

CMO SMOH Notice for AHS Medical Staff

October 22, 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 \(PFSP\)](#).



Phased Resumption of Surgical Procedures

Starting Oct. 18, 2021, AHS began implementing an incremental approach to resuming scheduled surgical services.

Resumption is provincial, but decisions are being made locally and on a case-by-case basis. Those who are waiting the longest and are the sickest will be prioritized. Patients will be contacted directly when it is time to receive their surgery.

All surgical expansion plans can be adjusted, as necessary, to help the health system respond to potential increased health system demand caused by COVID-19. Safety of patients, staff and physicians is the utmost priority and increases in surgery activity will happen keeping patient safety and the need to optimize outcomes for all patients top of mind.

We will maintain all current COVID-19 public health orders and infection prevention and control standards and processes, including physical distancing and visitor guidelines within our facilities.

We are very grateful to our staff and physicians for all the hard work they continue to do.

COVID-19 Vaccines Provide More Robust Protection Than Infection-Acquired Immunity

It's important to note that immunity acquired from infection requires becoming infected. This acquired immunity comes with a significant risk as roughly 20,000 Canadians will die from the disease for every one million infected. Also many others will experience life-changing complications such as prolonged pneumonia, lung damage and blood clots. Previous infection has been found to provide 85 per cent protection against symptomatic reinfection, whereas vaccine effectiveness, even with the highly transmissible delta variant, exceeds 90 per cent.

While the duration of any protection is not clear at this time, it is known that vaccination after an infection boosts immunity and offers more protection against the delta variant. There is [also evidence](#) that people who had a previous infection are twice as likely to be reinfected with the delta variant compared to those who had a previous infection plus a dose of vaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, please visit ahs.ca/vaccine.

MD Culture Shift

MD Culture Shift Newsletter: [October edition](#)

Physician Wellness

In some of our care environments, physicians are experiencing difficult interactions with patients. We wish to help all health workers feel safe.

In fall 2020, PROactive: Partners in Professionalism partnered with the University of Calgary Office of CME&PD to host a three-part webinar series entitled "*Identifying and Managing Violence in the Workplace: Experiences and Strategies.*"

During the webinars, there was discussion around physician experiences of workplace violence, and strategies and tools for prevention and safe response.

Physicians must register to view these recorded webinars, and can do so here: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/cme/series/PROactive>. (2.5 CME Credits)

Leadership Development

Harvard Medical School Career advancement and Leadership Skills for Women in Healthcare

- Live Streaming: Nov. 1 - 3.
- View the agenda and [register \(free\)](#).

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Equity in Medicine hosts “I’m not sick, I’m Transgender”

- Oct. 27: 6-7 p.m. MT, presented by International speaker, Marni Panas, Program Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at AHS. [Register here.](#)

MD Culture Shift Resources

- Check out our latest **MD Culture Shift newsletter** ([October edition](#))
- Nov. 24: 7-8:30 p.m. MST: MD Culture Shift Community of Practice (COP). This first session of a new ongoing COP will be focused on an introduction to the portfolio of diversity, wellness and leadership development with an introduction to trauma informed leadership. The additional topics will be determined by you, the leaders (formal and informal), in AHS who have an interest in shifting culture. These topics may include wellness initiatives, anti-racism initiatives, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, sense of belonging, psychological safety, anti-bullying, and metrics of culture. To join, see the Zoom meeting information [here](#). Passcode: 603079

Doctor of the Week – Dr. Antonia Stang

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 to nominate a physician to be featured here.



This week’s Doctor of the Week is Dr. Antonia Stang, Section Chief for Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Nominated for her outstanding contributions to her patients and her colleagues, Dr. Stang provides compassionate care for children and families at the Alberta Children’s Hospital and South Health Campus, and has made a huge impact through her dedication throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her role as Section Chief, Dr. Stang works with a skilled team of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals to provide emergency care for ill and injured children in Southern Alberta. In fact, it was the opportunity to perpetually hone her skills and to work in a fast-paced setting that first inspired Dr. Stang to become a physician.

