

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Restrictions lifted, continuous masking still in place

Alberta lifted further COVID-19 restrictions on Wednesday, June 15, as it moved into [Step 3](#). However, continuous masking remains in place in most healthcare facilities.

The move to Step 3 brought an end to mandatory isolation, as well as masking on public transit. Isolation is still recommended for those with COVID-19 symptoms and those who have tested positive.

Continuous masking remains in place at all Alberta Health Services, Alberta Precision Laboratories and Covenant Health acute care, continuing care and community locations, including immunization and lab collection sites. The current visitation guidelines are also remaining in place at acute and congregate care facilities.

With Alberta moving to [Step 3](#), new guidelines are in the process of being developed for testing. Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) will be the preferred option for patients, but COVID-19 molecular testing will continue to be an option, provided there is a requisition from a provider. Assessment centres in the Calgary area are set to continue to be an option. More details on testing and requisition protocols are expected to be released next week.

A reminder that physicians and clinics can [order no-cost rapid antigen test kits](#). In the Calgary Zone, Tuesday is the order deadline day, and Thursday is the shipping day.

Connect Care information, contacts

A reminder that family physicians and clinics experiencing issues with AHS results and reports can call the AHS Solution Centre at 1-877-311-4300 to report concerns. Callers should select option #1 for clinical applications, then #1 for Connect Care.

A [summary guide](#) to electronic documents and results delivery is also available following the recent Connect Care launch at selected Calgary-area sites. The Peter Lougheed Centre (PLC) and rural acute and long-term care and urgent care in Airdrie, Okotoks, Cochrane and at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre and South Calgary Health Centre were among the local sites involved in the Connect Care rollout on Saturday, May 28.

Following the launch, there were changes to the way in which information was delivered to community physicians. Those calling to report concerns should leave a direct phone number for a call back and provide physician name(s) and Prac ID number(s), patient ULI, the full name and location of the clinic, and specific examples of the problem.

In addition to the new summary guide, information is available about the following:

- [eDelivery](#)
 - [Results delivery](#) (lab, diagnostic imaging, other diagnostics)
 - [Connect Care for community providers](#)
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Video: Welcoming refugees into your practice

A [recording](#) of the Mosaic PCN webinar on welcoming refugees into your practice is now [available online](#).

Featuring Dr. Annalee Coakley and Sarah Welsh, it offered practical tips about refugee health billing and coverage, interpretation supports, community resources, and information about where to find answers to clinical questions.

Physicians interested in learning more about refugee health can also consult the [Medavie Blue Cross website](#), or reach out to Mosaic PCN via its [sign-up link](#).

Quick links

COVID Corner

On Wednesday, June 22, from 7–9 p.m., COVID Corner returns with COVID Update and Emerging Trends. Topics include pharmacologic treatment of COVID-19 and the latest evidence of infection-induced immunity and vaccine-induced immunity. [Register](#).

Monkeypox webinar

On Wednesday, June 29, from 12–1 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association will host a webinar on caring for patients with monkeypox. The online session will cover testing, vaccination and clinical management. [Register](#).

Health Summit Series

The fourth instalment of the Canadian Medical Association's Health Summit Series is now [available online](#). Former AHS president and CEO Dr. Verna Yiu was the keynote speaker for a discussion about the crisis facing Canada's health workforce. [More information](#).