

# The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta



**Office of the Grand Scribe "E"**  
423 Woodland Cres SE, Calgary AB T2J 1J7

August 21, 2021

## **TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL COMPANIONS**

Grand Chapter Officers  
Constituent Chapters

Dear Companions:

Just when we thought the end was near with COVID 19, we are now faced with another wave of a faster moving virus, leaving us once again with restrictions and limiting our face-to-face meetings in our respective Chapters. The Grand Council was once again called upon to recommend contingency plans that will aid in the governing of your Chapter for the next couple months, we hope. Attached is a set of guidelines prepared by the Grand Council to aid in making the appropriate decision.

## **GOING FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY AND SAFELY**

### **September**

- **Indoor Chapter Meetings to remain closed for month of September with anticipation of return to inside meetings in October. This also applies to District Meetings.**
  - Will provide a clearer picture of impact of rising COVID numbers
  - See how impact of return to school goes
  - Expectation that active number will continue to increase at least to the end of September
  
- **Drumheller Field Day can proceed as it is outdoors but with adjustments**
  - Those seated must be 6 feet apart including breaks for coffee and lunch
  - Meals are prepackaged and taken back to lawn chairs to eat (six feet apart)
  - No events to take place on Friday evening or Sunday morning – Field Day restricted to Saturday only
  - Candidates and Guides to be masked
  - Other Degree Participants distance safely
  - No singing – use recorded music
  - Companions that are high risk or living with someone that is, are encouraged to stay home for safety reasons as are those that have not been fully vaccinated
  - Hand Sanitizer on hand
  - Masks for those watching if they so wish
  
- **Outdoor Chapter Meetings are permissible weather permitting for September and possibly October**
  - Must distance 6 feet apart
  - Dispensations to be granted without charge in order to deal with potential weather issues or date changes

- **Grand District Superintendents to canvas Chapters so as to determine number of members that would be willing to attend in person for October and hopefully going forward**
  - Numbers waiting to receive MMM, MEM and RAM degrees
  - Concerns from the Chapters that need to be addressed
  - Reporting of any members who have attended and then diagnosed with COVID
- **Review in September**
  - Advise if permissible to meet in October or not
  - Communicate any adjustments to opening and closing (example sharing the word) or any other adjustments that may need to be made
  - Hybrid of in person and Zoom

## **October and Beyond**

- **Assuming no lockdown by Alberta Health - indoor Chapter Meetings and District Meetings may reconvene**
  - Follow Alberta Health directives
  - Follow any directives of building owners
  - Defer degree work until November or later
- **Chapter decision if they feel comfortable to meet or not, along with consideration of numbers willing to attend**
  - Cannot force Chapters to meet
- **Subject to Change**

We have attached two additional attachments that will give you perspective as what is taking place with respect to current situation of the viruses. These figures are not produced by the Grand Council or the Grand Chapter of Alberta, this information is extracted from public media sources. All we ask, is that you remain patient, calm and positive, and eventually we will wear down this virus, and regularity will return.

Fraternally yours,

**Jerry W. Kopp**

RE Grand Scribe "E"

