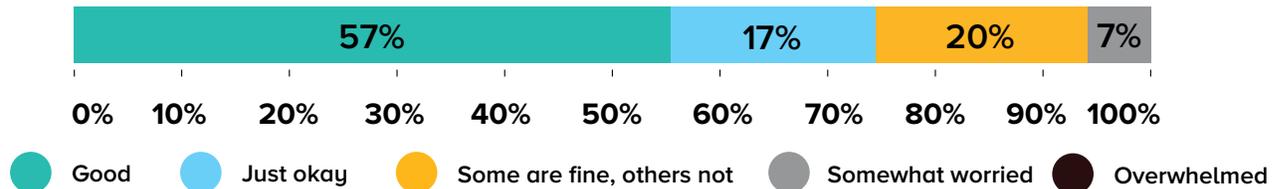




Rural VIP No. 7: COVID-19 and Community Building

The seventh survey for the members of the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent out April 2, 2020 to 177 members. When the survey closed on April 13, a total of 61 panel members (34%) had completed the five-question survey. This document provides a summary of the responses.

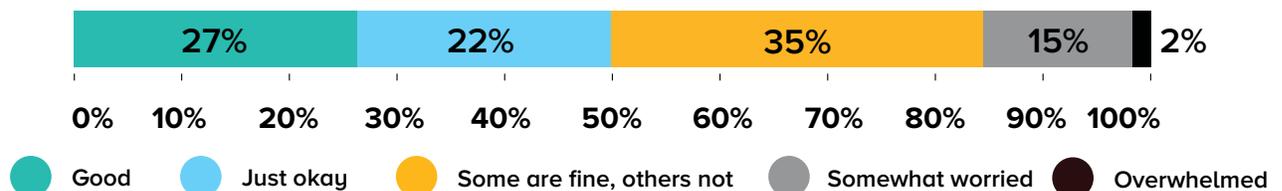
1. Overall, how are the health-care providers in your community coping with meeting residents' health-care needs at this time?



Good to know

- Almost 60 per cent of respondents reported that their local health-care providers were coping well with meeting residents' health-care needs at the time of the survey; 17 per cent of respondents indicated their health-care providers were just okay, and 20 per cent reported that some were fine, while others were not.

2. Overall, how are residents coping with the measures required to combat the pandemic?



Good to know

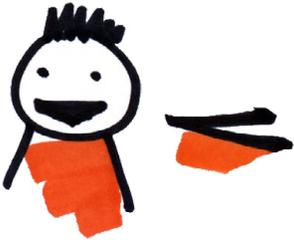
- Thirty-five per cent of respondents said that some residents in their communities were fine coping with the measures required to combat the pandemic, while others were not; 27 per cent said that residents were good, 22 per cent were just okay, and 15 per cent were somewhat worried.



What you said about your communities:
(sample comments)...

“Community members are really concerned about where cases are breaking out and the uncertainty of whether they may have been in contact with said person.

The stress of not knowing where or who has it is stressful.”



“I think **everybody has been obeying the guidelines** and staying home.”



“Residents seem to be coping with measures required to combat the pandemic, but the uncertainty of tomorrow is concerning.”





3. Have you seen or experienced positive gestures or good deeds in your community that RhPAP could share through the RhPAP website and social media? If so, please provide a brief description below:

# of comments	Theme of the comments
14	Supporting neighbours grocery shopping for those who are isolating, forming a volunteer pool to help others, offering extra items for those in need
10	Business, municipal, and committee initiatives including a local florist, towing company, distillery, wellness committee, attraction and retention committee, and municipality
8	Care for seniors volunteers shopping for seniors, delivering home-made meals, providing extra help, stores with designated times for seniors to shop
6	Public health awareness practicing physical distancing, hand hygiene, staying home, following health officials' advice
4	Gratitude for health-care providers parade, thank-you messages, creating cloth garment bags for uniforms, sending flowers
4	Online connections Facebook groups, sharing resources, good news and ideas online, virtual support
7	Other acts of kindness hearts on windows, birthday parades, window scavenger hunts, chalk messages on sidewalk; not aware of any

Good to know

- Individuals, families, businesses, elected officials, and local committees have all contributed acts of kindness and supportive gestures in respondents' communities



What you said about acts of kindness: (sample comments)...

“We have been **shoveling snow** for an elderly couple in our neighborhood. The other day she came over and **dropped off a freshly made lemon meringue pie (still warm)** at our front door as a thank you.”