“I was drawn to medicine because I wanted a career that emphasized lifelong learning and continuous skill development,” says Dr. Stang. “I enjoy the fast-paced emergency department environment and learn something new on every shift”.

While each area has its own unique rewards and challenges, the work of supporting the health and safety of children, and the inspiration she draws from her team are incredibly fulfilling.

“What I love about my work is being part of a high-functioning team. I am motivated by the excellence, dedication, resilience, and adaptability of the healthcare professionals I work with. Despite the challenges of the last few years, everyone’s focus remains on providing the best possible care for the patients and families who visit the emergency department,” says Dr. Stang.

In addition to her work on site with patients and families, Dr. Stang’s career also involves academic contributions which highlight the importance of patient safety, healthcare systems’ research and quality improvement. This work has led to a notable recent achievement.

“In the last few years, I have had the opportunity to enhance clinical, academic, and educational capacity in quality improvement and patient safety through work with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.”

In her spare time, Dr. Stang can often be found outdoors and active with her family.

"I enjoy taking advantage of our beautiful Alberta mountains in my spare time, particularly camping, biking and paddle boarding with my husband and three children."

From us and the team at Alberta Children's Hospital, thank you, Dr. Stang, for being an inspiration to your colleagues and patients.

Highlights from the CEO All Staff Update

Deadline to Submit Proof of Immunization Extended

AHS is pleased to announce that 94 per cent of AHS full-time and part-time employees, 94 per cent of AHS physicians and more than 97 per cent of ICU staff have submitted proof of having been fully immunized. We are grateful to all who have already submitted their proof of immunization and continue to go above and beyond to keep each other and our patients safe.

We appreciate the pressures our teams face in this fourth wave, especially those on the frontlines, and we want to provide every opportunity for our workers, including our contracted service and continuing care providers, to submit their proof of immunization.

We are extending the deadline to comply with the [Immunization of Workers for COVID-19 Policy](#) until **Nov. 30, 2021**. This extension applies to all AHS, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL), Carewest, CapitalCare and Covenant Health employees, medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers and contracted healthcare providers. Workers will need to provide proof of immunization no later than **Nov. 15, 2021** by submitting the [Got My COVID-19 Immunization Form](#) after their final dose. Those workers who are not fully immunized will be placed on an unpaid leave of absence until they can provide proof of immunization, except where a workplace accommodation is approved.

To date, AHS has received approximately 1,400 requests for accommodation on medical or religious grounds, with about 875 having submitted the required paperwork. Those requiring a medical, religious, or other form of accommodation had until Oct. 16, 2021 to submit their request. AHS continues to process and review accommodation requests submitted. Should the need for an accommodation arise in the future, AHS will review those requests as per our accommodation policy.

We encourage staff who remain unimmunized to address any concerns they may have with their leader or healthcare provider and get their immunization as soon as possible. COVID-19 immunization appointments can be booked through ahs.ca/vaccine. Appointments can also be booked through the Government of Alberta's new [Alberta Vaccine Booking System](#).

There are many supports and resources on [Insite](#). You can also find additional information in the [staff FAQ](#). Contact AHSVaccineTaskForce@ahs.ca if you have further questions. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a work environment that promotes safety and well-being.

COVID-19 Case Status in Alberta

ICU capacity update

AHS continues to do all it can to ensure we have enough ICU capacity to meet patient demand.

With pressure easing slightly on our ICUs, we are reducing the available surge beds so we can redeploy staff back to caring for patients who need surgeries and procedures completed.

We will ensure we maintain ICU capacity above daily demand to a planned maximum of 380 beds as long as staff and physician availability allows, and will readjust our plans as needed if COVID-19 cases rise again.

We currently have 348 general adult ICU beds open in Alberta, including 175 additional spaces (more than twice our baseline of 173 general adult ICU beds). This is 28 fewer surge ICU spaces than the peak of 376.

There are currently 277 patients in ICU, about two thirds of whom are COVID-19 positive.

Provincially, ICU capacity (including additional surge beds) is currently at 80 per cent. Without the additional surge spaces, provincial ICU capacity would be at 160 per cent.