## **ATTACHMENT #01**

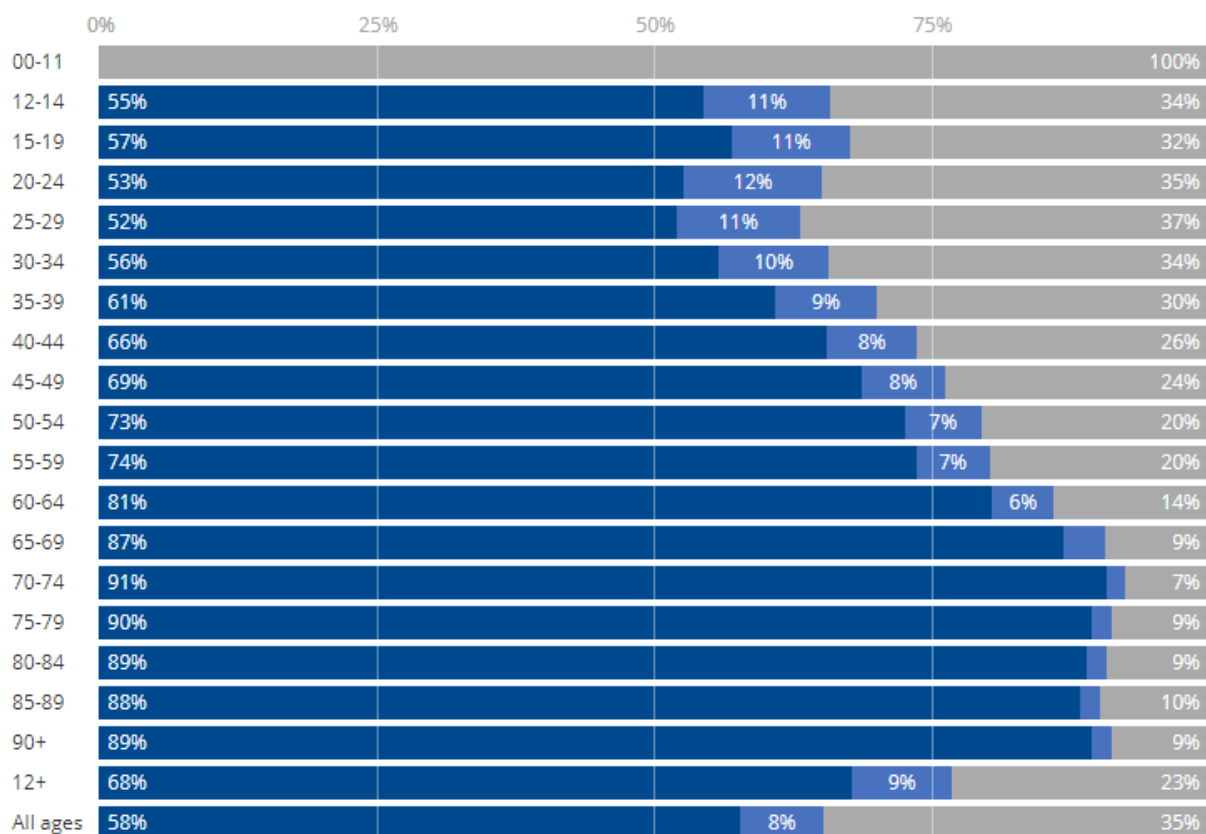
August 16 Backgrounder:

- ❖ July 1 Stage 3 of Reopening Plans takes effect with the lifting of most restrictions.
  - Indoor social gatherings allowed.
  - No limit on the size of outdoor gatherings.
  - Restaurants, bars and retail allowed to run at full capacity.
  - Provincial masking requirements lifted with a few exceptions mostly dealing with public transportation.
- ❖ July 28 Province announces changes with Phase 1 effective July 29 and Phase 2 August 16.
  - Phase 1, asymptomatic testing of contacts will no longer be recommended, but testing will remain available to people showing symptoms.
  - Mask mandates remain in effect when inside acute- and continuing-care facilities, or when riding in public transit, taxis or ride-share vehicles.
  - The most significant changes will happen Aug. 16, in Phase 2, when isolation following a positive test will no longer be required.
- ❖ August 9 Border land crossing allows Americans and those with Permanent Residents allowed to enter Canada.
- ❖ August 12 Province announces backtracking on plans to lift COVID 19 restrictions scheduled for August 16.
  - Phase 1 changes to stay in effect for an additional 6 weeks to September 27.

