

# CMO SMOH Notice for AHS Medical Staff

Sept. 24, 2021

*We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8, and the homeland of the Métis. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.*

## This week:

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## Support for Physicians

If you are struggling and feel you need support, there are resources available through the [Physician & Family Support Program \(PFSP\)](#).



I (Francois) welcome any feedback by email to [cmo@ahs.ca](mailto:cmo@ahs.ca), and am always open to a chat.

## Capacity Update

Our hospitals – and in particular, our intensive care units – continue to experience unprecedented patient demand. AHS continues to do all it can to ensure we have enough ICU capacity, including opening additional spaces and redeploying staff.

As of today (Sept. 24), we have 368 ICU beds open in Alberta, including 195 additional spaces (a 113 per cent increase over our baseline of 173).

Critical care triage has not been implemented, and our hope is that we will not have to implement it. It will only be implemented if all efforts to increase ICU capacity are exhausted – that has not happened yet. AHS has opened 42 additional ICU surge spaces in the past seven days, including 20 in the past 24 hours. Any patient who requires mechanical ventilation is currently able to receive it.

There are currently 304 patients in ICU, the vast majority of whom are COVID-19 positive.

Provincially, ICU capacity (including additional surge beds) is currently at 83 per cent. Without the additional surge spaces, provincial ICU capacity would be 177 per cent.

The number of patients in ICU has increased by 18 per cent in the past seven days.

It's tragic we are only able to keep pace with those sorts of numbers because in part, some of our ICU patients have passed away. This reality has a deep and lasting impact on our ICU teams.

With that in mind, we should also note that over a two-day period, our teams have managed to move 18 patients out of ICU. That means those patients no longer need that critical level of care, and are hopefully on the long road to recovery.

We are facing a fragile balance. On some days we are seeing more ICU patients being admitted than new ICU beds being created. We are transferring more patients out of zones to other zones where there is additional critical care capacity. And every day our teams are focused on adding more critical care capacity to meet the needs of our patients. This includes a significant reduction in surgical and other important clinical activity, which is causing deep concern for staff, physicians and patients.

We'd like to thank you all for your tireless efforts, and for providing the very best care to patients even though you are frustrated and exhausted. Words aren't enough to sum up how proud we are of all of you.

### **[Reminder to Submit your Proof of COVID-19 Immunization](#)**

AHS' [Immunization of Workers for COVID-19 Immunization Policy](#) requires all employees, medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers and contracted healthcare providers to be fully immunized for COVID-19 by Oct. 31, 2021. This will help protect our vital frontline healthcare teams who continue to provide excellent care to anyone who needs it and maintain a safe environment for all.

Note: The policy applies to the workforce broadly, including AHS medical staff with privileges in AHS facilities and programs, and AHS midwifery staff.

Please submit your proof of immunization by using the [Got My COVID-19 Immunization Form](#) as soon as possible and no later than Oct. 16, 2021. Thank you to the more than 49,000 individuals who have already done so. Your ongoing support and dedication is greatly appreciated.

If you are not an AHS, Alberta Precision Laboratories or Covenant Health employee and you wish to submit a request for exception under the policy, please review the [exception request form](#) and submit to [md.midwife.covidvacc@ahs.ca](mailto:md.midwife.covidvacc@ahs.ca).

AHS [frequently asked questions](#) and [additional resources](#) are available. For more information, contact [AHSVaccineTaskForce@ahs.ca](mailto:AHSVaccineTaskForce@ahs.ca).

The CPSA also has the following resources for guidance on exemption requests for vaccination and mask use:

- [Guidance for physicians: requests for COVID-19 vaccination exemptions](#)
- [Patient FAQ: Exemption Requests for Vaccination](#)
- [FAQ: Mask Use Exemption Letters](#)
- [Patient FAQ: Exemption Requests for Mandatory Masking](#)

### **Common Questions about COVID-19 Immunization**

#### **Q: Is consent from a parent or guardian required for a minor to be vaccinated?**

A: Parental consent for minors under the age of 18 is required. In some circumstances, a minor may be determined to be a mature minor who has the capacity to consent to being vaccinated on their own behalf. This is determined on a case by case basis.

