

COVID-19 UPDATES

Omicron measures

Alberta unveiled several measures this week related to the Omicron variant, as detailed below:

- **Booster eligibility:** Health-care workers who had their second dose more than six months ago and Albertans aged 50 and over can now book a third dose of an mRNA vaccine. [Third doses](#).
- **Rapid testing:** Beginning Friday, December 17, at-home rapid antigen test kits will be made available to Albertans at selected pharmacies and Alberta Health Services locations.
- **Contact tracing:** Contact tracing has been initiated in Alberta for close contacts of confirmed or suspected cases of the Omicron variant. Notifications will also occur for close contacts of COVID-19 cases who have recently travelled outside Canada and the U.S., where it hasn't yet been determined if they are positive for the Omicron variant. Close contacts will be asked to monitor for symptoms. If they develop symptoms, they will need to isolate and undergo testing. [More details](#).
- **Health measures:** Restrictions on some indoor social gatherings, which remain limited to 10 people, have been relaxed. There are no longer limits on the number of households and there is no distinction between vaccination status. [More details](#).

[More details](#).

PCN webinar: The Missing Link

A recording of the Calgary Zone's *The Missing Link* webinar can now be [watched online](#).

The two-hour COVID-19 and mental health virtual event, which took place on Monday, December 13, featured a panel discussion on Specialist Link. It also featured segments on COVID-19 and psychedelics.

The recording features the following:

- Psychedelics, with Dr. Valerie Taylor ([skip to 3:54](#))
- The latest on COVID-19 science, featuring Dr. Jim Kellner ([skip to 27:30](#))
- Specialist Link panel discussion ([skip to 1:03.29](#))

A physician Q&A, featuring answers to questions asked during the event, is [also available](#).

Specialist Link website, holiday hours

The Specialist Link website has a new look and a faster and easier way of connecting family physicians and nurse practitioners in the Calgary area with the services they need.

It offers the same specialistlink.ca core services: tele-advice, pathways and other resources. But now, a search option has been added to the home page for any condition or specialty. Users can also click on a tele-advice service to access all the information they need, from how to request tele-advice, opening hours, related pathways and resources. [More details](#).

Tele-advice will continue to be available to family physicians and nurse practitioners during the holiday season, but some services will have limited availability. All services will be closed on statutory holidays, as usual, which means they will not be available on Monday, December 27, Tuesday, December 28 and Monday, January 3. In addition, several services have limited availability through the holiday period. See the list of [available services](#).

Specialist Link tele-advice, which is available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (selected services close at 4 p.m.), connects specialists with family doctors in real time. Requesting tele-advice is simple; doctors or their team members can visit specialistlink.ca and click on the relevant button or call **403-910-2551**. Physicians can expect to receive a call back within one hour.

Quick links

Pediatric vaccination Q&A

The Alberta Medical Association added some new answers to pediatric vaccination questions in its COVID-19 vaccine Q&A. [More details](#).

Monoclonal treatment FAQ

AHS has created a questions and answers document for Sotrovimab monoclonal antibody outpatient treatment for COVID-19. [More details](#). Physicians who have a patient who may be eligible for treatment should call 1-844-343-0971.