

CMO SMOH Weekly Notice for AHS Medical Staff

March 6, 2021

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COVID-19 Case Status in Alberta

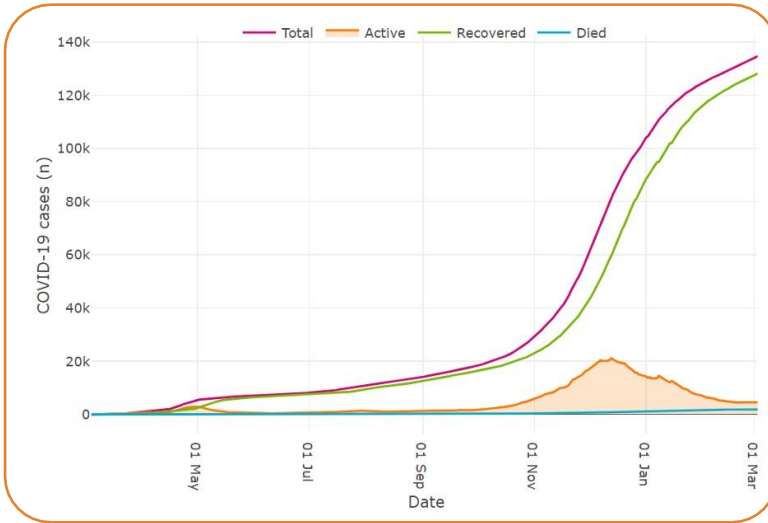
The number of active COVID-19 cases in Alberta rose over the past week, while hospitalization and ICU admission numbers both decreased, as the province March 5 marks the one-year anniversary of its first confirmed case of the virus.

Alberta reported 4,613 active cases of COVID-19 on March 3, an increase of 129 from the previous week. The Edmonton Zone reported a 20.6 per cent spike in the number of active cases over the past week; smaller increases were reported in the Calgary Zone (8.9 per cent) and South Zone (2.2 per cent).

The table below shows the number of active cases for each zone for each of the last two weeks.

	Active Cases (as of March 3)	Active Cases (as of Feb. 24)	Per cent Change
Calgary	1,645	1,510	+8.9%
Edmonton	1,082	897	+20.6%
North	1,009	1,016	-0.7%
Central	545	737	-26.1%
South	326	319	+2.2%
Unknown	6	5	+20%

The average number of daily new cases remained relatively stable this past week, with 338 cases for the seven-day period ending March 3, compared to 347 the previous week, a 2.6 per cent decrease. Of the five AHS zones, Calgary had the most new cases this week with 862, representing slightly more than a third of all new cases in the province.

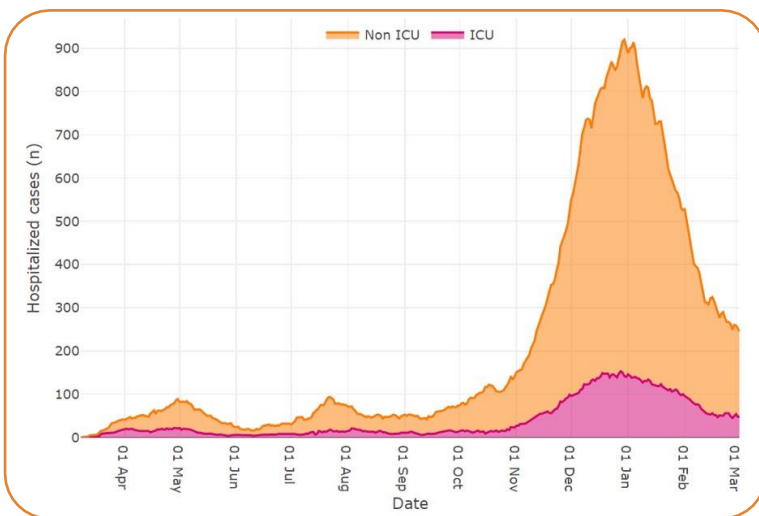


Hospitalizations and admissions

For the ninth consecutive week, there has been a week-to-week decline in the total number of individuals being treated in hospital for COVID-19. On March 3, there were 245 individuals in hospital compared to 267 on Feb. 24, an 8.2 per cent decrease. The number of people in ICUs also dropped this past week, to 47 on March 3 compared to 56 on Feb. 24, a 16 per cent decrease.

