

CMO SMOH Notice for AHS Medical Staff

November 19, 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

Physician Wellness

Moral distress is a psychological response to an experience of moral conflict or moral constraint, which is especially likely to occur during public health emergencies and in other situations when there are extreme resource limitations affecting patient care and the safety of health care workers (from the CMA document: COVID-19 and Moral Distress).

MD Culture Shift is looking for your help to proactively identify physicians on your teams who may be at an increased risk of experiencing moral distress, with a focus on providing emotional support. Five of the highest-risk groups currently identified include:

1. Emergency physicians
2. ICU physicians
3. STARS physicians,
4. Public Health physicians, and
5. Physicians working in COVID-19 wards.

However, during this time, all physicians may be at risk of moral distress.

The [Physician & Family Support Program \(PFSP\)](#) continues to offer services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.



The Physician & Family Support Program

New: The PFSP is offering small group sessions with a qualified therapist. A group would consist of six to 12 physicians (e.g., from the same team or department) with a qualified therapist. Sessions could be virtual or in-person. Physician leaders interested in this option for their teams should call the PFSP assistance line at 1-877-767-4637 for further discussion.

Well Doc Alberta

Well Doc Alberta is offering an educational session of approximately 60 minutes in length. Questions about or requests for the session are submitted by the physician leader via email to welldocalberta@ucalgary.ca.

Before organizing an educational or small group session, we suggest that leaders communicate with their teams to provide direct support and to gauge interest in attending a session. We recognize that many physicians are experiencing fatigue and burnout and may not have the capacity for another time commitment.

Some additional resources:

- [Moral Distress](#) (Insite login required), AHS Change the Conversation resource
- [The Long Shadow of Covid](#), Well Doc Alberta
- [The Repair of Moral Injury](#), Cleveringa Dallaire [Critical Conversation Series](#)
- [Covid-19 and Moral Distress](#), Canadian Medical Association
- [Pandemic Wellness Toolkit](#), Canadian Medical Association

Physician Immunization Tops 99 Per Cent

The response to our [Immunization of Workers for COVID-19 Policy](#) has proven overwhelmingly positive. We are pleased to share that almost 96 per cent of our full-time and part-time employees and more than 99 per cent of physicians have submitted proof of immunization to date. Thank you for inspiring us to look out for one another.

This is an important milestone in our effort to keep our people, patients and all Albertans safe. We recognize your resilience and commitment to providing high-quality care. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in AHS facilities, preserve workforce capacity and protect vulnerable Albertans.

Health Canada Authorizes COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Five to 11 Years Old

Today, Health Canada approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children five to 11 years of age. Until now, the Pfizer vaccine was approved for use in people 12 years and older.

As [announced by the Alberta Health today \(Nov. 19\)](#), vaccines are expected to arrive in the province the week of Nov. 22. Provided supply is delivered as expected, Alberta plans to begin administration by late next week. We will roll out the vaccine as quickly and safely as possible, and appointments will

be made available for booking, once we receive supply. More information regarding bookings and appointments will be shared once they are available.

If parents haven't already, they can register their child online through the [Alberta Vaccine Booking System](#), in advance of appointments being available. Please note, registration does not mean you will get advanced notice or priority when vaccine is available.

This is the first COVID-19 vaccine to be authorized in Canada for use in children under 12 years of age.

To ensure parents, guardians and families have current, reliable information and resources to help them make an informed decision about immunizing their children, AHS has launched a new webpage at ahs.ca/vaccinekids. The webpage features:

- Videos with advice from top pediatric specialists;
- Strategies to [help children who are afraid of needles](#);
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- And a [new interactive game](#) that teaches children the importance of getting the vaccine, while encouraging them to continue to wear a mask, physically distance, and wash their hands to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19.

Visit, ahs.ca/vaccinekids for more information.