- Alberta hits their highest COVID numbers since late May and will continue testing for any symptomatic individuals as cases spike.
- ❖ August 13 Alberta currently has the highest active COVID-19 case count in Canada with 4,438 infected after 582 new cases were reported Friday.
  - Recognition that Canada is in 4<sup>th</sup> Wave.
  - Alberta once again has the most active COVID cases in Canada.
  - Delta variant is driving numbers up primarily amongst the unvaccinated.
    - 90% of new cases primarily with the unvaccinated remaining 10% from those already vaccinated.
- ❖ Federal Gov't announces plans to make vaccination mandatory for transportation across borders for train, air and cruise ships. Also considering making it mandatory for public service employees to be fully vaccinated.
- ❖ August 16 Alberta's COVID-19 cases could see a significant jump to 4,000 a day among unvaccinated people and hospitalizations by this time next month, **according to a group of researchers.**
  - We might see an additional 2,000 cases among people who have both doses of the vaccine.
  - It also anticipates that hospitalizations will skyrocket, with over 4,000 people needing urgent care because of COVID-19 come October, assuming no further restrictions are put into place as cases grow.
  - "Since most infections are among those who are not vaccinated, the demand on the healthcare system per infection remains high enough to be a concern," reads a report from the researchers.
  - Alberta's active cases nine times higher than a month ago (July 16 of 579).
  - Alberta's hospitalization about 1.5 times higher than the same time last month.
- ❖ While leading vaccines are still providing high levels of protection from COVID-19, the delta variant is proving their toughest adversary yet according to Dr. Zain Chagla, an infectious diseases specialist at McMaster University in Hamilton.
  - Odds that more Canadians — whether vaccinated or not — will face the virus in the weeks and months ahead.
- ❖ Alberta Health reports the **R-value**, which represents the number of people infected by each infected person, is currently **1.25** as of August 16.
- ❖ Proportion of Albertans vaccinated against COVID 19, by Age Brackets. Chart follows.
- ❖ Alberta COVID 19 Stats (July 1 – August 16) Table follows.

## Proportion of Albertans vaccinated against COVID-19, by age

■ Two doses ■ One dose only ■ No vaccination



CBC NEWS

Chart: Robson Fletcher • Source: Alberta Health

## ATTACHMENT #02

DATE	ZONES	ALBERTA	CALGARY	EDMONTON	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH	LETHBRIDGE	
Jul-01	CONFIRMED	232,097	94,541	77,715	26,522	20,816	12,492	4,837	CANADA DAY - PHASE 3 RESTRICTIONS LIFTED
	ACTIVE	895	470	134	150	113	25	4	
	RECOVERED	228,901	93,370	76,479	26,177	20,533	12,334	4,794	
	DEATHS	2,301	701	1,102	195	170	133	39	
Jul-04	CONFIRMED	232,236	94,590	77,749	26,562	20,825	12,500	4,840	
	ACTIVE	831	424	132	149	100	25	6	
	RECOVERED	229,102	93,464	76,514	26,218	20,555	12,342	4,795	
	DEATHS	2,303	702	1,103	195	170	133	39	
Jul-05	CONFIRMED	232,269	94,604	77,758	26,569	20,825	12,502	4,839	
	ACTIVE	763	397	134	126	86	18	6	
	RECOVERED	229,201	93,505	76,520	26,248	20,568	12,351	4,794	
	DEATHS	2,305	702	1,104	195	171	133	39	
Jul-06	CONFIRMED	232,336	94,628	77,779	26,587	20,824	12,507	4,839	
	ACTIVE	745	374	137	134	79	19	7	
	RECOVERED	229,284	93,551	76,538	26,257	20,574	12,355	4,793	
	DEATHS	2,307	703	1,104	196	171	133	39	
Jul-07	CONFIRMED	232,359	94,651	77,781	26,587	20,818	12,511	4,838	
	ACTIVE	697	353	124	126	74	18	6	
	RECOVERED	229,355	93,595	76,553	26,264	20,574	12,360	4,793	
	DEATHS	2,307	703	1,104	197	170	133	39	