The breakdown of hospitalizations by zone as of March 3 is as follows:

	Hospitalizations	ICUs
Calgary	82	14
Edmonton	76	16
Central	30	9
South	30	6
North	27	2



Update on variants of concern

Alberta Health has now reported 541 cases of COVID-19 variants of concern (VOC): 531 are B.1.1.7 variant (U.K. variant) and 10 are B.1.351 variant (South African variant). This represents a 67.5 per cent increase from one week earlier on Feb. 24, when 323 VOC cases had been detected. VOCs have been detected in all zones with the exception of the South Zone. This week, Alberta had its first COVID-19 variant outbreak at a long-term care facility, Churchill Manor in Edmonton.

Other notable COVID-19-related information:

- As of March 3, a total of 134,785 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Alberta and a total of 5,987 individuals have been hospitalized, which amounts to 4.4 individuals for every 100 cases. In all, 128,261 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19.
- As of March 3, 1,911 individuals have passed away from COVID-19, including 37 over a recent seven-day period (Feb. 25 to March 3). We extend our condolences to the families of these individuals, and to all who have lost loved ones from any cause during this time.
- From Feb. 25 to March 3, 56,143 COVID-19 tests were completed, an average of 8,020 tests per day. During this period, the daily positivity ranged from 3.55 per cent to 5.35 per cent. As of March 3, a total of 3.44 million tests have been conducted and 1.83 million individuals have been tested.
- The R value, also known as the reproduction number, describes the ability of a disease to spread. It tells us the average number of people that someone with COVID-19 will infect. An R value of 1 means an infected person will infect one other person on average. Values below 1 mean transmission is decreasing; above 1, transmission is increasing. The provincewide R value from Feb. 22 to 28 was 1.01.
- For the winter school term, as of March 3, AHS has confirmed 1,629 individuals with COVID-19 were present at schools while infectious or acquired the disease in the school setting. Roughly one-quarter (589 of 2,415) of schools in the province have reported an individual has attended their school while infectious or had in-school transmission.

COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers — the Latest Numbers

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers in the [AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing dashboard](#). These statistics provide the total number of AHS, Covenant Health and Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) employees and physicians tested, including a breakdown of the number of positive tests and those who have been confirmed to have been exposed in the workplace.

As of March 3:

- 77,560 employees (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 4,703 (or 6.06 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 1,877 employees who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 485 (or 25.8 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 2,826 employees who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.
- 4,984 physicians (AHS, APL, and Covenant combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 197 (or 3.95 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 76 physicians who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 11 (or 14.5 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 121 physicians who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.

For more information, see the AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing [infographic](#) and [dashboard](#).

COVID-19 Immunization Updates

By the Numbers

As of 2:20 p.m., on March 5, more than 275,000 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Alberta, including:

- 84,791+ doses to healthcare workers
- 65,949+ doses to Albertans 75 years of age and older
- 56,989+ doses to long-term care (LTC) and designated supportive living (DSL) residents

- 53,411+ doses to LTC/DSL staff
- 13,302+ doses in other congregate living environments
- 1,000+ doses for others (including non-healthcare essential service workers and spouses of Albertans 75+)

In total, 89,000 Albertans have received both Dose 1 and Dose 2, and more than 96,300 have received Dose 1 only.

Rollout of Phase 2A

Alberta Health announced March 4 that bookings for Phase 2A of the COVID-19 vaccine program will begin the week of March 15. More than 437,000 Albertans will be offered the vaccine in this upcoming phase.

To reduce wait times and vaccinate people as quickly as possible, appointment bookings will be offered by age group. For example, on Day 1, anyone born in 1947 will be eligible to book an appointment. On Day 2, anyone born in 1948 will be able to book an appointment. In subsequent days and according to vaccine supply, Albertans born in 1949 would have access, and so on.

Booking days will open up by year of birth as vaccine is available until all Albertans between the ages of 65 and 74 have had the opportunity to be immunized.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis people aged 50 and older will also receive the vaccine starting the week of March 15. Those living on reserve and on Métis settlements will have access to immunization within their communities, while those living off-reserve will be able to book online, through Health Link, or through a participating pharmacy.

We recommend all healthcare workers who become eligible in Phase 2A due to age, or other eligibility criteria proceed with getting their vaccine as soon as possible.

Covishield/AstraZeneca Rollout

Beginning March 10, the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine will be available to Albertans aged 50-64, who are currently in Phase 2D.