“**People very respectful and hearts being displayed** in the town.”

“Everyday I see **multiple acts of kindness** and reaching out from birthday parades, grocery and good deliveries to those isolating, window scavenger hunts, sharing of ideas or online resources. It continues to grow!”

“At the playground (which is closed) today, someone wrote a series of very **positive and supportive messages** in chalk on the sidewalk.”

“A few residents in the community have **offered to pick up items for people** in the area and deliver them to minimize the number of people out exposing themselves to others.”

“One local towing company has offered **free delivery of groceries** to seniors who do not want to leave their homes.”

“**Grocery store open extended hours**, with seniors and residents with mobility concerns encouraged to use the first hour of the day for their shopping.”

“There are **hearts in many residents windows and thank you signs** outside our seniors lodge. [M]any community members / residents are posting **thank yous and gratitude through social media.**”

For more examples of what rural Alberta has been doing during the pandemic, visit rhpap.ca/COVID-19





4. RhPAP values your feedback. If you have ideas about how we could further support your community during the COVID-19 outbreak, please let us know in one to two sentences below:

of
comments

Theme of the comments

10

Communication

provide information and updates, share positive posts, advertise resources, connect with and champion rural communities

4

Support health-care providers

send supportive messages, continue attraction and retention efforts

8

Other

things are going well, residents are following guidelines, concerns if there are cases in the area

Good to know

- Many of the comments about how RhPAP could support respondents' communities during the pandemic were related to sharing information and resources, representing rural Alberta, and connecting with rural communities.



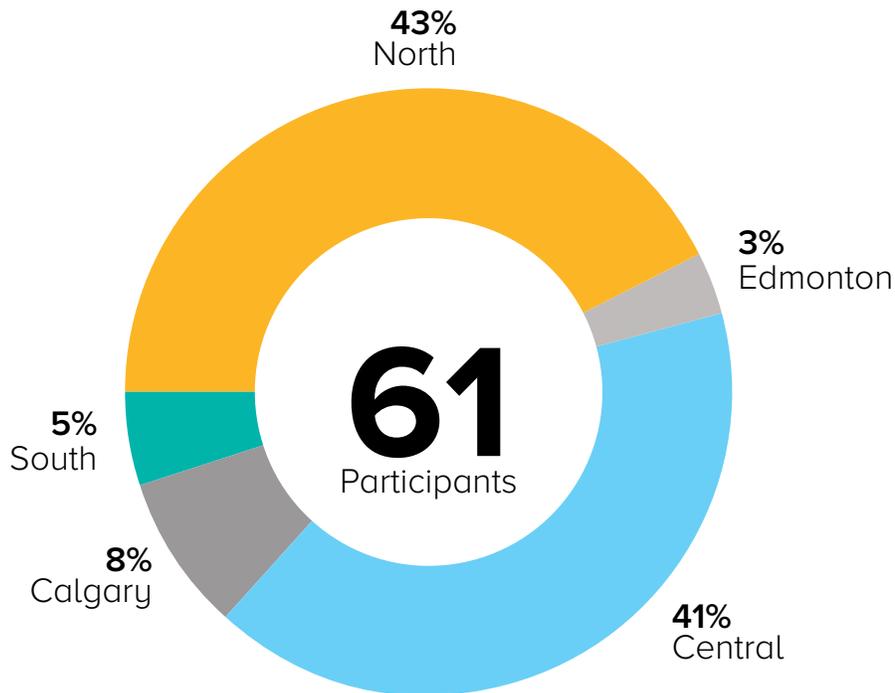


RhPAP

Rural Voice
Information Panel

Rural VIP No. 7: COVID-19

5. In which AHS (Alberta Health Services) zone do you live?



** Totals may not add due to rounding*

What will we do with this feedback?

RhPAP values the ideas and suggestions you provided about how we could further support your community during the pandemic. We have read all of your comments and will use this survey's feedback to provide rural communities with information, updates, and resources related to COVID-19. For more information (including data on the number of and location of cases in Alberta), visit <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx>

We will also continue to share your good news stories through the RhPAP website and on our social media channels. Visit rhpap.ca/COVID-19 to read our Rural Health Beat coverage of rural Alberta during the pandemic.

Questions about RhPAP's Rural Voice Information Panel?

Email us at ruralVIP@rhpap.ca