Influenza Update – Cases of H3N2 in the United States

While Alberta and Canada continue to see unprecedented and historically low numbers of influenza infections, it is noteworthy that this month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States is reporting an increase in influenza activity (the first significant increase since March 2020), and especially in young adults and children. Included in this, the CDC is investigating a large outbreak at the University of Michigan among students on the Ann Arbor campus. Read more about this [American outbreak](#).

This serves as a reminder that all physicians are asked to obtain immunization for protection against influenza this season now if they have not already done so.

As Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw said [Nov. 16](#), as we head into winter and more activities move indoors, we can expect to see a rise in the number of Albertans with respiratory symptoms and other illnesses, including seasonal influenza.

We need Albertans to stay vigilant.

So far this year, uptake among all Albertans has been slower than last year. As of Nov. 13, 850,283 doses of influenza vaccine have been administered, which is about 19.2 per cent of the population. Please note, an issue was identified with last week's influenza immunization data, so the number of doses of influenza vaccine administered has dropped since last week.

One additional influenza case has been identified this past week, bringing the total to four confirmed cases of influenza so far this season.

If you still need to get a COVID-19 vaccine dose, you can get the vaccine at the same time as your flu shot.

For more information on influenza, visit ahs.ca/influenza. Interactive aggregate data is available online at [Alberta influenza statistics](#).

[Influenza immunization information for physicians, staff and volunteers](#)

Physicians, staff and volunteers can choose to be immunized through a site champion at their facility or a roving cart at their site, as well as at a pharmacy, doctor's office or public health clinic (for children under five years of age and their family and household members).

Those using these options are reminded to submit their [Got My Flu Shot form](#).

See [Insite](#) for more on the immunization campaign.

Surgical Capacity Update

Alberta Health Services acute care surgical capacity is now at approximately 72 per cent of normal levels.

During the fourth wave, approximately 22,000 to 25,000 surgeries were delayed as of the end of Nov. 1.

AHS is implementing a surgical recovery plan in incremental phases to resume scheduled surgical services. This incremental surgical expansion will be dependent on inpatient and ICU capacity required to support the ongoing pandemic response within a site and Zone and in careful consideration of provincial capacity needs.

In response to the pandemic, AHS delayed approximately 25,000 non-urgent surgeries from wave one and approximately 5,000 in wave two and three. The total surgical backlog from waves one, two and three was estimated at about 30,000. No emergent surgeries were delayed or postponed.

Previous to wave four, we had resumed 100 per cent of surgery activity and were implementing a Surgery Recovery plan targeted at reducing wait times for surgery across all scheduled surgeries.

We will continue to provide updates as information is available.

MD Culture Shift

AHS MD Culture Shift Community of Practice

The first session will be focused on an introduction to the portfolio of diversity, wellness and leadership development with an introduction to trauma informed leadership. This session will include interactive co-design to guide future topics.

- Date: Nov. 24
- Time: 7-8:30 p.m.
- [Zoom Meeting](#)
- Passcode: 603079

Wellness

Don't forget to complete the [Canadian Medical Association \(CMA\) National Physician Health Survey](#). By taking part in the survey and sharing your experiences, you will help the CMA, and other stakeholders, identify the individual- and system-level changes needed to better support physicians, create a healthier medical culture and guide the country's post-pandemic recovery.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Effective Allyship: Advancing Women in Healthcare Leadership.

With expertise and experience, panelists will share practical tips on how to be a good ally to advance women in healthcare leadership in this free webinar hosted by Equity in Medicine and Sanokundu.

Panelists:

- Dr. Javeed Sukhera
- Dr. Marcia Anderson
- Dr. Matthew Chow

- Dr. Pauline Alakija
- Dr. Dennis Kendel
- Dr. Kim Kelly

November 23, 6 p.m.

Registration: [Here](#)

Doctor of the Week – Dr. Misty Watson

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.



