



CMO UPDATE

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

This Issue: World Family Doctor Day; Air Quality Update; Learning Opportunities; Career Opportunities; Resources and Supports for Physicians; 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

- Celebrate World Family Doctor Day today
- Air quality update
- Palliative Care courses now available to healthcare professionals
- Support for physicians
- Career opportunities
 - Provincial Medical Director, RAAPID
- Additional resources for physicians

From the AHS Update

- Wildfire Update
 - Your Wellness
 - Action on Our Priorities
 - Latest News
 - COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta
 - Ethics Lunch 'n' Learn: Agents Refusing Symptom Management
 - Join us on May 30 for the Patient Experience Showcase
 - May 20 is Clinical Trials Day
 - Celebrate What Matters to You? Day on June 6
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Medical Affairs News

Celebrate World Family Doctor Day today

Join us in celebrating our primary care partners today, World Family Doctor Day! The Alberta College of Family Physicians once again invites Albertans to add stories about their family doctor to the growing collection on familydocsrock.ca. Let your family doctor know how grateful you are for them and the care they provide. Tweet, post or share a video of your story and tag @ABFamDocs and #FamilyDocsRock.

Air quality update

Smoke from wildfires has triggered Special Air Quality Statements to be issued for poor air quality across much of Alberta. It is important that we all take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and patients from the hazardous effects of smoke. The Air Quality Health Index recommendations can be found [here](#).

Individuals may experience symptoms such as increased cough, throat irritation, headache or shortness of breath. Children, seniors, and those with cardiovascular or lung disease, such as asthma and COPD, are especially at risk. They will generally experience more serious health effects at lower levels.

Staff are working diligently to maintain good air quality within AHS facilities for staff, physicians, patients, and volunteers through activities such as changing filters and monitoring and recirculating air intake.

- [Read the May 16 Air Quality Update from Dr. Linda McDougall, Senior Medical Officer of Health](#)
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Palliative Care courses now available to healthcare professionals

AHS is excited to partner with Pallium Canada to deliver online Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) training to healthcare providers until March 31, 2024.

Pallium's award-winning LEAP courses are considered the gold standard for palliative and end-of-life care education for healthcare professionals in Canada. LEAP courses provide healthcare professionals with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to help provide palliative care to patients and families facing life-limiting illnesses. [Learn more](#).

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

- [Provincial Medical Director, Referral, Access, Advice, Placement, Information & Destination \(RAAPID\)](#)
 - Location: Any Zone
 - FTE: 0.5
-

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](#).

Wildfire Update

AHS teams continue to step up during wildfire response

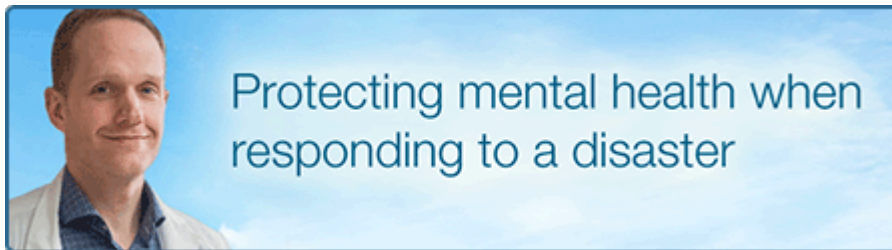
AHS teams continued to show their selflessness and tenacity in response to wildfires. Thank you. Please stay safe. [\(more...\)](#)

Your Wellness

Helping you during tough times

No matter what you are experiencing, there are supports to help you through the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment — Protecting mental health when responding to a disaster



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell talks about how to protect your mental health during disasters, such as the wildfires. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video

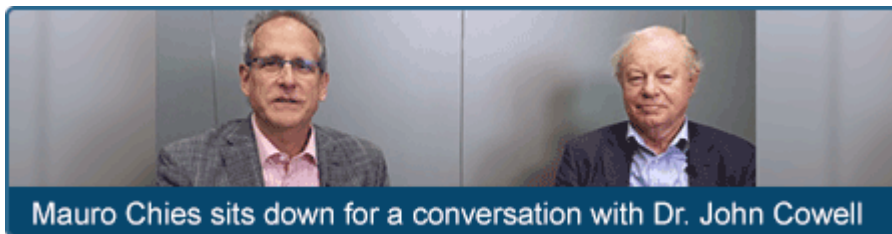


Listen as a Podcast



Action on Our Priorities

CEO video message – a discussion with Dr. John Cowell



Dr. John Cowell, AHS Official Administrator, joins the vlog to talk about his role and how we can continue to focus on our priorities. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video



Listen as a Podcast



Update on our Priorities

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

- Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.

- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

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

Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times

[Non-clinical transport taxi chits available for ordering](#)

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical wait-list update](#)

Latest News

COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

Latest hospitalizations, ICU update and information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. [\(more...\)](#)

Ethics Lunch 'n' Learn: Agents Refusing Symptom Management

The next session explores a case study based on refusing symptom management. Runs June 1 at 11:30 a.m. or June 2 at noon. [\(more...\)](#)

Join us on May 30 for the Patient Experience Virtual Showcase

The showcase includes presentations from staff and patient and family advisors, as well as breakout sessions. [\(more...\)](#)

[Register Now](#)

May 20 is Clinical Trials Day

Tomorrow, May 20, marks Clinical Trials Day and gives us a chance to recognize the important ways clinical trials advance care. [\(more...\)](#)

Celebrate What Matters to You? Day on June 6

Join us in celebrating by asking patients and families what matters to them. It's a simple question but has a big impact. [\(more...\)](#)

Wrapping up

The past several weeks have been tough for so many of our staff – those impacted by evacuations, and those who have helped support the safe transfer of patients and continuing care residents. I continue to be amazed at the support, selflessness and tenacity of our teams across the province.

Please ensure you take care of yourself and one another during this busy and stressful time as we continue to work to ensure the safety of Albertans from across the province.

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. David Zygun

Interim Associate Chief Medical Officer, Strategic Clinical Networks

On behalf of

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