Alberta will receive approximately 58,500 doses of Covishield and Alberta Health is recommending it for people who do not have severe chronic illness born in 1957-1971. Bookings for Covishield will start on March 10 with individuals born in 1957. Pending vaccine supply, Albertans born in 1958-1971 will be offered a chance to book in the following days, rolling one year at a time.

Eligible individuals who choose to not get the Covishield vaccine will have the option to wait to receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine when Phase 2D formally begins in early May. We anticipate further details on the immunization plan for those with chronic illness soon. We appreciate that 'severe chronic illness' is a broad term, and we are working to define that appropriately for clinicians to help Albertans make informed decisions.

More information on eligibility can be found on the [Alberta Health website](#).

The Covishield vaccine is widely used in the United Kingdom, France and other countries. Covishield has been shown to reduce infection by 60 to 70 per cent and severe outcomes like hospitalization by 80 per cent.

Receiving a vaccination, regardless of which option is chosen, will benefit our own health, as well as the health of our patients, families, communities and all Albertans. Widespread vaccination will help all Albertans return to a more normal way of life, sooner.

Immunization Booking Tool Upgraded

To continue providing Albertans with efficient access to immunization appointments, AHS upgraded the AHS online immunization booking tool from 2-4 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3.

This timeframe was chosen to minimize disruption to the online booking process for Albertans. During the same timeframe on Monday, March 1, thirteen seniors, age 75 and over, booked immunization appointments.

The upgrade improved the capacity of the AHS COVID-19 online immunization booking tool, and ensures Albertans continue to have access to a user-friendly, effective system to book their immunization appointments.

Thank you to all the Alberta seniors, 75 years of age and over, that have booked in to receive their COVID-19 immunization. This is a huge step for AHS and for Albertans as we work to ensure our populations most at risk of severe outcomes from this virus are protected.

Expansion of Second Dose COVID-19 Immunization Window

As Alberta Health announced [March 3](#), the province will be extending the period between first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Emerging evidence shows first doses of the vaccine are at least 80 per cent effective at preventing severe illness. Second doses are necessary to ensure you're protected for as long as possible.

Starting **March 10**, all current [Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine products](#) will be provided to Albertans in a 16-week (four-month) timeframe between the first and second dose. This is in alignment with current [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) recommendations](#).

Anyone who has booked their immunization before March 10 will be immunized within a 42-day window. All bookings made after March 10 will be on the 16-week protocol.

Starting March 10, all individuals who call Health Link or go online to the [AHS online COVID-19 immunization booking](#) tool will be able to book their first dose only. Individuals will receive a reminder from AHS at a later date, by text message, email or automated call, of when to book their second-dose appointment. [Participating pharmacies](#) will also send out second-dose appointment reminders.

All existing appointments for second doses will be honoured and will be provided within 42 days.

We understand there are many people anxiously waiting to receive the vaccine, and recognize many staff and healthcare partners work with higher-risk patients who are vulnerable to COVID-19, and with COVID-19-positive cases. We greatly appreciate the vital work you do. We want to assure you that no one has been forgotten and we continue to work with Alberta Health on the details related to future sequencing and eligibility. We will share this information as soon as it is available.

We are working diligently to immunize as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, with available vaccine supply. We thank you for your patience as we move through the current phases of the COVID-19 immunization program.

COVID-19 One-Year Anniversary – March 5

March 5 marked the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Alberta. At times, it feels remarkable how quickly this time has gone by. And at other times, we're reminded of the massive effort that was required to get to this point.

Staff and physicians have responded to this unparalleled challenge by continuing to do amazing things each and every day, with an inspirational level of teamwork. We want to salute you, for providing and supporting care for Albertans. You continue to exceed very high standards.

Throughout the pandemic, AHS has brought additional equipment online, expanded testing capacity, created new supply chains and processes, trained more staff to bolster care capacity, and devised innovative solutions to meet the new demands on our healthcare system.

Visit [ahs.covidoneyearlater](https://www.ahs.ca/covidoneyearlater) to view some of the exceptional work that has been done in response to COVID-19.

What has been evident since the start of this pandemic is that staff and physicians have tirelessly provided or supported high-quality, compassionate, preventive services, and care. Your work makes a difference to Albertans, every single day.