#### **Q: Is there a consent form parents or guardians are required to sign?**

A: Prior to receiving their immunization, minors (under 18 years of age) who are not deemed a mature minor will require parent/guardian consent. If the parent/guardian is in attendance, verbal consent is appropriate. If a parent/guardian cannot be in attendance, a consent form can be signed and provided to the immunizer prior to administering the vaccine. This form can be found here: [Consent for COVID-19 Immunization](#).

For more information, please see the Youths Under 18 section in the [frequently asked questions](#).

### **AHS Clinical Ethics' Spotlight Session - Mandatory Vaccination: An Ethics Perspective**

Starting September 23, AHS Clinical Ethics Services team will host a series of sessions about the ethical perspective of mandatory vaccination on Zoom.

- **Thursday, Sept. 23: 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
[Zoom Meeting](#) (call in by phone 1 587 328 1099 - meeting ID: 943 1089 0410, passcode: 257184)
- **Friday, Sept. 24, 2021: 12 – 1 p.m.**  
[Zoom Meeting](#) (call in by phone 1 587 328 1099 - meeting ID: 936 3908 9017, passcode: 532893)
- **Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021: 12 – 1 p.m.**  
[Zoom Meeting](#) (call in by phone 1 587 328 1099 - meeting ID: 961 3594 6849, passcode: 506294)
- **Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021: 1 – 2 p.m.**  
[Zoom Meeting](#) (call in by phone 1 587 328 1099 - meeting ID: 994 1507 0920, passcode: 249441)

If you have any questions, please visit the [Clinical Ethics Service page](#), call 1-855-943-2821 or email [clinicaethics@ahs.ca](mailto:clinicaethics@ahs.ca).

### **CPSA Advice to Profession: Protecting Patient Privacy**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) [shared the following](#) with all physicians today in relation to social media and protecting patient information:

Social media has been an important tool for staying connected and sharing personal experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but we're starting to see some concerns around disclosing patient information, whether intentional or not.

This includes sharing photos that may have sensitive information in the background, and/or releasing information about a patient that could be identified and linked to the patient by the patient themselves, and/or their friends and family. For example, sharing publicly that a 30-something-year-old pregnant

female passed away from COVID-19, with a picture of yourself wearing your staff badge, is likely going to lead some family and friends to identify the patient, including her cause of death.

We encourage you to review the resources below:

- [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(Alberta\)](#);
- [Health Information Act \(Alberta\)](#);
- [Copyright Act \(Canada\)](#); and
- [Advice to the profession: Social Media](#).

AHS would like to also take this opportunity to send a reminder to all AHS Medical Staff of the policies and procedures in place at AHS:

- [AHS' Privacy Protection and Information Access Policy](#); and
- [AHS' Social Media Policy](#).

AHS' Community Engagement and Communications (CE&C) team provides AHS staff and contractors with guidance if they are embarking on a community engagement activity or having interaction with media. Please consult with the CE&C team as per the [AHS' Community Engagement and Communications Policy](#).

Thank you for your continued attention to protecting patient information.

### **University of Calgary COVID Corner: COVID & Pregnancy – Vaccine Safety and Patient Management**

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

This next session, *COVID & Pregnancy – Vaccine Safety and Patient Management*, will:

- Explain the challenges assessing pregnant patients with COVID-19
- Summarize treatment recommendations for COVID-19 infection in pregnancy
- Describe effectiveness and safety data supporting the recommendation for COVID-19 immunization in pregnancy

Note: If you registered for COVID Corner in 2020/2021, you will have to register again for the new 2021/2022 sessions.

Date: Sept. 28

Time: 7-8:30 p.m. MST

For more information, including registration, visit the [website](#).