Dr. Misty Watson, hospitalist and site lead at the Rockyview General Hospital (RGH), was nominated for Doctor of the Week for demonstrating unwavering support for her team at the RGH, and for incredible leadership through the many challenges of the pandemic.

Working as a hospitalist at the RGH since 2009 and site lead for the program since 2017, she is also the medical lead for the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) program in Calgary since 2016.

“I am proud of being involved in the team that developed our provincial Medical Assistance in Dying model, policies and procedures,” says Dr. Watson. “I was one of two physicians that provided MAiD to the first patient in Alberta. I feel extremely grateful to be able to assist patients and families through their end-of-life journey while they are pursuing MAiD. Although the work is difficult and emotional, helping someone maintain dignity and autonomy at the end of life is such a gift.”

For as long as she can remember, Dr. Watson always wanted to be a doctor. She attributes this to her early experiences in the healthcare world as a child battling Wilm’s tumor. “That experience left a long-lasting impression on myself and my family,” she says.

While becoming a physician was a lifelong dream for her, it’s the people she works with, and the patients she cares for that keep her motivated.

“What makes me excited and look forward to every day at work are the people I am privileged to work with and the impact my care has on every patient I look after,” says Dr. Watson. “I am supported by an outstanding group of hospitalists and specialist colleagues that have become like family to me, and I love caring for people when they may be at their lowest and showing them that even though they feel alone, someone will always be there to support them.

Outside of work, she spends most of her time with her two boys and two rag-doll cats.

“I enjoy running and recently completed a 10K with my oldest son which was rewarding for both of us,” she says. “I also love yoga, playing the piano and am learning how to fly fish.”

Thank you, Dr. Watson, for the care and support you provide to your patients, and to your team.

Highlights from the CEO All Staff Update

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 that we can redeploy staff back to caring for non-COVID patients who need surgeries and procedures completed.

We will ensure that 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.

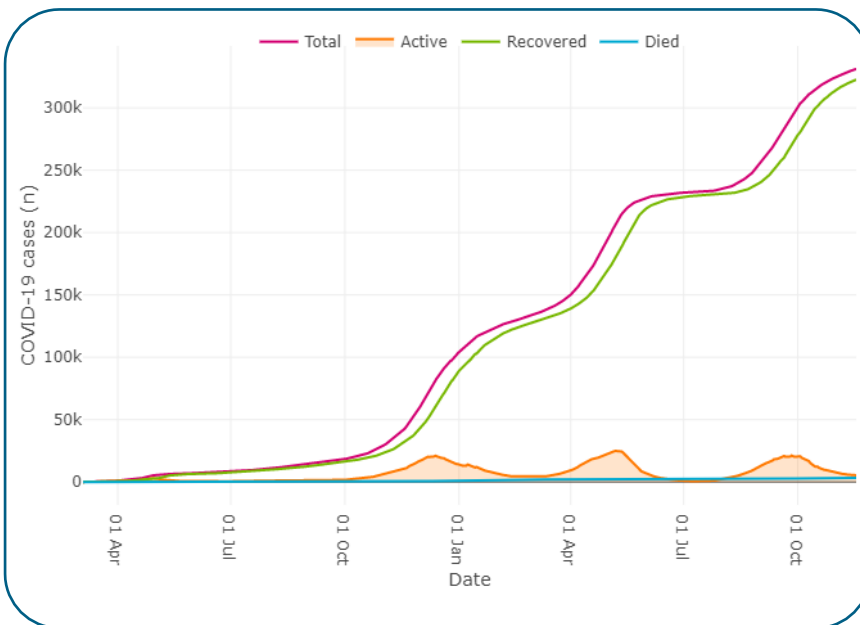
We currently have 262 general adult ICU beds open in Alberta, including 89 additional spaces above our baseline of 173 general adult ICU beds. There are currently 214 patients in ICU.

Provincially, ICU capacity (including additional surge beds) is currently at 82 per cent. Without the additional surge spaces, provincial ICU capacity would be at 124 per cent.

New and Active Cases

As of Nov. 17, there was a seven-day average of 370 new cases of COVID-19 per day, compared to 453 cases per day the previous week (Nov. 4 to Nov. 10), an 18.3 per cent decrease. All zones reported decreases in the number of new cases per day, ranging from a 4.3 per cent decrease in the Calgary Zone to a 33.3 per cent decrease in the North zone. Over the past week, the Calgary Zone reported the highest total number of new cases with 943 (an average of 135 cases per day), compared to 990 new cases the previous week (an average of 141 cases per day).

As of Nov. 17, there are 5,384 active cases in Alberta, a 10.4 per cent decrease compared to Nov. 9*. Most zones reported a decrease in active cases: the zone with the largest reported decrease was the Central Zone, down 19.3 per cent from Nov. 9*. For the seventh week in a row, the Calgary Zone reported the most active cases with 1,817, and was the only zone that did not report a decrease in cases compared to the last report. (*This reporting date was affected by Remembrance Day.)



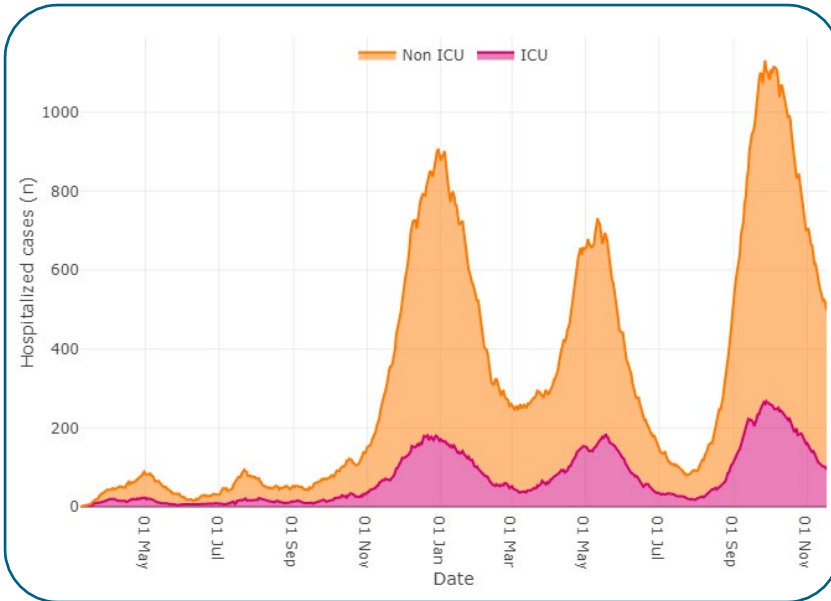
Hospitalizations

A total of 404 individuals were in non-ICU hospital beds for COVID-19 on Nov. 17, compared to 461 individuals in non-ICU hospital beds on Nov. 10, a 12.4 per cent decrease.

The breakdown of hospitalizations by zone as of Nov. 17 is as follows:

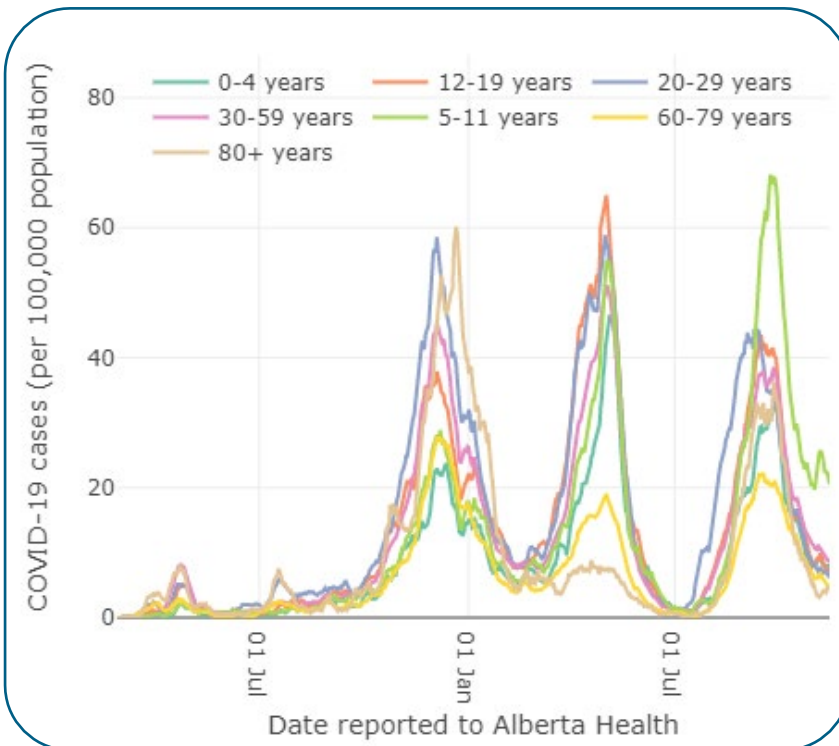
- 158 hospitalizations with 44 of those in ICUs in the Edmonton Zone
- 113 hospitalizations with 22 of those in ICUs in the Calgary Zone

- 111 hospitalizations with 9 of those in ICUs in the Central Zone
- 63 hospitalizations with 6 of those in ICUs in the North Zone
- 53 hospitalizations with 13 of those in ICUs in the South Zone



Cases by Age Group

As of Nov. 14, children aged five to 11 – who have been ineligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine – had the highest seven-day rolling average of new daily COVID-19 cases, with 20.57 cases per 100,000 children. Albertans aged 30 to 59 had the second-highest rate with 8.71 cases per 100,000 people. Trends in cases in Alberta by age group are shown below.



Variants of Concern

For variants of concern, the lab is currently utilizing targeted screening of positive samples for strain-typing. From Nov. 9 to Nov. 15, the average of positive samples that were strain-typed was 46 per cent. Of those strain-typed the rolling average was 99.6 per cent Delta variant. The remaining 0.4 per cent was 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 Nov. 17, a total of 331,214 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Alberta and a total of 14,808 individuals have ever been hospitalized, which amounts to 4.5 individuals for every 100 cases. In all, 322,621 Albertans have recovered from COVID-19, meaning they are no longer considered contagious.
- As of Nov. 17, 3,209 individuals have passed away from COVID-19, including 45 deaths since the last report. 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 Nov. 11 to Nov. 17, 55,755 COVID-19 tests were completed, an average of 7,965 tests per day. During this period, the daily positivity ranged from 4.33 per cent to 5.62 per cent. As of Nov. 17, a total of 6,036,473 tests have been conducted and 2,564,912 individuals have ever 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 R value is updated every two weeks. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 14 the provincewide R value was 0.92 and the previously reported value was 0.87.
- Public reporting of outbreaks in schools continues and you can find more information, [here](#).

Valid Forms of Proof of Vaccination for R.E.P

As of Nov. 15, COVID-19 vaccine records must include a [QR code](#) in order for Albertans to enter any business or venue taking part in the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#).

Paper immunization records without a QR code will no longer be accepted, except for the following forms of proof of vaccination:

- [Other provincial and territorial vaccine records](#)
- First Nation vaccine records
- [ArriveCan app](#) and valid international travel identity document (for international travellers, visitors and international students)
- Canadian Armed Forces vaccine records
- U.S. Military proof of vaccination and ID card

Valid identification that matches the vaccine record is also required for adults 18 and over. Visit [Restrictions Exemption Program – Proof of vaccination](#), for more information.

AHS continues to receive a high volume of COVID-19 immunization records submitted to Public Health, immunization clinics and through the [online Alberta Immunization Record Self Submission Portal](#), which require further review and verification.