The challenges of the past year have brought many struggles with regards to mental health and family well-being. Those who need support are encouraged to reach out to the Physician & Family Support Program: 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637).

While we reflect on this past year, it's important that we continue to look forward, with hope for a healthy and safe future. We also must continue to urge Albertans to follow all public health measures. We are all in this together.

Save the Date: March 18 – CMO Physician Conversation Series – Vaccine, Vaccines: Who/What/When

On Thursday, March 18, you're invited to participate in a virtual Provincial CMO Physician Conversation and Q&A about vaccine sequencing with:

- Dr. Francois Belanger, Vice President, Quality, and Chief Medical Officer
- Dr. Laura McDougall, Senior Medical Officer of Health
- Dr. Jennifer Bestard, Central Zone Medical Director, Physician Vaccine Working Group Lead
- Dr. Cheri Nijssen-Jordan, Physician, AHS Vaccine Task Force Co Lead

During this session, we will provide updates on the COVID-19 vaccination process, including how phases were set, how decisions were made, and next steps in the immunization roll out. Following the presentation, there will be time for a Q&A period and opportunities for you to ask questions of your AHS medical leadership. Additional time will be allocated for open feedback for suggestions about issues and topics to cover in future sessions.

Meeting details

Date: Thursday, March 18

Time: 7-8 a.m. MST

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94088167399?pwd=NzNZWVJBaFRSZ1ZTbjJDY0hsK2Jzd09>

Meeting ID: 940 8816 7399

Passcode: 620644

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,94088167399# Canada

+12042727920,,94088167399# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 940 8816 7399

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ashekn6rk>

The CMO Physician Conversation series is intended to provide information and updates about issues that are important to you, and which impact your practice. We will be continuing this series on a monthly basis, on the third Thursday of the month.

Tocilizumab use for COVID-19

There is new evidence recently available that suggests Tocilizumab may be of benefit to select patients with COVID-19. AHS is reviewing this data and the AHS Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) is deciding on whether or not the evidence is strong enough to recommend using Tocilizumab for select patients with COVID-19.

The supply of this drug is very limited and the earliest AHS will be receiving a supply of Tocilizumab will be sometime after March 15. Tocilizumab will not be available for use unless recommended by DTC AND the supply has been delivered to AHS.

More information will follow as it becomes available.

Doc of the Week – Dr. Jane Ojedokun



Dr. Jane Ojedokun is the Associate Zone Medical Director in the North Zone Area 4 which includes Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Mayerthorpe and Whitecourt. She has been in this role since 2017 and also serves as the Community Medical Director for Whitecourt since 2015.

Dr. Ojedokun trained in Nigeria and completed her residency in Ireland in Family Medicine. She has been in Canada since 2012 and has a special interest in Psychiatry. Dr. Ojedokun helps address the need for psychiatric services in her community. She is currently enrolled in the CANREACH pediatric psychiatry program to increase her competency in this area of medicine.

Dr. Ojedokun acknowledges that racism occurs in healthcare institutions, and most incidents are not reported. Although she feels safe in her work environment, she supports naming racism in order to shift culture. She believes that working with a diverse group of physicians with varied experiences, as well as participating in ongoing cultural training, are important steps in addressing racism.

AHS is taking action to address racism and discrimination which includes the ongoing work of the Antiracism Advisory Group.

Succession planning is a key leadership action identified by Dr. Ojedokun and she has created developmental opportunities for emerging leaders in her communities to help build their skills.

In honour of International Women's Day, we celebrate Dr. Ojedokun's many contributions to her patients, peers, and community in the north zone.

Grande Prairie Physician to Become First Indigenous CMA President

Congratulations to Dr. Alika Lafontaine for successfully securing the nomination as the next president of the Canadian Medical Association. Dr. Lafontaine, an anesthesiologist at the QEII Hospital in Grande Prairie, is an Indigenous physician of Cree and Anishinaabe descent who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and increase understanding about how addressing biases can improve the health of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Dr. Lafontaine will be the first Indigenous CMA president as well as the first CMA president of Pacific Islander descent. Among his many recognitions, Dr. Lafontaine received the CMA Sir Charles Tupper Award for Political Action in 2019.

You can read the [CMA's announcement](#) about Dr. Lafontaine's nomination, more about his [Sir Charles Tupper Award](#) win, as well as [his work with AHS](#).

MD Culture

Check out our newsletter, MD Culture Shift Winter edition, [here](#).