### **MD Culture Shift**

**MD Culture Shift Newsletter:** [Issue 06: September 2021](#)

### **Reminder: Leadership Development**

Provincial Medical Affairs is pleased to sponsor the following virtual Physician Leadership Institute (PLI) courses for 2021/2022:

- Coaching for Excellence – Nov. 8-10: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. MST each day
- Leading Change – Dec. 8-9: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. MST each day.
- Building and Leading Teams – Jan. 19-20, 2022: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. MST each day.
- Leadership Strategies for Sustainable Physician Engagement – Feb. 17 & 24, 2022 (two Thursdays) - Day 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. MST and Day 2, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. MST.
- Talent Management for Exceptional Leadership - TBA

To register, email: [ProvMAProfDevelopment@ahs.ca](mailto:ProvMAProfDevelopment@ahs.ca)

## [Doctor of the Week Call for Nominations](#)

*Doctor of the Week shows the people, faces and stories of the physicians caring for patients across Alberta Health Services. Physicians for this feature are nominated by their colleagues. Contact [cmo@ahs.ca](mailto:cmo@ahs.ca) to nominate a physician to be featured here.*

## **Highlights from the CEO All Staff Update**

### [COVID-19 Case Status in Alberta](#)

Capacity pressures continued to be intense in AHS hospitals across the province this past week, with the number of active cases in Alberta exceeding 20,000 for the first time since last May.

There are currently 20,040 active cases of COVID-19 in Alberta, a 4.4 per cent increase compared to Sept. 17 when there were 19,201 active cases.

For the seven-day period ending Sept. 22, there was an average of 1,605 new daily cases of COVID-19, compared to 1,566 for the previous week (Sept. 9-15), a 2.5 per cent increase. New case numbers varied significantly from zone to zone. Calgary Zone reported a 19.6 per cent decrease in new cases compared to last week, whereas South Zone reported a 40.3 per cent increase. Edmonton Zone reported a 7.9 per cent decrease, although it had the highest total number of new cases, with 2,859.

The increase in new and active cases is reflected in our hospitalization numbers. There are currently 1,061 individuals with COVID-19 in hospital, compared to 911 on Sept. 17, an increase of 16.5 per cent.

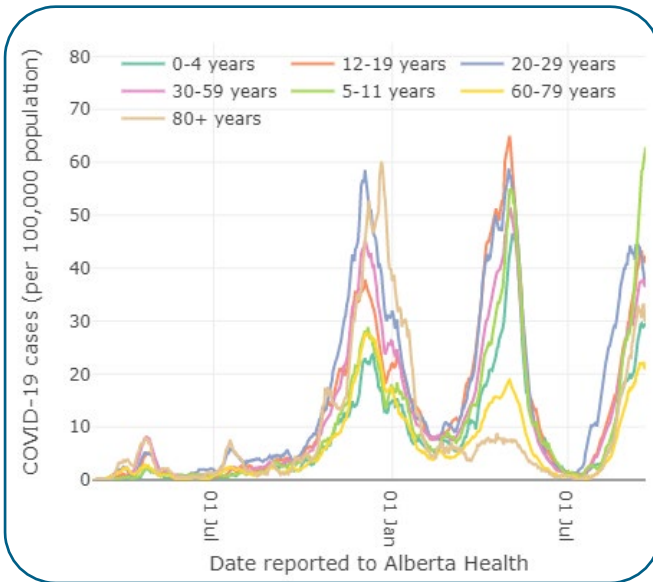
### ***Cases by age group***

As of Sept. 19, children ages five to 11 — who are currently ineligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine — had the highest seven-day rolling average of new daily COVID-19 cases, with 62.9 cases per 100,000 children. Albertans ages 12 to 19 had the second-highest rate with 42.3 cases per 100,000 people. Clearly, the Delta variant is much more virulent than previous variants of concern, and it is impacting younger people at higher rates.

To make it easier for eligible children and teenagers to get immunized, we are supporting schools to provide immunizations at temporary in-school clinics. This is open to eligible students in Grades 7 to 12, as well as teachers and staff.

Clinics are running during and after school hours at schools across the province, and we're strongly advising parents to take advantage of this program. More than 1,500 eligible students have already been immunized at these school clinics.

Trends in COVID-19 cases by age group can be seen in the figure below.



### ***Variants of concern***

With the increase in cases of COVID-19, the lab has moved back to targeted screening of positive samples for strain-typing. From Sept. 14 to Sept. 20, an average of 43 per cent of positive samples were strain-typed. Of those, the rolling average was 99.5 per cent Delta variant. Strain-typing takes several days and these numbers may change as lab data becomes available.