Following submission, verified submission information will display in your MyHealth Records account but it may take two to three weeks for your information to show. The teams are doing everything they can to work through this recent surge in requests as quickly as possible.

Alberta Health is also receiving high volumes of requests for immunization records with a QR code. If you are experiencing issues getting your immunization record with a QR code, please visit alberta.ca/CovidRecordsHelp.

COVID-19 Immunization Updates

Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine available to 18+

The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine is now available for Albertans 18 years of age and older. At this time, only one dose of the Janssen vaccine is needed to be fully immunized. A booster dose of an mRNA vaccine is recommended after six months.

Due to limited supply, the vaccine will only be administered at AHS clinics in select locations across the province. People may have to travel outside their home community to get to a clinic providing this vaccine. Call Health Link at 811 to book an appointment. Appointments are available across the province.

At this time, the Janssen vaccine is only for people who haven't had any doses of the COVID-19 vaccines before. It will not be provided as a second dose or a booster dose.

The Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine. For more information, see the [COVID-19 vaccines – viral vector-based info sheet](#) and [MyHealth Alberta](#).

Based on current evidence, the greatest level of protection comes from mRNA vaccines. However, all vaccines being used in Alberta have been determined to be effective. It is much better to be immunized against COVID-19 than to get the disease itself. We encourage anyone who has not received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to book an appointment as soon as possible.

Other vaccine availability

Currently there is no supply of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the province. Additional supply is expected later this year. More information will be available at that time.

Health Canada receives submission from Moderna to authorize the use COVID-19 vaccine in children six to 11

Health Canada received a [submission](#) on Nov. 16 from Moderna seeking authorization for the use of its COVID-19 vaccine in children six to 11 years of age.

This is the second submission Health Canada has received for the use of a COVID-19 vaccine in this younger age group. On Oct. 18, 2021, Health Canada received a submission for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in children ages five to 11 years of age, which was authorized today.

Health Canada will only authorize the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine in children if its independent and thorough scientific review of the data in the submission shows that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the 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.

Third doses continue to be available for eligible populations

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine continue to be available to eligible populations, including frontline healthcare workers who provide direct patient care and who had their first two doses of vaccine less than eight weeks apart.

For a full list of all groups that are eligible, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

As per Alberta Health's guidance, the booster dose is not required to be considered fully immunized for the purpose of the AHS' Immunization of Workers for COVID 19 Policy.

Available evidence shows that overall protection from the vaccine is best when a booster dose is administered at least six months after the previous dose.

At this time, booster doses are not recommended or available for the general population. Vaccines continue to provide strong protection against severe outcomes for the general population. Alberta Health continues to monitor data and expert advice in this area.

Healthcare workers will not be contacted by AHS if/when they are eligible to receive an additional dose. Please book your own appointment if/when you are eligible.

Booking is based on the honour system and appointments can be made through the [online booking tool](#), at participating pharmacies and doctor's offices, or by calling Health Link at 811. COVID-19 vaccines are also available by walk-in at [participating clinics](#) and pharmacies. Individuals who live on a First Nations reserve can access third doses through local public health clinics on-reserve.

AHS strongly encourages eligible healthcare workers to get their additional dose as soon as they are able.

Sotromivab Treatment Eligibility Expanded

COVID-19 positive patients who are aged 55 and older and are unvaccinated, are now eligible to receive sotrovimab, a new monoclonal antibody treatment recently approved by Health Canada.

It is the first treatment to be offered to outpatients in Alberta and is administered by intravenous infusion within five days of symptom onset.

In phase one of the AHS rollout, treatment will focus on COVID-19 patients who are either:

- ages 55 or older and have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine
OR
- solid organ transplant patients or stem cell transplant patients, regardless of vaccination status

Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and whose symptoms began less than four days ago can call 1-844-343-0971 to find out if they qualify to receive sotrovimab.

