

Government Alert: Alberta



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Although we strive to provide accurate, relevant and timely information, there is no guarantee that the information will continue to be accurate in the future. Government programs, and other programs available to small businesses, can change daily. The information we provide you through this website is for educational and informational purposes only. For advice that pertains to your unique business situation, please get in touch with us at 1.800.265.1002 or email at fbca@fbca.ca

Read more on government programs, tools, insights and advice on how to navigate your business through COVID-19 on [FBC's online COVID Resource Centre](#)

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta has declared a state of public health emergency.• Business can participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of September 20, in-scope businesses, entities and events must follow one of these 2 options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Implement the Restrictions Exemption Program requiring proof of vaccination or negative test result, plus mandatory masking, to continue operating as usual, or○ Comply with all public health restrictions as outlined in Order 44-2021.○ Financial support will be available to help offset costs of implementing the program



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BUSINESS Alberta Jobs Now Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Alberta Jobs Now program will provide up to \$370 million to help private and non-profit businesses with job supports to get Albertans back to work.• Employers can apply for funding to offset the cost of hiring and training unemployed or underemployed Albertans in new or vacant positions• First intake: May 20 to July 23, 2021, closed on July 23, 2021• Second intake: November 10, 2021 until funding is allocated• Third intake: to be announced at a later date	<p>Employers can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• apply for a grant to offset salary or training costs, or both, equal to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 25% of a new hire's salary up to \$25,000 per employee○ 37.5% of the new hire's salary up to \$37,500 per employee with a disability• apply for up to 20 full-time new hires per intake period• choose to have payments issued in 1 or 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1 payment: up to 100% of the grant after new hires have been employed for 52 weeks○ 2 payments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ half of the eligible grant paid when the new hires have been employed for 3 months▪ the other half paid when the new hires have been employed for 52 weeks <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be eligible, organizations must be one of the following legal entities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ private business or partnership<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ must have a valid Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN)▪ must have been incorporated for more than a year▪ must be located and operational in Alberta○ sole proprietors:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ must have a valid trade name number▪ must have been registered in the Alberta Corporate Registry for more than a year▪ must be located and operational in Alberta▪ with coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act must submit a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB-Alberta) clearance letter (see eligibility requirements for WCB-exempt industries)○ See eligibility requirements for non-profit organizations

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BUSINESS Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) Implementation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta's government will provide a one-time payment to small- and medium-sized businesses that implement the Restrictions Exemption Program.• 2021-11-25: Update: Paid-entry markets and trade shows, including artisan and craft fairs and holiday markets that implement the Restrictions Exemption Program may apply for the Restrictions Exemption Program Implementation Grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A one-time payment of \$2,000 will be offered to eligible small- and medium-sized businesses in Alberta that are eligible for and choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program, requiring proof of vaccination, a negative test result or medical exemption.
BUSINESS Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta's frontline workers can now access safety training to help them keep businesses open and their workers and patrons safe during the pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On October 7, the Government of Alberta announced it will provide \$1 million in grant funding to support Alberta workers with training to help them deal with challenging situations if they arise when implementing REP.• The Restrictions Exemption Program safety training is available to all Alberta employers and employees who are implementing REP, or other COVID-19 safety requirements.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The 45-minute online training is available at no cost to Alberta workers.• Workers can enrol in training by visiting the Government of Alberta website.

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BUSINESS
Rapid Testing Program

- Employers and service providers can apply to implement a rapid COVID-19 testing program for their organization.

- Employers and service providers can apply to receive free rapid test kits for use in their organization's COVID-19 screening program.
- Rapid testing screening programs can identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases – people who don't know they're infected with COVID-19 – so they can be isolated early to stop the spread.
- The rapid testing program is open to any public, private or not-for-profit employer or service provider with an approved COVID-19 screening program.
- The application process will prioritize businesses or organizations involved with:
 - vulnerable populations
 - high-risk settings and workplaces
 - essential services
 - sectors that support reopening of economic and social activities
- Rapid test kits are provided free of cost to successful applicants. However, organizations are responsible for all costs related to their screening programs and assume all medical and legal responsibilities associated with them.
- Successful applicants must also ensure proper protocols are in place for COVID-19 screening, testing and reporting.
- Application:
 - Review the [program overview](#)
 - Develop a screening program plan
 - Complete the [request form](#)
 - Submit application to rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca.
- If approved, you will be contacted approximately one week (pending volume) after your submission is received with information on the distribution of your rapid testing kits.
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