Jul-08	CONFIRMED	232,411	94,681	77,793	26,586	20,826	12,515	4,838	
	ACTIVE	675	342	117	118	79	19	6	
	RECOVERED	229,429	93,636	76,572	26,271	20,577	12,363	4,793	
	DEATHS	2,307	703	1,104	197	170	133	39	
Jul-11	CONFIRMED	232,501	94,731	77,819	26,582	20,834	12,522	4,838	CALGARY STAMPEDE - JULY 9
	ACTIVE	624	316	118	106	59	22	5	
	RECOVERED	229,570	93,712	76,597	26,279	20,605	12,366	4,794	
	DEATHS	2,370	703	1,104	197	170	133	39	
Jul-12	CONFIRMED	232,536	94,750	77,830	26,584	20,836	12,525	4,838	CALGARY STAMPEDE
	ACTIVE	599	298	119	110	47	24	4	
	RECOVERED	229,627	93,747	76,607	26,276	20,619	12,368	4,795	
	DEATHS	2,310	705	1,104	198	170	133	39	
Jul-13	CONFIRMED	232,582	94,768	77,843	26,591	20,843	12,526	4,838	CALGARY STAMPEDE
	ACTIVE	569	283	113	102	48	22	4	
	RECOVERED	229,702	93,780	76,626	26,291	20,625	12,370	4,795	
	DEATHS	2,311	705	1,104	198	170	134	39	
Jul-14	CONFIRMED	232,635	94,795	77,849	26,598	20,852	12,394	4,841	CALGARY STAMPEDE
	ACTIVE	578	291	118	100	44	23	5	
	RECOVERED	229,745	93,798	76,627	26,300	20,638	12,237	4,797	
	DEATHS	2,312	706	1,104	198	170	134	39	
Jul-15	CONFIRMED	232,676	94,819	77,853	26,605	20,856	12,532	4,842	CALGARY STAMPEDE
	ACTIVE	579	295	121	89	47	26	7	
	RECOVERED	229,783	93,818	76,628	26,316	20,639	12,372	4,796	
	DEATHS	2,314	706	1,104	200	170	134	39	
Jul-18	CONFIRMED	232,806	94,894	77,873	26,618	20,870	12,539	4,844	CALGARY STAMPEDE
	ACTIVE	605	326	129	73	47	28	7	
	RECOVERED	229,885	93,862	76,640	26,344	20,653	12,376	4,798	
	DEATHS	2,316	706	1,104	201	170	135	39	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ZONES</b>	<b>ALBERTA</b>	<b>CALGARY</b>	<b>EDMONTON</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>LETHBRIDGE</b>	
Jul-19	CONFIRMED	232,875	94,937	77,876	26,628	20,878	12,543	4,843	
	ACTIVE	606	341	117	66	50	28	7	
	RECOVERED	229,951	93,890	76,655	26,360	20,658	12,379	4,797	
	DEATHS	2,318	706	1,104	202	170	136	39	
Jul-20	CONFIRMED	232,956	94,991	77,890	26,633	20,882	12,551	4,846	
	ACTIVE	649	378	128	63	46	34	9	
	RECOVERED	229,989	93,907	76,658	26,368	20,666	123,381	4,798	
	DEATHS	2,318	706	1,104	202	170	136	39	
Jul-21	CONFIRMED	233,062	95,049	77,912	26,643	20,888	12,561	4,849	
	ACTIVE	676	392	137	68	39	40	12	
	RECOVERED	230,066	93,951	76,671	26,373	20,678	12,384	4,797	
	DEATHS	2,320	706	1,104	202	171	137	40	
Jul-25	CONFIRMED	233,547	95,364	77,999	26,651	20,907	12,611	4,855	
	ACTIVE	1,083	654	203	83	53	85	17	
	RECOVERED	230,142	94,004	76,691	26,365	20,683	12,389	4,798	
	DEATHS	2,322	706	1,105	203	171	137	40	
Jul-26	CONFIRMED	233,681	95,454	78,014	26,658	20,921	12,622	4,856	
	ACTIVE	1,173	725	211	80	63	92	16	
	RECOVERED	230,183	94,022	76,698	26,374	20,686	12,393	4,800	
	DEATHS	2,325	707	1,105	204	172	137	40	
Jul-27	CONFIRMED	233,875	95,553	78,055	26,667	20,934	12,654	4,859	
	ACTIVE	1,334	799	245	91	73	124	19	
	RECOVERED	230,216	94,047	76,705	26,372	20,689	12,393	4,800	
	DEATHS	2,325	707	1,105	204	172	137	40	
Jul-28	CONFIRMED	234,108	95,687	78,090	26,688	20,949	12,680	4,865	