### ***Other notable COVID-19-related information***

As of Sept. 22:

- A total of 286,706 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Alberta and a total of 12,177 individuals have been hospitalized, which amounts to 4.2 individuals for every 100 cases. In all, 263,915 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19.
- 2,611 individuals have passed away from COVID-19, including 106 deaths over a seven-day period. We extend our condolences to the families of these individuals, and to all who have lost loved ones from any cause during this time. We have seen the number of deaths due to COVID-19 increase significantly again during this fourth wave, a sad reminder that this virus can be deadly, particularly for those who are not immunized. Every day we see the numbers; and as you all know well, these are people. They are spouses and partners, grandparents, uncles and aunts, and sons and daughters. They are people's best friends and loved ones.
- A total of 5.4 million tests have been conducted and 2.4 million individuals have been tested. From Sept. 16 to Sept. 22, 109,831 COVID-19 tests were completed, an average of 15,690 tests per day. During this period, the daily positivity ranged from 9.1 per cent to 11.35 per cent.

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 R value is updated every two weeks. From Sept. 13 to Sept. 19, the provincewide R value was 1.04 and the previously reported value was 1.12. The R value for Edmonton and Calgary was 0.97 and 0.94, respectively, while the rest of the province had an R value of 1.15.

Alberta Health has not resumed school reporting.

### **COVID-19 Immunization Update**

#### ***Expansion of criteria for third doses***

This week, the Government of Alberta expanded eligibility for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine to more immunocompromised Albertans to align with [recent recommendations made by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#).

Individuals with advanced HIV infection and additional patients receiving medications that impact their immune systems are among those now able to get an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine. A full list of immunocompromising conditions that qualify for an additional dose at least eight weeks after a second dose are available on the [Alberta Health website](#).

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine are also available for seniors living in congregate care. These individuals are at the highest risk of severe outcomes and potential spread within congregate living sites.

Additional mRNA doses are also available to Albertans who are travelling to a jurisdiction that does not accept visitors who have been vaccinated with Covishield/AstraZeneca or mixed doses.

Eligible Albertans can book appointments online at either an AHS clinic or pharmacy through the online booking system at [alberta.ca/vaccine](#). Albertans can also book an appointment by calling Health Link at 811.

### ***Protecting children under 12 who are not yet eligible for COVID-19 immunization***

At this point in time, there are no COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada for use in children under 12. Until vaccines are approved, the best way for parents and guardians to protect their children is to get immunized themselves and ensure family members 12 and up are immunized as well.

As of Sept. 21, the uptake of COVID-19 vaccine among the 12 to 29 age group continues to fall behind that of all eligible Albertans. Only 73 per cent of those in this age group have received one dose and 61 per cent are fully immunized. This is compared to rates among all eligible Albertans; 82 per cent of whom have received one dose and more than 73 per cent of whom are fully immunized.

With lower rates of immunization, adolescents and young adults have a higher chance of getting the virus, including variant strains, and transmitting it to those who are not immunized.

If you haven't already, please get immunized. Albertans ages 18 and up may be eligible to receive a [\\$100 debit card](#) if they receive your first or second dose before October 14. Please encourage loved ones and those you know who are eligible to get the vaccine to do so as soon as possible.

Together, we are building a protective shield around those for whom the vaccine is not yet available, and for those with health conditions that may make them vulnerable. We must all do our part to protect each other.

### ***Co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines***

With the annual influenza immunization program launching in mid-October, AHS is reminding Albertans it is safe and recommended to receive both the COVID-19 vaccine and the influenza vaccine this year.

COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines. This was recommended out of an abundance of caution when the COVID-19 vaccines were new.

Substantial data has now been collected, and COVID-19 vaccines can now be administered at the same time as, or any time before or after, other inactivated (non-live) vaccines. This is safe and recommended for all populations, including children and youth 12 and older and those who are pregnant, trying to get pregnant or who have recently delivered.

Live vaccines need to be spaced 14 days, before or after, the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine.