Physician Wellness Zoom Rooms

- **Date:** Tues. March 9, 5-6 p.m.
Topic of focus: Moral Distress
Zoom Link: [Here](#)
- **Date:** Tues. March 23, 5-6 p.m.
Topic of focus: The positive effects of poetry and music on wellness during the pandemic
Zoom Link: [Here](#)

Infographics from past Physician Wellness Zoom rooms can be found at www.ahs.ca/mdwellness.

International Women's Day events – open to all physicians regardless of gender. Please register early as space is limited.

- **Date:** Mon. March 8, 7 p.m.
Topic: Gender Equity in Medicine presented by Drs. Tara Kiran and Michelle Cohen. Review the data, the root causes, and the current gaps; then join in a discussion on solutions.
Registration Link: [Here](#)

Find out more about the network and join: [Edmonton Women in Health Network](#).

Government Updates Public Health Measures

On March 1, the Government of Alberta [updated public health measures](#) for indoor fitness and libraries.

Libraries can now open but must limit capacity to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy, not including staff.

For indoor fitness, unsupervised low-intensity individual and group exercises are now allowed by appointment only. Low-intensity exercises include weightlifting, low-intensity dance classes, yoga, barre and indoor climbing, as well as the low-intensity use of treadmills, ellipticals and related equipment. High-intensity activities, including running, spin and high-intensity interval training, continue to be allowed only on a one-on-one with a trainer basis, or training with a household member and one trainer.

Mandatory physical distance of three metres is required between participants, including coaches and trainers, at all times, and masks must be worn at all times by trainers and those participating in low-intensity activities. All indoor fitness must be pre-registered – no drop-ins allowed.

Surgical Backlog Strategy Update

The Government of Alberta announced March 5 it will support Alberta's health system to provide [more than 55,000 additional publicly-funded surgeries](#) (over the roughly 290,000 surgeries normally performed annually), to address the surgical backlog caused by the pandemic. This will provide Albertans even more surgeries that will improve their quality of life.

Throughout the 2020/21 fiscal year to date, AHS surgical teams have been able to support surgical activity at about 90 per cent of pre-COVID-19 levels. As of the end of February 2021, over 220,000 surgeries have been completed this fiscal year. This is a tremendous accomplishment given the demands of responding to the pandemic.

As we now begin to come out of Wave 2 of COVID-19, AHS, along with AH, is working on a Surgical Recovery Plan. The plan is designed to increase access to surgeries across the province for Albertans, while balancing the healthcare system COVID-19 pandemic response.

The following strategies are underway to support the Surgical Recovery Plan:

- Resume surgical services at AHS sites where activity needed to be slowed during Wave 2 (underway).
- Increase the volume of surgeries in chartered surgical facilities (CSF) already under contract with AHS (underway). CSFs will increase current volumes by 2023, completing about 90,000 surgeries per year, up from the approximately 40,000 surgeries they typically perform.
- Establish new publicly-funded contracts with existing and new Alberta vendors to expand the scope of surgeries, including orthopedic day procedures, plastics and general surgery (underway). These independent facilities provide safe, low-risk surgeries without cost to patients, allowing hospitals to focus on emergency and more complex surgeries.
- Create focused sites of surgical care to ensure we can maintain capacity at five AHS sites: Banff, Edson, Innisfail, Peace River and the Royal Alexandra Hospital.
 - While these sites will increase surgical activity, overall activity is also expected to increase across the province through 2021.

Capital and dedicated operational funding will see existing operating rooms in hospitals, including those outside Calgary and Edmonton, used more efficiently.

The entire surgical system will be strengthened – from the time patients seek advice from their family doctor, to when they are referred to a specialist, through their surgery and rehabilitation.

Working as a team, AHS, Covenant Health and CSFs will ensure every Albertan has the surgery they need when they need it. No Albertan will have to pay out of pocket for their scheduled surgeries, no matter if they have their surgery in a hospital or a chartered surgical facility in the community.

Updated Joint Statement with Unions on Personal Protective Equipment during COVID-19

On March 2, AHS, along with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, Covenant Health, the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, and United Nurses of Alberta, issued a [news release](#) on an updated joint statement on the safe and effective use of PPE in our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, PPE has been a key factor in protecting the health and safety of healthcare workers by helping to prevent exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 as they provide high-quality care to Albertans.

The updated [joint statement](#) provides further clarity and empowers health care workers to make decisions on the appropriate PPE based on risk assessments reflecting the changing environment related to COVID-19. This means all healthcare workers will have access to N95 respirator or equivalents, if they determine it is required based on their risk assessment. As partners in the response to COVID-19, we trust our front line health care teams to make appropriate decisions that support their physical and mental health. For more information, see the [supporting guide](#).

Influenza Immunization Update

As of Feb. 27, 2021, 1,560,596 doses of influenza vaccine have been administered in Alberta. Immunizations are up by more than 168,000 compared to the same time last year. For the 17th week in row, there are no reported cases of seasonal influenza in Alberta.

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) have tested 100,069 respiratory swabs for influenza from Aug. 23, 2020 to Feb. 27, 2021.

We continue to make exceptional progress this season. Let's continue to protect each other from this vaccine-preventable illness and reduce the strain on our healthcare system.

Check [Insite](#) for options to get your influenza vaccine, [resources](#) to support this year's campaign and guidance on what to do if you experience [symptoms after immunization](#).

[Click here](#) for more information on the influenza immunization clinics for the public, including your families. And, if you got your influenza vaccine at a [public health clinic](#), pharmacy or doctor's office, please complete the [Got My Flu Shot Form](#).

University of Calgary COVID Corner Anniversary Edition: Vaccines vs. Variants

COVID Corner, hosted by the University of Calgary, offers updates on various topics and aspects related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next session in the series, held on March 10, will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the prevalence and potential impact of SARS-CoV-2 variants, including the likelihood of future waves of COVID-19
- Examine the efficacy of vaccines in preventing COVID-19 and virus transmission in the community, including potential efficacy against variants
- Demonstrate the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions and identify the public health measures most likely to prevent future waves of COVID-19
- Recognize the economic impact of COVID-19 and how economic recovery can be influenced by public health strategies related to relaxing restrictions

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 7-9 p.m. MST

Register: [Here](#)

AMA COVID-19 Immunization Program for Community Physicians

The Alberta Medical Association (AMA) has posted an Expression of Interest on their webpage, requesting community physicians and their partners express interest in participating in the Alberta effort to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations.

For more information, please visit the [AMA website](#).

Annual Strengthening Linkages Workshops: Family Physicians and Cancer Care Alberta

Family physicians are invited to attend the 10th Annual Strengthening Linkages Workshops: Family Physicians and Cancer Care Alberta.

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021

Registration Information: [Here](#)

The Group Learning program has been certified by The CERT+ Team (The College of Family Physicians of Canada) for up to 7 Mainpro+ credits: REGISTERED NAME: Strengthening Linkages: Cancer Care Alberta and Family Physicians (ID-193364)

Following attendance, physicians will receive a certificate of completion for this workshop for 7 Manipro+ credits.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Renae Sinclair at 403-406 8452.

Additional Resources for Physicians:

- [Acute Care Outbreak Prevention & Management Task Force](#)
- [AHS Immunization Information](#)
- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQ for Clinicians](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Community Physicians](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing and Self-Isolation Criteria](#)
- [CPSA's physician portal](#)

- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [Government of Alberta Vaccination Updates](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [How to do a Nasopharyngeal \(NP\) Swab](#) (New England Journal of Medicine)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [Online Healthcare Worker Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [Spectrum](#): A mobile app customized to deliver local antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, resistance data, dosing information, and AHS COVID-19 related content.
- COVID-19 Questions? Contact your local Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC):
 - ZEOC.South@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Calgary@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Central@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Edmonton@ahs.ca
 - PCH.ZEOCNorth@ahs.ca

For more information

- Visit the [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional information page](#) on the AHS website for more information or contact AHS.ECC@ahs.ca.
- Additional updates and information are being shared through the [College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta \(CPSA\)](#).

This update, provided every Friday, is intended to provide a summary of the key action items, information and decisions for AHS Medical Staff in relation to clinical policies and practices, and for the COVID-19 pandemic response. It is forwarded to physicians' preferred email inbox.

Do you have COVID-19 questions, information, or a physician or team who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic, that you would like to see covered in an upcoming edition of the COVID-19 CMO update? Let us know at CMO@ahs.ca.

Sincerely,
Dr. Francois Belanger
 Chief Medical Officer and VP, Quality

Dr. Laura McDougall
 Senior Medical Officer of Health

