



## CMO UPDATE

Dr. Francois Belanger

*Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer*

*This Issue: Critical Leadership Conversations Course Registration; Report clinical adverse events using RLS; RAT recommended for workers with respiratory virus symptoms; Controlled Substance Policy Survey; Career Opportunities; News from the AHS Update and more.*

---

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

---

*Note: Recognizing some medical staff use an alternate email address instead of an AHS email address, some information is duplicated from the AHS Update to ensure all AHS medical staff have all up-to-date organizational information that may impact their practice.*

### **Topics:**

#### **Medical Affairs News**

- Critical Leadership Conversations Course Registration
- Physicians can report clinical adverse events using RLS
- RAT recommended for workers with respiratory virus symptoms
- Complete the Controlled Substance Policy Survey today
- Career Opportunities
  - Highlighting Low FTE and Remote Opportunities
- Additional Resources for Physicians

#### **From the AHS Update**

- Action on Our Priorities
- Your Wellness
- COVID-19 Status and Cases in Alberta
- TikTok banned on AHS mobile devices
- RAT recommended for workers with respiratory virus symptoms
- Front-door screener, greeter roles being discontinued
- Use non-identifiable data for education purposes

- Code of Conduct refreshed following review
  - Report clinical adverse events using RLS
  - EPS to honour service, sacrifice of two officers on Monday
  - CEO message – understanding and addressing moral distress
  - Ethics Lunch n Learn — when patient requests exceed options
  - Rural sexual assault care course expanded
- 

## Medical Affairs News

---

### Critical Leadership Conversations Course Registration

You are invited to participate in our first Critical Leadership Conversations course that will be delivered in a unique format to optimize learning, practice and reflection.

Facilitated by Dr. Curtis Johnston and Heather McMorrow, the format of this course will be a series of six one-hour virtual lectures and large group discussion sessions delivered over about 11 weeks where you will learn the skills necessary for planning, delivering, and concluding a critical conversation.

Register below:

Dates	Time	Registration Link
April 13	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
April 27	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
May 4	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
June 1	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
June 15	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
June 29	4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>

To find out more about participation expectations and benefits, please contact [lori-ann.paul@ahs.ca](mailto:lori-ann.paul@ahs.ca) for more information.

---

### Physicians can report clinical adverse events using RLS

In order to identify patient safety problems and make improvements, it is important to report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events (CAEs).

AHS has a single, province-wide system for patient safety reporting called the [Reporting & Learning System for Patient Safety](#) (RLS).

All physicians have a responsibility to report patient safety events. When you report a CAE, close call, or hazard through RLS, the submission is reviewed, trended and shared to help us learn as an organization. Reporting helps to identify patient safety problems and to make improvements.

We encourage you to consistently submit CAEs and other patient safety problems using [RLS, available on Insite](#).

---

### **RAT recommended for workers with respiratory virus symptoms**

As of April 1, rapid antigen tests (RAT) will be the recommended COVID-19 test for all workers with respiratory virus symptoms.

Workers who have COVID-19 symptoms and a positive RAT, or are asymptomatic with two positive RATs at least 24 hours apart, are considered confirmed with COVID-19. Work restrictions and continuous masking will apply. Further details are available in this [FAQ](#).

It's our shared responsibility to ensure workers are healthy at work to protect all AHS staff, patients, volunteers and visitors. Simple actions, such as staying home when sick and practising proper hand hygiene, can help reduce the spread of illness.

An updated version of the Attending Work Directive that reflects these changes will be posted on March 31. We appreciate your patience.

---

### **Complete the Controlled Substance Policy Survey today**

A province-wide survey has been developed to help evaluate staff experience with the implementation of the [Controlled Substances Policy](#). The provincial policy was developed to ensure consistency, accountability and awareness of safe practices in alignment with federal legislation for the transport, storage, inventory, documentation, and waste of controlled substances. We encourage feedback from leadership, clinicians, and front-line staff by completing the survey [here](#).

---

### **Support for Physicians**

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer CONFIDENTIAL services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the 24-hour assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

AHS also has resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are available online:

- [Webinar](#)
  - [Resource Guide](#)
- 

### **Career Opportunities**

Practice opportunities across a broad range of specialties are available. All vacant AHS physician practice opportunities are posted on our physician recruitment website, [Doctor Jobs Alberta](#).

