

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Monkeypox updates

More information has been released related to monkeypox. It is summarized below:

- **Testing:** A lab bulletin has been released, summarizing the preferred method of diagnosis/collection and consultation with the virologist on call. Although case numbers remain very small in the Calgary area, a strategy for referring patients to central locations is in development. [Read the lab memo.](#)
- **Infection prevention and control:** If a patient is suspected of a monkeypox infection, clinics are advised to provide them with a surgical/procedure mask and place them in a separate room with the door closed. The mask should be worn by the patient for the duration of the appointment. [More details.](#)
- **Vaccine eligibility:** A reminder that vaccine appointments for those aged 18 and older can be booked by calling Health Link at 1-866-301-2688. [More details.](#)
- **Close contacts:** If a patient is a close contact of a suspected or confirmed infection, they are advised to self-monitor for 21 days. If symptoms develop, they should self-isolate and seek care.

More information will be shared here, as it becomes available.

Webinar: Monkeypox, GI access & mental health

Getting your patient in to see a gastroenterologist, monkeypox and mental health apps are among the hot topics that will be featured in next month's [Calgary Zone webinar](#).

On Monday, September 12, from 6–8 p.m., Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo will host the latest installment in the popular series that focuses on issues of concern to Calgary-area physicians and clinics.

Dr. Matthew Mazurek will lead a segment in which he will share tips and tricks on access to gastroenterology for patients in the Calgary Zone. Dr. James Kellner will explore COVID-19, immunization, monkeypox and influenza, while the mental health portion will focus on helpful apps for physicians and patients.

When registering, physicians will be asked if they'd like to attend virtually or in person (Hotel Blackfoot). More details about in-person attendance will be shared nearer the time. [Register.](#)

PCN pain rounds

On Wednesday, September 28, from 5:30–6:45 p.m., the latest PCN Pain Rounds series features a discussion titled, *Talking About Activity with People with Pain*. Aimed at family physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other team members, it will be led by psychiatrist and pain specialist, Dr. Andrea Furlan. Learning objectives:

- Help patients understand when it is safe to begin an activity program
- Educate patients about the way activity moderates the pain system
- Prescribe graded increases in activity

Credits are available. [Register](#).

Quick links

COVID Corner is back

On Wednesday, September 7, from 7–9 p.m., the University of Calgary's COVID Corner series returns with *Don't Trip in the Fall – COVID Community, Therapeutic and Pediatric Updates*. The webinar will share current data and outpatient therapeutic options and discuss health concerns as children return to school. There will also be a discussion about pediatric vaccine evidence. [Register](#).

Physician lead contract opportunity: Specialty access

The Accelerating Change Transformation Team (ACTT) is seeking a family physician and PCN member to work alongside other Calgary Zone physician leads for up to eight hours a week from October through March. There is remuneration for this position. [More details](#).

Reminder: Greg's story screenings

On Thursday, September 15 at 8 a.m., the first of two upcoming free online screenings of *Falling Through the Cracks: Greg's Story* will take place. The 30-minute film documents Greg Price's journey through the healthcare system and focuses on the events that led to his unexpected and tragic death. The screening is followed by a Q&A with family members. [Register](#). A second screening will be held on Wednesday, October 12 at 9 a.m. [Register](#).