

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Paxlovid updates

More family physicians and clinics are being contacted by their patients to discuss treatment options, including Paxlovid, following the Government of Alberta's [announcement](#) that prescribing is transitioning to primary care.

Although the number of physicians prescribing in the Calgary area remains low, there has been increased interest in the available tools and resources since the Paxlovid [eligibility criteria](#) was amended last week to allow for at-home and in-clinic rapid antigen testing.

A prescription template for Paxlovid – now [available online](#) – is the latest addition to a toolkit that family physicians can use if they want to start prescribing the oral antiviral medication. Other resources include:

- **Testing options:** Consult this [advice document for primary care providers](#).
- **No-cost test kits:** Tests can be requested through AHS (not PCNs): [Rapid Antigen Test Requisition](#).
- **Calgary Zone Paxlovid webinar:** Hear from local family physicians who are prescribing Paxlovid at our next Calgary Zone webinar, on Monday, May 30, from 6-8 p.m. [Register](#).
- **Pharmacies:** Find out which pharmacies are dispensing Paxlovid via an [online map](#).
- **If you're not prescribing:** Patients can still access Paxlovid via the dedicated Health Link line at 1-844-343-0971. Do not call 811. A [patient FAQ](#) is available.
- **Tele-advice:** Physicians who start prescribing have access to support through the AHS outpatient COVID treatment program via RAAPID (403-944-4486), as well as their community pharmacist. Download the Paxlovid [provider FAQ](#).
- **In summary:** Paxlovid info is summarized in this [key messages](#) document. A prescribing resource guide is [available online](#), and you can also visit the [Paxlovid section](#) of [specialistlink.ca](#).

Influenza cases rising

There has been an increase in seasonal influenza cases reported over the past few weeks.

A total of 1,023 cases have been reported provincewide, with 326 in the Calgary area. Of those, 324 are Influenza A, and two are Influenza B. In the Calgary Zone, there have been 42 hospital and three ICU admissions. [More information](#).

Refugee response

Physicians are needed to help support the health needs of Afghan refugees who are arriving in the Calgary area as part of the Government of Canada's [resettlement initiative](#).

In April, 733 Afghan refugees arrived in Calgary. Of those, more than 450 are planning to settle in the Calgary area. About 150 have been attached to medical homes in the Calgary Zone.

If you're interested in learning more about how to help, including information about Alberta Health payments and how to access resources via the Interim Federal Health Program, Mosaic PCN has developed an [information sign-up page](#).

World family doctor day

The key role family doctors play in the delivery of personal, comprehensive and continuing health care for all patients will once again be celebrated as part of world family doctor day on Thursday, May 19. The Alberta College of Family Physicians is once again encouraging patients to "tell a doctor why they rock" as part of its annual campaign. Visit [familydocsrock.ca](#) for more information.

Quick links

Video: At-home rapid testing

Guidance has been issued that recommends patients swab both their mouth and nose when using at-home rapid antigen tests. [A video](#) has been produced to demonstrate how best to follow the guidance.

Resources: Ukrainian evacuees

AHS has consolidated resources related to Ukrainian evacuees on a new [web page](#). Resources include an [early assessment tool](#) and [chest X-ray letter](#).