## Highlighting Low FTE and Remote Opportunities

- [Indigenous Health Program Physician](#)
    - Location: Various locations including virtual health
    - FTE: Flexible
  - [Medical Lead - CZ Palliative & End of Life Care \(PEOLC\)](#)
    - Location: Red Deer/Central Zone
    - FTE: 0.2
  - [ZCDHSC - Family Medicine- Hospitalist](#)
    - Location: Chinook Regional Hospital
    - FTE: 0.1
- 

## Additional Resources for Physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [MD News Digest](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)
- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)

## From the AHS Update

---

You can read the [full version online](#).

## Action on Our Priorities

---

We are working to urgently address four key priorities. They are:

- Improving EMS response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing wait times for surgeries.
- Improving patient flow throughout the healthcare continuum.

Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to address our priorities.

---

## Improving EMS response times

[EMS Return to Service yielding early positive results](#)

---

## Reducing wait times for surgeries

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:



### Digital health evolution and innovation

[MyAHS Connect reaches 200,000 users](#)

---



### Workforce recruitment, optimization and retention

[AHS shares Health Workforce Strategy](#)

## Your Wellness

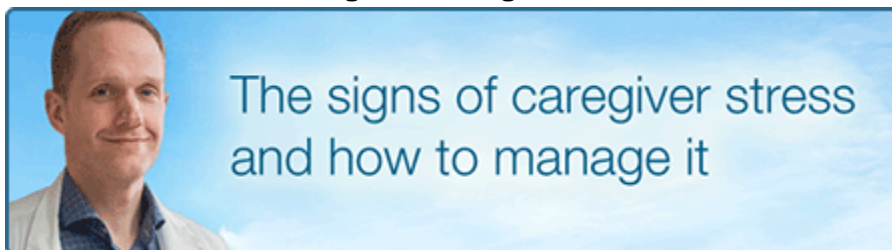
---

### Shift work and sleep support

The time change and lengthier days can impact your sleep and energy levels, especially if you work shifts outside of typical hours. [\(more...\)](#)

---

### Mental Wellness Moment — signs of caregiver stress



To mark National Caregiver Day on April 4, Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how to identify and manage caregiver stress. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

## Latest News

---

## **COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta**

Information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. ([more...](#))

---

## **TikTok banned on AHS mobile devices**

Due to recent privacy and security threats to users and organizations, as of March 27, AHS is banning TikTok on all AHS mobile devices. ([more...](#))

---

## **RAT recommended for workers with respiratory virus symptoms**

As of April 1, rapid antigen tests (RAT) will be the recommended COVID-19 test for all workers with respiratory virus symptoms. ([more...](#))

---

## **Front-door screener, greeter roles being discontinued**

With respiratory numbers in the province continuing to decline, front-door screener/greeter roles are being discontinued as of March 31. ([more...](#))

---

## **Use non-identifiable data for education purposes**

Staff are reminded to only access information required for your role. ([more...](#))

---

## **Code of Conduct refreshed following review**

AHS has refreshed the [Code of Conduct](#) to make it easier to understand and use; however, the principles remain the same. ([more...](#))

---

## **Report clinical adverse events using RLS**

To identify patient safety problems and make improvements, report hazards, close calls and clinical adverse events using [RLS](#). ([more...](#))

---

## **EPS to honour service, sacrifice of two officers on Monday**

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) will honour the service of two officers killed in the line of duty, with a regimental funeral on Monday. ([more...](#))

---

## **CEO message – understanding and addressing moral distress**



The concept and impact of moral distress is discussed, as well as ways AHS can address it to better support our people. ([more...](#))



---

### **Ethics Lunch n Learn — when patient requests exceed options**

Join the next session of the [series](#) on April 13 at 11:30 a.m. or April 14 at noon. ([more...](#))

---

### **Rural sexual assault care course expanded**

A new, online, micro-credential course is available for healthcare providers. ([more...](#))

---

On behalf of everyone at AHS, I wish to offer condolences to the members, families, and friends of the Edmonton Police Service who will be honouring the service and sacrifice of Const. Travis Jordan and Const. Brett Ryan, who were recently killed in the line of duty. A regimental funeral and celebration of their lives will take place on Monday. Our thoughts are with everyone grieving their loss.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

**Dr. Sharron Spicer**  
Associate Chief Medical Officer

*On behalf of*

**Dr. Francois Belanger**  
Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer