

primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



Measles resources

A new measles resources document aimed at health-care providers is now available from AHS. It consolidates information from several sources and references symptoms, complications, prevention and control. [Read the document.](#)

With cases continuing to rise in Alberta, please review the latest information about exposure advisories, including a [case this week](#) at Calgary International Airport.

All practitioners in the Calgary Zone are advised to consider measles in under-vaccinated individuals presenting with a febrile illness. Locally acquired cases may not have a known source. Appointments for immunization are available within the week across the zone. A measles hotline was launched earlier this month at 1-844-944-3434. Physicians can also report suspected and probable cases to the physician reporting line at 1-844-343-0971 (option 1).

Posters available: Measles posters are now available in several languages, including Low German, Michif Cree, Michif French, Blackfoot and Spanish. [More information.](#)

Hematology tele-advice

The hematology tele-advice line offered through Specialist Link is now called Hematology (adult) to reflect that the service is intended only for adult patients. Questions about pediatric patients should be directed to the Alberta Children's Hospital, via 403-955-7211.

The hematology FAQ has also been updated with additional information, including guidance on managing thrombocytosis not yet diagnosed. Review the [updated resource](#).

Have your say: Specialist Link needs your help to ensure it meets the needs of primary care providers in the coming months and years. The Specialist Link survey takes about 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous. [Take the survey.](#)

COVID-19 vaccination updates

This fall, Alberta will provide COVID-19 vaccinations free of charge to three high-risk groups, while there will be a cost to all other Albertans. Free-of-charge vaccinations will be offered to these three high-risk groups:

- Residents of seniors supportive living accommodations and home care clients.
- Individuals six months of age and older with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems or in congregate living accommodations.
- Albertans on social programs (i.e., AISH, income supports, those experiencing homelessness).

The vaccination program is set to roll out in the fall in four phases. Starting Monday, August 11, eligible Albertans can signal their intent to receive the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines by pre-ordering through the Alberta Vaccine Booking System.

The Alberta government is recommending that Albertans talk to their primary care provider to determine the best course of action for their vaccination needs.

Read the [news release](#).

Quick links

PIIP webinars

On Tuesday, July 8, from 6–7:30 p.m., the latest session in the Physician Practice Improvement Program (PIIP) focuses on privacy best practices. [More information](#).

ECHO: Multiple pain conditions in a patient

On Tuesday, July 10 at 12:15 p.m., the South Zone PCN ECHO Series ends with a one-hour webinar, *Managing Multiple Pain Conditions in a Patient*, a case discussion and Q&A. [Register](#).

PCN Pain Rounds: Pain reprocessing, cognitive functional therapy

On Tuesday, July 22 at 5:30 p.m., join the final 90-minute webinar in the current PCN Pain Rounds series to explore the similarities and differences between pain reprocessing therapy and cognitive functional therapy. [Register](#).

Physician wanted: Calgary Eating Disorder Program

The Calgary Eating Disorder Program is seeking a family physician interested in working one or two days a week with adult outpatients who are struggling with eating disorders. The position is based at the Richmond Road Diagnostic and Treatment Centre and will involve providing medical assessment and follow-up with respect to the medical complications associated with this psychiatric disorder. For more information, please contact Mark Lagimodiere at 403-955-7704 or Dr. Monique Jericho at 403-955-3044.

Ordering changes for CBC and differential

Changes have been made for ordering CBC and differentials within a 24-hour period. If a clinic has already ordered a single CBC and differential for a patient and decides to repeat the order within 24 hours, the differential will not be completed again within the 24-hour timeframe. [Read the bulletin](#).

New process for ordering stool kits

Alberta Precision Labs is requesting that clinics stop sending orders for stool kits to ProvLab and instead request them from the AHS online ordering portal at: [AHS Supplies Ordering](#). [Read the bulletin](#).

Routine C. diphtheriae toxin testing

AHS has discontinued routine toxin testing for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in cutaneous (skin) specimens. Providers involved in wound care should be aware that toxin testing will now require prior consultation with a microbiologist or infectious disease specialist. [Read the bulletin](#).

Reminder: Delayed results for Parvovirus IgM testing

Effective immediately, Parvovirus B19 IgM antibody testing will temporarily shift from daily to biweekly processing due to resource and supply constraints. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

Reminder: Insulin antibody testing process

Effective immediately, Insulin Antibody testing relevant for suspected autoimmune diabetes (especially Type 1) or insulin allergy workups is being centralized to improve test consistency and turnaround times. Please review the new process. [Read the lab bulletin](#).

Reminder: Virtual chronic pain management

Albertans can access a free virtual program offering expert tips and tools to manage daily discomfort associated with chronic pain. Patients can call 1-877-719-7707 or [visit the website](#) to learn more. Healthcare provider referrals are also accepted. [More information](#).