### ***COVID-19 immunization during pregnancy***

AHS continues to strongly urge those who are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or have recently delivered, to get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

COVID-19, particularly the Delta variant, is highly infectious and pregnant individuals are at a higher risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for pregnant individuals and their babies, with mRNA vaccines being the safest type of COVID-19 vaccine to get during pregnancy. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada recommend that those who are pregnant get a complete series of vaccine. Pregnant individuals can get the vaccine at any time (any trimester) during pregnancy.

Research also shows that the COVID-19 vaccine does not impact fertility and does not increase the risk of miscarriage.

We would like to remind you that AHS has several resources available (new and recently updated) to support your conversations with patients and clients who are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or who have recently delivered:

- **Web:** [ahs.ca/vaccinepregnancy](https://ahs.ca/vaccinepregnancy)
- **Updated:** [COVID-19 Immunization in Pregnancy](#)
- **Updated:** [COVID-19 and Pregnancy, Birth, and Postpartum and Breastfeeding: Information for Expectant and New Parents Public Health](#)
- [Alberta COVID-19 Immunization in Pregnancy Factsheet for Practitioners](#)
- **New Poster:** COVID-19 Vaccines & Pregnancy [8.5x11](#) | [11x17](#)
- **New Videos:** [Dr. Sue Chandra on Why COVID-19 Vaccine is Safe During Pregnancy](#) & [Dr. Erin Bader on How the COVID-19 Vaccine Protects Mother and Baby](#)

### ***Protective effects of COVID-19 immunization***

Vaccines remain one of our most powerful tools in the fight against COVID-19. They are safe, effective and they save lives. As Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw explained [earlier this week](#):

- Albertans who have not been fully immunized are about 15 times more likely than those with vaccine protection to end up in the hospital from COVID-19.
- They are about 40 times more likely to be admitted to the ICU.
- About 77 per cent of Albertans in hospital with COVID-19 are not fully immunized and 92 per cent of those in the ICU have not had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

There is a lot of misinformation out there about COVID-19 vaccines. Different people have different feelings and concerns about COVID-19 immunization and that's OK. But we should all have the same information and support each other to learn more.

The data below compiled by [Alberta Health](#) on vaccine outcomes shows that immunization will protect most people from getting sick, having to go to the hospital or dying if they get infected with COVID-19.

We hope this data can help inform and support your conversations with patients, clients, family members, friends, loved ones and networks, about the importance and effectiveness of COVID-19 immunization.

**COVID-19 hospitalization, count and rate (per 100,000 population) in the past 120 days in Alberta by vaccine status.**



Age group	Fully vaccinated & hospitalized (n)	Fully vaccinated & hospitalized (rate per 100K)	Partially vaccinated & hospitalized (n)	Partially vaccinated & hospitalized (rate per 100K)	Unvaccinated & hospitalized (n)	Unvaccinated & hospitalized (rate per 100K)
Under 12 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	73	1.05
12-29 years	11	1.85	13	2.98	298	4.15
30-39 years	21	4.71	13	21.68	410	195.32
40-49 years	27	6.31	32	6.95	408	294.27
50-59 years	38	9.06	52	169.73	563	558.76
60-69 years	80	19.83	53	263.45	570	1120.23
70-79 years	139	59.29	56	747.46	383	2048.57
80+ years	216	174.35	40	987.17	228	1849.52

**COVID-19 ICU admission, count and rate (per 100,000 population), in the past 120 days in Alberta by vaccine status.**

Age group	Fully vaccinated & admitted in ICU (n)	Fully vaccinated & admitted in ICU (rate per 100K)	Partially vaccinated & admitted in ICU (n)	Partially vaccinated & admitted in ICU (rate per 100K)	Unvaccinated & admitted in ICU (n)	Unvaccinated & admitted in ICU (rate per 100K)
Under 12 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	2.12
12-29 years	1	0.17	0	0.00	50	5.80
30-39 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	86	40.97
40-49 years	8	1.87	8	9.24	105	76.73
50-59 years	7	1.67	13	42.43	182	160.63
60-69 years	14	3.47	14	89.59	197	387.17
70-79 years	14	5.97	10	133.48	102	545.57
80+ years	6	4.84	1	4.68	13	105.46