The following are numbers of ICU beds we currently have in each zone:

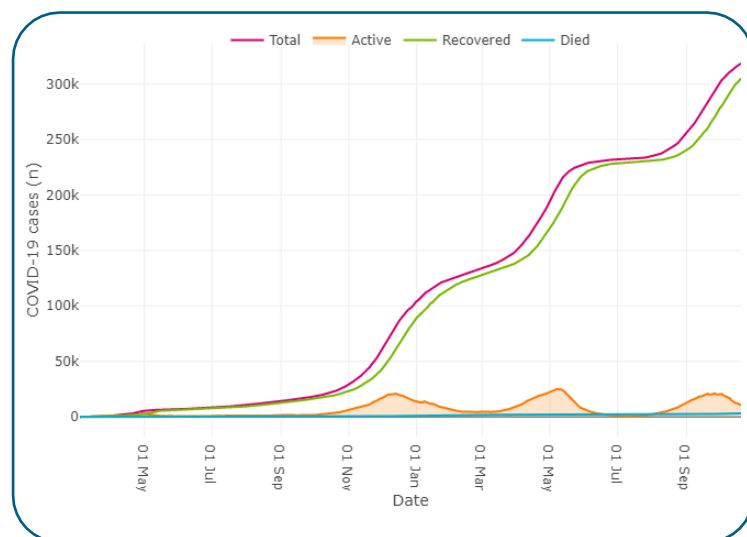
- Calgary Zone: 128 ICU beds, including 62 additional spaces. Calgary Zone ICU is operating at 69 per cent of current capacity.
- Edmonton Zone: 143 ICU beds, including 71 additional spaces. Edmonton Zone is operating at 90 per cent of current capacity.
- Central Zone: 24 ICU beds, including 12 additional spaces. Central Zone ICU is operating at 79 per cent of current capacity.
- South Zone: 36 ICU beds, including 19 additional ICU spaces. South Zone ICU is currently operating at 78 per cent capacity.
- North Zone: 17 ICU spaces (split between Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray), including 11 additional ICU spaces. North Zone is currently operating at 76 per cent capacity.

As of October 21, 3,026 individuals have passed away from COVID-19, including 84 deaths over the past week. We extend our condolences to the families of these individuals, and to all who have lost loved ones from any cause during this time.

New and active cases

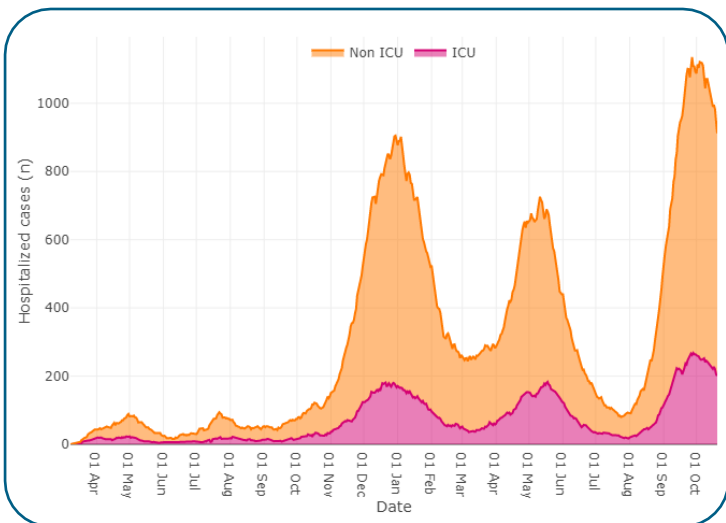
As of Oct. 21, there were 10,037 active cases in Alberta, a 22.7 per cent decrease compared to October 15 when there were 12,978 cases.

For the seven-day period ending Oct. 20, there was an average of 764 new daily cases of COVID-19, compared to 887 for the previous week (Oct. 7 to Oct. 13), a 13.9 per cent decrease. For the second week in a row, all zones reported decreases in the number of new cases per day, ranging from a 4.5 per cent decrease in the North Zone to a 23.4 per cent decrease in the Central Zone. Over the past week, the Calgary Zone reported the highest total number of new cases with 1,299 (an average of 186 cases per day), compared to 1,574 new cases the previous week (an average of 225 cases per day).