	ACTIVE	1,520	903	274	110	80	149	25	
	RECOVERED	230,263	94,077	76,711	26,374	20,697	12,394	4,800	
	DEATHS	2,325	707	1,105	204	172	137	40	
Jul-29	CONFIRMED	234,295	95,800	78,126	26,702	20,964	12,693	4,868	
	ACTIVE	1,655	990	301	117	85	162	28	
	RECOVERED	230,312	94,103	76,718	26,380	20,707	12,394	4,800	
	DEATHS	2,328	707	1,107	205	172	137	40	
Aug-02	CONFIRMED	235,038	96,179	78,270	26,798	21,026	12,747	4,881	AUGUST HOLIDAY
	ACTIVE	2,176	1,234	402	189	133	210	38	
	RECOVERED	230,534	94,238	67,761	26,404	20,721	12,400	4,803	
	DEATHS	2,328	707	1,107	205	172	137	40	
Aug-03	CONFIRMED	235,244	96,292	78,303	26,817	21,035	12,784	4,883	
	ACTIVE	2,282	1,292	416	202	139	230	36	
	RECOVERED	230,634	94,293	76,780	26,410	20,724	12,417	4,807	
	DEATHS	2,328	707	1,107	205	172	137	40	
Aug-04	CONFIRMED	235,641	96,442	78,378	26,895	21,063	12,848	4,891	
	ACTIVE	2,526	1,351	469	262	157	282	41	
	RECOVERED	230,786	94,384	76,802	26,428	20,734	12,428	4,810	
	DEATHS	2,329	707	1,107	205	172	138	40	
Aug-05	CONFIRMED	236,010	96,605	78,473	26,947	21,074	12,897	4,897	
	ACTIVE	2,719	1,414	527	305	160	309	43	
	RECOVERED	230,966	94,485	76,839	26,439	20,743	12,450	4,814	
	DEATHS	2,325	706	1,107	203	171	138	40	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ZONES</b>	<b>ALBERTA</b>	<b>CALGARY</b>	<b>EDMONTON</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>LETHBRIDGE</b>	
Aug-08	CONFIRMED	237,027	97,002	78,737	27,086	21,145	13,040	4,923	
	ACTIVE	3,380	1,593	724	424	211	421	66	
	RECOVERED	231,319	94,702	76,905	26,458	20,763	12,481	4,817	
	DEATHS	2,328	707	1,108	204	171	138	40	
Aug-09	CONFIRMED	237,306	97,101	78,806	27,145	21,166	13,077	4,937	
	ACTIVE	3,463	1,572	762	465	216	445	80	
	RECOVERED	231,513	94,822	76,934	26,476	20,779	12,494	4,817	
	DEATHS	2,330	707	1,110	204	171	138	40	
Aug-10	CONFIRMED	237,807	97,279	78,923	27,195	21,205	13,189	4,947	
	ACTIVE	3,769	1,651	837	500	246	527	84	
	RECOVERED	231,707	94,920	76,976	26,491	20,788	12,524	4,823	
	DEATHS	2,331	708	1,110	204	171	138	40	
Aug-11	CONFIRMED	238,357	97,465	79,073	27,285	21,264	13,254	4,951	
	ACTIVE	4,101	1,698	955	566	292	582	86	
	RECOVERED	231,925	95,059	77,008	26,515	20,801	12,534	4,825	
	DEATHS	2,331	708	1,110	204	171	138	40	
Aug-12	CONFIRMED	238,939	97,664	79,241	27,374	21,308	13,334	4,960	
	ACTIVE	4,438	1,790	1,063	623	313	639	89	
	RECOVERED	232,169	95,166	77,068	26,547	20,824	12,556	4,831	
	DEATHS	2,332	708	1,110	204	171	139	40	
Aug-15	CONFIRMED	240,346	98,126	79,685	27,570	21,430	13,510	4,981	
	ACTIVE	5,354	1,989	1,431	759	393	765	98	
	RECOVERED	232,659	95,429	77,143	26,607	20,866	12,606	4,843	
	DEATHS	2,333	708	1,111	204	171	139	40	
Aug-16	CONFIRMED	240,753	98,239	79,826	27,636	21,471	13,563	4,992	
	ACTIVE	5,627	2,016	1,549	814	428	810	108	
	RECOVERED	232,790	95,514	77,166	26,618	20,871	12,613	4,844	
	DEATHS	2,336	709	1,111	204	172	140	40	
Aug-17	CONFIRMED	241,431	98,454	80,023	27,744	21,544	13,642	5,002	

	ACTIVE	5,933	2,088	1,669	852	479	829	111
	RECOVERED	233,160	95,656	77,243	26,687	20,893	12,673	4,851
	DEATHS	2,338	710	1,111	205	172	140	40
Aug-18	CONFIRMED	242,248	98,669	80,291	27,872	21,640	13,750	5,026
	ACTIVE	6,367	2,113	1,861	937	551	887	128
	RECOVERED	233,539	95,844	77,319	26,730	20,915	12,723	4,858
	DEATHS	2,342	712	1,111	205	174	140	40

