

Calgary Zone

# COVID-19 UPDATES



## New restrictions introduced

New COVID-19 measures came into effect starting Thursday, September 16 as Alberta declared a state of public health emergency.

The measures included limits on social gatherings and updated restrictions for places of worship, schools and selected children's activities. Mandatory work-from-home measures, with some exceptions, are also in place. There are no changes to testing or isolation rules.

A second set of measures is due to come into effect on Monday, September 20 at restaurants, weddings and funerals and retail, entertainment and recreation facilities. Those measures are subject to the Restriction Exemption Program, in which vaccine-eligible Albertans will be required to provide proof of immunization or a private negative COVID-19 test in the past 72 hours to access those events and businesses. [More details.](#)

Starting Sunday, September 19, card-sized printouts of Albertans' proof of vaccination records will be available via MyHealth Records. QR codes are expected to be available in the coming weeks. Patients can reference a [proof of vaccination FAQ](#) for more details.

Alberta Health Services has also developed critical care triage protocols, should they need to be introduced. [Read the FAQ](#) to find out more

[Watch the news conference.](#)

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## PCN webinar recording

A recording of the two-hour Calgary Zone PCN webinar featuring Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, can now be [watched online](#).

The webinar, which took place on Monday, September 13 and was watched live by about 500 family physicians, was co-hosted by Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo and also featured a mental health segment with Dr. Valerie Taylor. The [recording](#) features the following:

- Fecal transplants for treatment-resistant depression, by Dr. Taylor ([skip to 3:48](#))

- Testing times: Primary care testing, vaccine exemptions and a few reminders, with Dr. Luelo ([skip to 35:01](#)).
- Case studies: What would you do in your office if presented with these real-life examples? With Dr. Ward and Dr. Luelo ([skip to 54:27](#))
- COVID-19 current state, fall projections, what does endemic state look like? And primary care implications, with Dr. Hinshaw ([skip to 1.11:40](#))

A [physician Q&A document](#) is also available. The next PCN webinar will be held on Monday, October 18, from 6-8 p.m. [Register](#). For comments, questions or feedback related to the webinar series, please email [info@calgaryareapcns.ca](mailto:info@calgaryareapcns.ca).

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## Co-administration of vaccines

Alberta Health has approved the co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other inactivated vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines were previously recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines. It was determined that the potential harms of not co-administering during the influenza season and missed doses for other vaccines outweighed the theoretical harms of co-administration.

COVID-19 vaccines should not be given simultaneously with live attenuated vaccines due to the potential for an inflammatory response to COVID-19 vaccine, which may reduce the response to the live attenuated vaccines.

The biological pages for [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#) have been updated accordingly.

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## Influenza campaign details

Alberta Health has contracted a wholesale distributor to support the vaccine rollout for this year's influenza campaign.

Accuristix will distribute influenza and pneumococcal-23 vaccines to physicians' offices. In previous years, vaccine was sent via AHS vaccine depots.

Clinics were asked to register for an additional Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) account by Wednesday, September 15. However, registrations will be accepted after that date. Clinics that have registered for COVID-19 vaccines through AVI in the past must still establish an additional, separate account. [The form](#) asks for a six-digit number unique to a clinic. [Consult this document](#) to find your facility number.

For more information, please email [health.imm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.imm@gov.ab.ca) or contact the AVI help desk at 1-844-213-3600.

[Alberta immunization policy document](#).

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# Test result delays

A large increase in demand for COVID-19 testing has resulted in delayed turnaround times for test results.

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) is completing 12,000 tests per day and is in the process of expanding capacity with a view to completing an additional 3,000 daily tests.

It is currently taking one to three days for most test results to be returned, but longer waits could be experienced over the next few weeks. [Read the memo.](#)

APL has also confirmed that effective Friday, September 10, variants of concern testing is only being performed for specific populations:

- Hospitals and emergency rooms
- Patients involved in outbreaks
- Recent international travellers
- Healthcare workers

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## Quick links

### Pregnancy and immunization resources

AHS has compiled a list of resources related to vaccination and pregnancy that includes guides for both providers and patients. [More details.](#)

### Patient webinar: What is a PCN?

On Thursday, September 23, from 5-8:30 p.m., the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council is hosting a public discussion on *Care Close to Home: What is Your Primary Care Network All About?* The guest speaker is Dr. Mike Spady, Medical Leader, Community Health, Calgary Zone (AHS). [More details.](#)

### CFPC COVID-19 webinar

On Tuesday, September 28 at 10 a.m., the College of Family Physicians of Canada hosts *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Fourth wave update for family physicians.* [More details.](#)

### COVID Corner: Pregnancy and COVID-19

On Tuesday, September 28, from 7-8:30 p.m., COVID Corner is hosting a special webinar on *COVID & Pregnancy: Vaccine Hesitancy and Patient Management.* [More details.](#)