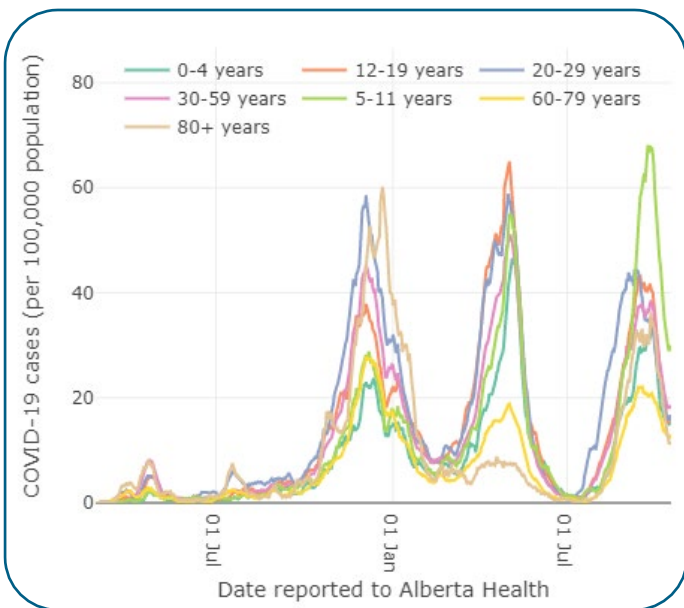
Hospitalizations

A total of 711 individuals were in non-ICU hospital beds for COVID-19 on October 20, compared to 806 individuals in non-ICU hospital beds on October 13, an 11.8 per cent decrease.



Cases by age group

As of Oct. 17, children ages five to 11 – who are currently ineligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine – had the highest seven-day rolling average of new daily COVID-19 cases, with 29 cases per 100,000 children. Albertans ages 30 to 59 had the second-highest rate with 18 cases per 100,000 people. All age groups reported a decreased rate of COVID-19 cases compared to the previous report. Trends in cases in Alberta by age group are in the figure below.



Variants of concern

For variants of concern, the lab is still using targeted screening of positive samples for strain-typing. From October 12 to October 18, 53 per cent of positive samples were strain-typed, on average. Of those strain-typed, the rolling average was 99.6 per cent Delta variant. The remaining 0.4 per cent were a wild variant. Strain-typing takes a number of days and these numbers may change as lab data becomes available.

Other notable COVID-19-related information:

As of October 20:

- A total of 318,520 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Alberta and a total of 14,010 individuals have ever been hospitalized, which amounts to 4.4 individuals for every 100 cases. In all, 305,075 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19. In this case, recovered means they are no longer considered contagious. The number of Albertans who have recovered from COVID-19 reported here, does not reflect the recovery time from a COVID-19 infection, which could last well beyond the time in which people are considered contagious.
- A total of 5,780,619 tests have been conducted and 2,496,431 individuals have ever been tested. From October 14 to October 20, 76,351 COVID-19 tests were completed, an average of 10,907 tests per day. During this period, the daily positivity rate ranged from 6.53 per cent to 8.59 per cent.
- [Public reporting](#) of COVID-19 cases in schools continues, which includes the name of each school with at least two COVID-19 cases.

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 October 11 to October 17 the province-wide R value was 0.85 and the previously reported value was 0.92.

COVID-19 Immunization Updates

Health Canada reviewing Pfizer submission for vaccine in younger age group

This week, Health Canada received a [submission from Pfizer-BioNTech](#) to authorize use of its COVID-19 vaccine in children five to 11 years of age.

This is the first submission Health Canada has received for the use of a COVID-19 vaccine in this younger age group. Health Canada will only authorize the use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine if the independent and thorough scientific review of all the data included in the submission shows that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the potential risks in this age group. The assessment will include a detailed review of clinical trial results, as well as other evolving data and information about the health impacts of COVID-19 and variants of concern on children in Canada.

Health Canada continues to closely monitor all safety and effectiveness data from the real-world use of the vaccine since its deployment in Canada and internationally, including data in the younger age group where it is authorized for use.

Studies with Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine are ongoing in children less than 5 years of age, and other manufacturers are also testing their vaccines in children of various age ranges. Health Canada expects to receive data for review in the coming months.

Availability of Janssen vaccine in Alberta

We continue to receive questions about the availability of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine. The Janssen vaccine is not currently available in Canada.

Alberta is currently in discussions with the National Operations Centre about potentially requesting a small shipment of Janssen vaccine, when safely available.

The other COVID-19 vaccines - Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca / Covishield – continue to be available and are safe and effective. You can book an appointment online at ahs.ca/vaccine, or you can call Health Link at 811, check with your local pharmacy or doctor's office.

You can sign up to get notified when there are vaccine updates and timeline changes from Alberta Health, here: alberta.ca/vaccine.

Update on additional doses for healthcare workers

We continue to receive questions about third/additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for healthcare workers.

No decisions have been made on expanding third doses to healthcare workers.

Alberta Health makes decisions around eligibility for vaccines in the province. These decisions are informed by expert advice from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Alberta Advisory Committee on Immunization. We will continue to keep you updated on Alberta Health decisions in this area.

Current evidence shows two doses of vaccine provide good protection against severe outcomes for those younger than 75 years in the general population. At this time, additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine are recommended for the following groups:

- Albertans age 75 and older (born in 1946 or before)
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis people age 65 and older (born in 1956 or before)
- Seniors living in congregate care settings
- Immunocompromised individuals 12 years of age and older with specific conditions

Travellers going to jurisdictions where Covishield/AstraZeneca or mixed doses are not recognized may also access additional doses if needed.

Appointments can be booked [online](#) at AHS clinics, participating pharmacies and doctor's office, or by calling Health Link at 811. COVID-19 vaccines are also available by walk-in at [participating clinics](#) and pharmacies. Individuals aged 65 and older who live on a First Nations reserve can access third doses through local public health clinics on-reserve. For more information, go to [alberta.ca/vaccine](#).

Get fully protected: get your influenza immunization

Alberta's influenza immunization season kicked off this past Monday, Oct. 18. Influenza vaccine is available free of charge to all Albertans six months of age and older.

AHS public health clinics are offering immunization to those under five years of age and their immediate families or household members. Appointments are required at AHS clinics. All other Albertans can get immunized at participating pharmacies and doctor's offices.

Don't have your COVID-19 vaccine? Get it at the same time as your flu shot, at select locations. It's safe and recommended.

Book your appointment today at [ahs.ca/vaccine](#). If appointments are not available online in your area, contact your local pharmacy or doctor's office directly to see if they are offering influenza immunization by appointment or walk-in. If you need help booking one or multiple appointments for children and family members, please call Health Link at 811.

Staff, physicians and volunteers can also choose to be immunized through a site champion at their facility, a roving cart at their site or a Workplace Health and Safety drop-in clinic. See [Insite](#) for more on the staff immunization campaign.

Now more than ever, we need to protect each other, our communities and our healthcare system against influenza and COVID-19.

Reminder: Please Stay Home When Sick & Stay Vigilant

It is critical that we all continue to take the required precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and other viruses as we enter into the respiratory disease season. In addition to getting immunized for both COVID-19 and influenza, we cannot overstate the importance of **staying home when sick**.

While influenza and COVID-19 are very different illnesses, several symptoms are the same. Adhering to all [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) measures, completing your [fit for work screening](#) every day, [washing your hands](#) regularly and [physically distancing](#) can help prevent the spread of both.

Your actions matter and we each have a role to play in protecting each other – our patients, staff, physicians and volunteers. We must all continue to be diligent in modelling safe work practices. For more information, including the Online Fit for Work Screening Tool, visit ahs.ca/fitforwork. Talk to your medical leader if you have questions about fit for work screening at your site.

COVID-19 Guidelines for Eye Protection

Continuous eyewear continues to be an important piece of personal protection as we work through the fourth wave of the pandemic and ensure the health and safety of both our patients and one another.

