Paxlovid information

More information has been released about access to Paxlovid for eligible patients. Read the memo.

Alberta began offering the oral antiviral treatment to eligible patients earlier this week. Patients whose symptoms began fewer than five days ago (and tested positive for COVID-19) can call the dedicated Health Link line at 1-844-343-0971.

Health Canada approved the treatment earlier this month. More information.

Patients can find out more information about outpatient COVID-19 treatment options here. Information for community physicians is in the process of being added to the community physician guidance document.

Surgery, pulmonary testing after COVID-19

A new guidance document has been released to summarize the evidence related to the timing of surgery after COVID-19.

Surgery within seven weeks of infection is associated with increased morbidity and mortality, regardless of the severity of infection, physiologic status and/or symptoms. Current literature also suggests the greatest risk related to having an anesthetic is within the first four weeks of a COVID-19 infection. However, evidence is changing rapidly.

The guidance document is designed to summarize recommendations on timing and to support physicians to have conversations with patients about why surgeries may be delayed, as well as to encourage patients to proactively report recent infections. Read the document.

Pulmonary testing tool
A quick reference tool is available to help facilitate prudent use of pulmonary function testing following COVID-19 infection. It combines the best available evidence with consensus-based clinical expertise. It is designed to be used alongside clinical judgement and availability of local testing. Use the tool.

Physician/provider information:
ahs.ca/covidphc

Patient information:
ahs.ca/covid | alberta.ca/covid19

Last updated:
9:46 p.m., March 18, 2022

Outpatient addiction services

Outpatient addiction services are available for adults aged 18 and above experiencing substance or behavioural addiction via Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) and Adult Addiction Services Calgary (AASC).

Referrals are accepted from physicians and team members. Once referrals are received by the AASC clinic, staff follow up with a call to schedule intake at RAAM. Patients can also walk in daily, at 12:30 p.m., without a referral (3rd floor, 707 – 10th Avenue SW, Calgary). Concurrently, AASC offers counselling-based addiction therapy. The following information resources are available:

- Patient brochure
- Information for providers
- Referral form

Non-urgent addiction medicine tele-advice is also available via Specialist Link for the management of patients who experience substance use disorders. The service is available Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding statutory holidays). Requesting tele-advice is simple: Visit specialistlink.ca or call 403-910-2551.

Quick links

Isolation recommendations amended
Effective Thursday, February 3, Alberta is recommending unvaccinated asymptomatic household contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases isolate for 10 days after exposure, instead of the previous 14-day recommendation. More details.

COVID Corner
Recordings and slides from the last COVID Corner webinar are available here. Recordings and slides from the AMA's Omicron series are available here.

RESIDE program
Applications are being accepted for the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) program. Coordinated by the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), the program offers accommodation, community orientation and financial support to new-in-practice physicians. The application deadline is Thursday, March 31. More details.

MyAHS Connect proxy access
Proxy access to youth health records via MyAHS Connect, which allows parents and guardians to view health information, will now automatically end when the patient turns 12. Previously, it ended at age 18. Information related to the care community providers offer to patients, including test results and prescriptions, may not be available due to this change. Community providers will not be able to provide access. More details. Information for parents and guardians.