**COVID-19 deaths, count and rate (per 100,000 population), in the past 120 days in Alberta by vaccine status.**

Age group	Fully vaccinated & died (n)	Fully vaccinated & died (rate per 100K)	Partially vaccinated & died		Unvaccinated & died (n)	Unvaccinated & died (rate per 100K)
			(n)	(rate per 100K)		
Under 12 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12-29 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	1.26
30-39 years	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	2.38
40-49 years	3	0.70	1	2.40	12	8.65
50-59 years	4	0.95	3	9.79	34	33.74
60-69 years	14	3.47	7	34.79	62	121.85
70-79 years	21	8.96	7	93.43	72	385.11
80+ years	70	56.50	7	172.75	77	624.62

### COVID-19 Testing for Healthcare Workers — the Latest Numbers

We continue to update the testing data for healthcare workers. These statistics provide the total number of AHS 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 Sept. 21:

- 82,585 employees (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 7,375 (or 8.93 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 5,503 employees who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 625 (or 11.36 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 1,872 employees who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.
- 5,839 physicians (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 307 (or 5.26 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 232 physicians who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 21 (or 9.05 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 75 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](#).

### Verna's Weekly Video Message: Equitable Access to Care

Immunization is one of the most effective ways to protect our health and we strongly encourage everyone to get the vaccine once they are eligible to receive it. At the same time, we recognize that different people will have different feelings and concerns about COVID-19 immunization. And that's OK.

Unfortunately, one of the narratives out in the public realm is to shame those who are not immunized. Some even suggest we go as far as withholding care to the unvaccinated.

We want to be clear – this is a view AHS does not share. While we will continue to strongly advocate for all individuals to become vaccinated, vaccine status will never impact access to care.

Our role is to provide care, and help break down any barriers that might exist for people who are open to making a different choice. Joining Verna to [discuss this topic](#) are:

- Sean Chilton, Vice President, Health Professions and Information Technology
- Dr. Mark Joffe, Vice President and Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta, Clinical Support Services and Provincial Clinical Excellence...
- Dr. Cheryl Mack, Chair, Clinical Ethics Committee, Stollery Children's Hospital, Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, WCM Health Sciences Centre, and Edmonton Kaye Clinic
- Duncan Steele, Organizational Ethicist, Clinical Ethics Services

## Beyond COVID-19

### Government Appoints New Health Minister

This past Tuesday (Sept. 21), the Government of Alberta appointed Jason Copping the new Minister of Health, replacing Tyler Shandro. Copping was previously Minister of Labour and Immigration. AHS looks forward to working with Minister Copping as the province responds to the fourth wave of the pandemic and severe capacity pressures on the health system.

### Celebrating Environmental Public Health Week

More than 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Safe Healthy Environments (SHE) team continues to be the first point of contact for many Albertans. To date, the team has addressed more than 95,000 complaints and questions.

From responding to complaint service requests, to outbreak response and congregate living inspection collaborations; from producing high-quality rapid reviews to creatively adapting administrative responses, the team has exceeded all expectations.

As we come to the end of Environmental Public Health Week (Sept. 20-26), we would like to recognize your incredible work on the front lines of the pandemic response, which has been critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

We would like all team members to reflect on, and take pride in, the difference you make in the lives of Albertans. Each day, the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases are prevented because of your diligence and dedication. Thank you for keeping our communities healthy and safe, and for protecting all Albertans.

We'd also like to share a [video about the work of the SHE team](#).

### 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](mailto:ZEOC.South@ahs.ca)
  - [ZEOC.Calgary@ahs.ca](mailto:ZEOC.Calgary@ahs.ca)
  - [ZEOC.Central@ahs.ca](mailto:ZEOC.Central@ahs.ca)
  - [ZEOC.Edmonton@ahs.ca](mailto:ZEOC.Edmonton@ahs.ca)
  - [PCH.ZEOCNorth@ahs.ca](mailto:PCH.ZEOCNorth@ahs.ca)

**For more information**

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

*This update 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](mailto:CMO@ahs.ca).*

Sincerely,

**Dr. Francois Belanger**

Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Quality

**Dr. Laura McDougall**

Senior Medical Officer of Health