Provincewide, continuous eye protection must be maintained for ALL staff and physicians:

- in COVID-19 units,
- in settings experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks,
- when providing care or services within two meters of a patient with COVID-19, suspected COVID-19 or who is experiencing symptoms consistent with a respiratory tract infection,
- when providing care to patients on [Contact and Droplet precautions](#), in addition to a medical mask, gloves and gown.

For those who are fully vaccinated, as updated in the eye protection guidelines in May 2021, [eye protection](#) may be discontinued in all other instances.

All AHS healthcare workers must be fully immunized by Nov. 30, 2021. Until then, HCWs who are not yet fully vaccinated must maintain continuous eye protection as part of personal protection.

Those who are fully vaccinated will not be quarantined following contact with COVID-19, if not wearing eye protection (as long as they remain asymptomatic). Full vaccination is achieved two weeks following completion of a two-dose vaccine series.

Non-vaccinated HCWs will require assessment by WHS following exposure to COVID-19 and may require quarantine if eye protection is not worn.

As always, healthcare workers may choose to use eye protection as directed by their point of care risk assessment or their assessment of all potential risks and hazards. As an added precaution, zone and site leadership may choose to mandate continuous eyewear during an outbreak situation, or based on local circumstances, as deemed appropriate.

We thank all staff, and physicians for continuing to follow this guidance, as we continue to provide exemplary care to all Albertans.

For more information about eye protection, visit: [Use and Reuse of Eye Protection during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Verna's Weekly Video Message: Cybersecurity is Everyone's Responsibility

One of the things we are very proud of is how our people strive to live our values, every day. Whether it's treating one another with respect or ensuring we place safety at the centre of all our decisions.

We also value accountability, especially when it comes to protecting the privacy and security of the information we are entrusted to hold. Whether it's personal information, health information, or AHS business information, we must be vigilant about how we use it and ensure we protect it.

We also have to be on the lookout for online scammers trying to trick us into providing them with access to our personal and AHS systems.

Cyber-crime is up by 600 per cent due to the pandemic, so it's more important than ever to understand the threats out there. With October being [Cybersecurity Awareness month](#) (Insite login required), Verna thought it would be good to have members of our InfoCare team on her vlog. They can give us a refresher on what we can do to keep ourselves cyber-safe and secure our information and systems. Joining Verna to [tell us more](#) are:

- Robert Martin, Chief Information Security Officer, and
- Victoria Lane, Chief Privacy Officer & Legal Counsel

Remember, you play a critical role in protecting the privacy and security of the information we hold and the systems we use. Follow these tips to help protect our information and systems from scammers:

- Use your AHS email for AHS business only
- Use [complex passwords](#) (and keep them confidential)
- Use [multi-factor authentication](#) when logging in remotely (more information on this authentication for physicians will be coming soon)
- Watch for AHS' external email warning, so you don't click on links or attachments that could be infected with malware
- Review the [Confidentiality & User Agreement Reference Guide](#) and [Code of Conduct](#)

You can help protect AHS' health, personal and business information by accessing and using the least information needed to perform your AHS job duties and responsibilities. If you don't know what information you should access within your role, please speak with your medical leader.

Practice our ten [InfoCare Behaviors](#) and refresh your skills by taking the MyLearningLink Required Organizational Learning (ROL) module [InfoCare – On Our Best Behaviors](#).

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 October 18:

- 84,622 employees (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 8,345 (or 9.86 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 6,003 employees who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 654 (or 10.90 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 2,342 employees who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.
- 5,952 physicians (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 341 (or 5.73 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 246 physicians who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 21 (or 8.54 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 95 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](#).

Beyond COVID-19

Seeking a Physician Design Lead – CMIO Training

AHS is seeking a passionate leader to fill the role of Physician Design Lead (PDL) – Chief Medical Information Office (CMIO) Training. This is a leadership position that requires strong communication skills, credibility among peers and experience with clinical operations. The successful candidate would report to the Chief Medical Information Officer and work closely with Clinical Operations and Information Technology partners. Accountabilities include clinical leadership, as well as the implementation and optimization of the provincial clinical information system with a specific focus on the CMIO Training program.