AHS is working to expand access in more areas of the province as quickly as possible. The program will be evolving over the next couple of weeks.

Sotrovimab is not a replacement for COVID-19 vaccination. Albertans are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This is a treatment that is available to those who are at a higher risk of worsening symptoms from the disease and who may require hospitalization.

For more information about sotrovimab, please visit ahs.ca/covidopt.

CMOH Exemption Allowing COVID-19 Positive Designated Support Person Access in Maternity Rescinded

The exemption request from [CMOH order 39-2021: Designated Family & Support Person for Obstetrical Patients](#) has been rescinded. Please refer to the [Designated Support Person and Visitor Access Guidance in Acute Care](#) for information regarding support person access in maternity services.

Sites will now follow the AHS policy regarding Designated Support Persons and Visitors Exhibiting COVID-19 Core Symptoms, who are a Confirmed Case of COVID-19, or a Close Contact as outlined in section 3.0 of the [Designated Family/Support Access and Visitation Directive in Acute Care](#). The [Designated Support Person and Visitor Access Screening Form in Acute Care](#) has also been updated to reflect this rescinded exemption.

A new [frequently asked questions page](#) with information about designated support access in maternity services during COVID-19 is now available for patients and families. Please refer patients and their designated support persons to this page.

Learn more about designated support person and visitor access during COVID-19 at ahs.ca/visitation.

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 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 November 17:

- 85,836 employees (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 8,818 (or 10.27 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 6,499 employees who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 673 (or 10.36 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 2,319 employees who have tested positive are still under investigation as to the source of infection.
- 6,055 physicians (AHS and APL combined) have been tested for COVID-19 and, of those tested, 367 (or 6.06 per cent) have tested positive.
- Of the 271 physicians who have tested positive and whose source of infection has been determined, 23 (or 8.49 per cent) acquired their infection through a workplace exposure. An additional 96 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.

Government of Canada Adjusts Border Measures

Effective Nov. 30, 2021, the Government of Canada will expand its list of accepted vaccines for the purposes of entry into Canada and exemption from some testing and quarantine requirements, to include Sinopharm, Sinovac, and COVAXIN, matching the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

Also on Nov. 30, [fully vaccinated](#) travellers with right of entry, who depart and re-enter Canada by land or by air within 72 hours of leaving the country, do not have to provide a pre-entry molecular test result.

This exemption is only for trips originating in Canada taken by Canadian citizens, permanent residents or individuals who depart and re-enter by land or by air and can demonstrate that they have been away from Canada for less than 72 hours.

Details about all of the changes being made by the federal government to border measures are available, [here](#).

Beyond COVID-19

Verna's Weekly Video Message: National Philanthropy Day

On Monday, Nov. 15, many charities and non-profits celebrate National Philanthropy Day. This day recognizes the philanthropic individuals and organizations across North America, and their exceptional contributions to the charitable sector.

That includes our amazing [69 foundation partners](#) who raise approximately \$275 million each year to

support the healthcare system, which includes equipment, programs and research across the province.

With Verna today to [tell us more](#) about the work of their foundations and how they have navigated the pandemic are:

- Keith Curtis, Executive Director, Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation
- Vicki Koersen, Fundraising Coordinator, Taber and District Health Foundation
- Saifa Koonar, President and CEO, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation

Sign up to be a Secret Santa by Dec. 3

AHS Secret Santa is back again to help spread holiday cheer, and you can [sign up today](#). Those who sign up will be randomly matched with another AHS worker. It could be a respiratory therapist in Calgary, a nurse in Taber, or even our President and CEO.

Once you receive your match, you will send them an ecard or print card by Dec. 10, and in return, you will receive a card from someone else.

It's a chance for you to thank each other, and in return, receive thanks for the amazing work you do every day of the year.

Join this AHS holiday tradition and help share good will and appreciation throughout the AHS family.

For more details, [visit Insite](#). The deadline to sign up is Friday, Dec. 3.

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

