on health indicators)	Stage 3 (timing to be determined based on health indicators with gradual implementation)
With increased infection prevention and controls, some businesses and facilities will be allowed to resume operations as early as May 14. This stage will allow some businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidance in place. This includes: Post-secondary institutions will continue to deliver courses; however how programs are delivered – whether online, in-person, or a blend – will be dependent on what restrictions remain in place at each relaunch phase. Retail businesses such as clothing, furniture and bookstores. Some personal services, such as hairstyling and barber shops. Museums and art galleries. More scheduled surgeries and dental procedures. Daycares with limits on occupancy. Summer camps with limits on occupancy. This could include summer school. Cafés, restaurants (minors allowed in liquor-licensed establishments) with no bar service to reopen for public seating at 50 per cent capacity. Some additional outdoor recreation.	Timing of this stage will be determined by the success of Stage 1, considering the capacity of the health care system and continued limiting and/or reduction of the rate of infections, hospitalization, and ICU cases. This stage will allow additional businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidelines in place. This includes: Potential Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools with restrictions. Libraries. More scheduled surgeries, including backlog elimination. Personal services such as artificial tanning, esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatments, massage and reflexology. Restaurants, cafés, lounges and bars continuing to operate at reduced capacity. Permitting of some larger gatherings (number of people to be determined as we learn more about the levels of risk for different activities) in some situations. Movie theatres and theatres opening with restrictions.	Timing of this stage is to be determined and will involve: Fully reopening all businesses and services, with limited restrictions. Permitting larger gatherings (number of people to be determined).
Rules and guidance for the use of masks in crowded spaces, especially on mass transit. Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.	Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.	
Public attendance at businesses, facilities and events that have close physical contact will not be permitted, including: arts and culture festivals, major sporting events, and concerts. Movie theatres, pools, recreation centres, arena, spas, gyms and nightclubs will remain closed.	Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will remain closed. Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events will continue to not be permitted.	Arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events will be permitted with enhanced protection controls in place. Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas will reopen with enhanced protection controls in place. Physical distancing restrictions will be maintained. Resuming industry conferences with restrictions.
Non-essential travel is not recommended.	Non-essential travel is not recommended.	Non-essential travel no longer discouraged.
Remote working is advised where possible.		
Enhanced infection prevention and control measures will be in place in all phases.		

Key public health measures

Public health measure	Current	Stage 1 (to start as early as May 14)	Stage 2	Stage 3
Physical distancing	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m	Maintain distance of 2m
Gatherings	Gatherings > 15 prohibited	Gatherings > 15 prohibited	Size of permitted gatherings will increase	Size of permitted gatherings will increase
Public masks	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Encourage wearing a mask where unable to physically distance	Unnecessary
Vulnerable Albertans (outside facility)	Remain home unless medically necessary	Stay at home as much as possible	Resume normal activities and interactions	Resume normal activities and interactions
Vulnerable Albertans (facility-based)	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Visitor, staff, and operational restrictions	Lifted
Non-essential domestic travel	Non-essential travel not recommended	Non-essential travel not recommended	Non-essential travel not recommended	Lifted
Isolation and quarantine	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	14 days for cases, close contacts, and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic but don't fit above categories	Lifted

How Alberta compares: Public health measures

	AB	BC	SK	ON	QC	NB
Physical distancing	2 meter distancing					
Gatherings	> 15 prohibited	> 50 prohibited	> 10 prohibited	> 5 prohibited	All prohibited	> 10 prohibited
Regions locked down	None	None	Yes (Northern SK)	None	Yes (10 + regions)	None
Restaurants	Dine-in suspended					
Business	Virtual, or curbside only					
Schools	Online learning only					
Isolation	14 days for close contacts and returning travelers 10 days if symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19		14 days for positive cases, symptomatic individuals, close contacts, and returning travelers			

How Alberta compares: Industry restrictions

While some sectors have remained open in each province, other provinces have placed further restrictions on construction, manufacturing and natural resources.

	AB	BC	ON	QC
Construction	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted for certain industries	Permitted for certain industries
Manufacturing	Permitted All deemed essential	Permitted for certain industries	Permitted All deemed essential	Permitted for certain industries
Natural Resources	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted, with Mining initially limited then allowed after April 15.

Protecting seniors and vulnerable populations

We will continue to put a ring of defence around seniors and vulnerable populations. This means we will continue to support vulnerable and at-risk Albertans feeling the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Restrictions and measures intended to protect seniors, such as continued limits to visitors (long-term care facilities, licensed supportive living facilities including seniors lodges and group homes) and strict health protocols for staff are expected to remain in place through all stages of relaunch. Any changes would be guided by the advice of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Strengthening the economy

More information on a new blueprint for economic recovery, which will set the course for our province's future prosperity, will be provided in the coming days and weeks.

Do your part

We're confident Albertans will face relaunch with the same adaptability and resilience they have shown throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our individual actions are the strongest tool we have to protect our health-care system as we pull together to relaunch our economy.

Learn more about steps you can take to stop the spread of COVID19 at: alberta.ca/covid19