The PDL will be an established physician within the province of Alberta who understands the complexities of undertaking transformational change, large-scale system integration and continuous quality improvement and innovation to deliver on a commitment to excellent performance.

The posting closes Nov. 18, 2021.

For more information and to apply, visit [DoctorJobsAlberta.com: Physician Design Lead – CMIO Training](https://www.doctorjobsalberta.com/physician-design-lead-cmio-training).

Updated Nurse Practitioner Job Description

An updated [nurse practitioner job description](#) is now in place for all AHS NPs.

The updated job description provides greater clarity on the NP role, its scope and defines NP care delivery models across AHS.

Questions? Contact advancedpracticenursing@ahs.ca.

Canadian Patient Safety Week Begins Next Week

From Oct. 25 to Oct. 29, AHS is proud to celebrate [Canadian Patient Safety Week \(CPSW\)](#), a national campaign that aims to inspire continuous improvement when it comes to patient safety and quality care.

This year's CPSW theme is *Who knows? Essential Care Partners do*. Essential Care Partners, known as Designated Support Persons in Alberta, are more than a visitor. They are vital members of the care team who provide consistent support to a loved one throughout their care journey – improving safety, care and the well-being of all involved.

To keep us engaged in this year's CPSW, Healthcare Excellence Canada is offering interactive and exciting activities. These include new resources for physicians and medical staff. You can find tips, tools, and resources on how to welcome and engage Essential Care Partners into health and care settings at PatientSafetyWeek.ca.

Join the webinar

The 2021 CPSW Webinar will help build an understanding of the importance of Essential Care Partners and discuss some of the lessons learned through the pandemic. This session takes place Wednesday, October 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. [Sign up here](#).

Combined Laboratory and X-ray Technologist Week

This week we celebrate our Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists (CLXT) during CLXT Week, which is held the third week of October every year. CLXTs serve our patients when they are most vulnerable, and the work they do is so important to patients, their families and the providers who make treatment decisions, based on results acquired by CLXTs. Not only do they provide quality imaging and lab testing as part of the healthcare team, but they also work as professionals helping patients through their healthcare journeys with compassion and empathy.

Please join us in thanking our CLXTs for their commitment to quality care and their perseverance during these challenging times. Learn more about this dynamic profession in this [feature story](#) on the Alberta Precision Laboratory website, as we highlight three CLXT employees and share their experiences.

Tell Us What You Think About Engagement and Patient Experience: Take the Survey by Nov. 10

Please take the time to respond to Alberta Health Services' (AHS) [Engagement and Patient Experience survey](#).

The Engagement and Patient Experience team works to advance the principles and practices of patient- and family-centred care and patient engagement to help improve the overall patient experience.

They have recently launched a [new survey](#) to better understand people's experiences with and perceptions of Engagement and Patient Experience. These results will help the team to better understand what people know about and expect from Engagement and Patient Experience, and help as they plan and refine their service delivery model.

Additional details

Whether you've previously worked with Engagement and Patient Experience or not, the team would be grateful for your feedback. Anyone involved in AHS healthcare services can take part in the survey.

The survey is voluntary and takes about 8 to 12 minutes to complete. It will be open until end of day, Nov. 10, 2021. All responses are confidential. For the best user experience on Together 4 Health, please use Microsoft Edge, Chrome or Firefox as your browser.

If you have any questions, please email Patient.Engagement@albertahealthservices.ca.

Find the Latest Employee Discounts

The new [Employee Discount webpage](#) features all the special prices and discounts our generous communities and businesses currently offer to our staff and physicians. You'll find discounts on fitness, technology, travel, food and beverages, auto, and more. You can search for discounts by category and location, making it easier for you to find what you are looking for.

Please note that all businesses and facilities require the presentation of valid AHS identification to receive the discount.

If you have questions about the program please email recognition@ahs.ca.

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.
- 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.

Dr. Francois Belanger

Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Quality

Dr. Laura McDougall

Senior Medical Officer of Health

