

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



AHS lifts continuous masking requirements

Alberta Health Services is set to rescind its continuous masking requirements at all AHS facilities next week, including continuing care and contracted sites.

Effective Monday, June 19, the change in policy will apply to patients, families, and visitors at AHS facilities, as well as Alberta Precision Laboratories, Covenant Health and Carewest sites. It will also apply to AHS and contracted staff including physicians, midwives, students, volunteers and contractors. [More information.](#)

Long COVID resources: Updated return-to-work guidance for employers, employees, insurers is available. [More information.](#)

Have your say on mental health support

There's still time to help inform the development of mental health programs by completing a [Calgary Zone survey](#). The deadline for completing the survey has been extended to Friday, July 14.

The Zone is keen to hear from physicians and nurse practitioners who are willing to share their perspectives on the resources available to both clinicians and patients. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. A \$50 grant-funded honorarium is available upon completion. [Take the survey.](#)



Hematology and thrombosis tele-advice

Did you know that Specialist Link offers separate tele-advice services for hematology and thrombosis?

Many physicians have been calling the hematology line to talk to a specialist about patients with thrombosis. Both services can be requested online by hovering over either Medicine or Hematology at specialistlink.ca and then clicking the relevant option. [More information.](#)

Reminder: Mental health resource database

Physicians, nurse practitioners, staff and teams can access a [database](#) that lists options for addiction and mental health assessment, treatment and support in the Calgary area.

The Access Mental Health Resource Database, [available via Specialist Link](#), allows users to search hundreds of up-to-date listings for both AHS and community-based resources, in both rural and urban locations. The tool, made available to primary care providers and staff for the first time last week, was featured in a recent Calgary Zone [webinar](#).

Cancer care info for community providers

A [new website](#) is available to support community and primary care providers caring for patients across the continuum of cancer care. It includes information on:

- Cancer prevention and screening
- Diagnostic work-up and referral
- Supporting patients during treatment
- Post-cancer treatment surveillance and management of well patients
- Advanced cancer, palliative and end-of-life care
- Cancer supportive care and wellness

[More information](#).

Quick links

Nutrition handouts for patients

Nutrition handouts related to pregnancy and lactation are now available to share with patients via ahs.ca/prenatalnutrition.

i4 conference

On Wednesday, November 1 and Thursday, November 2, the AHS-led i4 virtual conference will explore issues related to the future of health. [More details](#).

Report on inflammatory bowel disease

A [new report](#) from Crohn's and Colitis Canada has revealed that the number of Canadians with inflammatory bowel disease is increasing rapidly. According to the report, about 322,600 people or 0.8 per cent of Canada's population are expected to be diagnosed this year. [Read the report](#).

Videos: Cognitive behavioural therapy for pain

Two [new videos](#) aimed at primary care providers who want to learn basic cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) skills for pain management have been posted on Specialist Link.