



Fall immunization program

The first phase of Alberta's fall immunization program got underway earlier this week with a focus on offering the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to eligible Albertans.

Phase two, which begins Monday, October 20, includes influenza vaccination for Albertans aged five and older at community pharmacies. Appointments for children aged six months to four years old will be available at public health clinics.

The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine will be available to those 60 years of age and older living in continuing care and seniors supportive living settings, as well as First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals who are 60 years of age and older. All Albertans 70 years of age and older are eligible for the RSV vaccine.

Free COVID-19 vaccine eligibility in phase one includes:

- Healthcare workers ([more information](#))
- Residents of continuing care homes and seniors supportive living accommodations
- Homebound home care clients
- Individuals six months of age and older with underlying medical or immunocompromising conditions
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Individuals 65 years of age and older receiving the [Alberta Seniors Benefit](#)

Immunization appointments can be made via [Connect Care](#), by calling Health Link 811 or by contacting a [public health or community health centre](#).

Provider resources: Please see the Primary Care Alberta [webpage](#) for information on seasonal immunizations or Health Canada's statement on [seasonal vaccines](#).

Regional network transition timelines

The Calgary area's new regional primary health care network is set to be launched by the summer of 2026, the Government of Alberta has announced.

The regional network, which will serve patients and provide support to medical homes in a geographical area similar to the current Calgary Zone, will be formed as part of an "evolution and expansion" of the area's seven Primary Care Networks.

Calgary is due to be part of the second of three phases of regional network standup, with Southeast and Southwest Alberta scheduled to be formed in phase one in spring 2026. Calgary and Central are due to follow in late spring or early summer 2026, with Northeast, Northwest and Edmonton scheduled for late summer 2026.

The formal process of PCNs transitioning into regional networks is underway. The Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services, formerly known as Alberta Health, is leading the legal aspect of the transition. Primary Care Alberta is responsible for the operational implementation of regional networks, which includes creating implementation teams and an operating model.

Calgary is one of seven regional networks being established as part of the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS) initiative, which aims to enhance access to comprehensive, team-based care across the province. [More information](#).

Lab bulletin: Paper requisitions

Effective Tuesday, October 14, the only paper requisition accepted by Alberta Precision Laboratories for COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) requests will be the COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses [requisition](#). Primary care providers are reminded that community patients with symptoms qualify for routine COVID-19 and influenza testing.

Requests using other paper requisitions will be cancelled. Providers must check off the testing required. Written test requests will not be accepted. Providers should also complete the mandatory "Specify Test," "Clinical History" and "RPP Criteria" fields on the requisition, along with any other relevant clinical information. If any of these fields are not completed, testing may be delayed and/or cancelled. [Read the bulletin](#).

Requisition printing: Effective Wednesday, October 1, automatic printing of Connect Care laboratory requisitions for blood and urine specimen orders has been disabled to improve workflows and reduce paper use. Patients are no longer required to have a printed form when visiting an Alberta Precision Laboratories site for blood or urine collection. [More information](#).

Reminder: Stroke prevention clinic referral guidelines

Detailed [referral guidelines](#) are now available for Calgary's stroke prevention clinics.

Adults who have had a transient ischemic attack or a minor stroke can be referred to the clinics at Foothills Medical Centre and South Health Campus via central access at 403-944-1447 or via fax at 403-476-9635. The [updated guidelines](#) are also linked on the Specialist Link [neurology access pathway](#).

Please note that episodes of pre-syncope, loss of consciousness & memory loss, and recurrent episodes of dizziness are unlikely to be transient ischemic attacks. Consider referring these patients to the emergency department, Urgent Neurology Clinic (phone 403-944-2372) or General Neurology Clinic as appropriate. Retinal vein occlusion and anterior ischemic optic neuropathy may be appropriate for ophthalmology referral.

Webinar: Charting series

Starting on Friday, October 17, Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a three-part series focused on charting. The series can be watched live online or via a recording. It can help physicians meet the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) Activity 2 quality improvement activity.

The live portion of the webinars takes place on Friday, October 17 (8–9:30 p.m.), Friday, October 24 (8–10 p.m.) and Wednesday, October 29 (8–9:30 p.m.). Registration is open to all PCN physicians in the Calgary Zone. [Register](#).

Acetaminophen during pregnancy

Primary Care Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein, issued a memo regarding the recent controversy about Acetaminophen use during pregnancy. [Read the memo](#).

Quick links

Wound care webinars

Starting Monday, October 6, at noon, Primary Care Alberta is hosting three webinars for primary care providers to learn more about the use of NanoSALV, a new skin and wound care technology. In addition to the October 6 webinar, further webinars will be held on Wednesday, October 8 at 7:15 a.m., and on Thursday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. Each session will include the same foundational content. [Register](#).

Patient- and family-centred care webinars

On Monday, October 20 and Friday, October 24, AHS is hosting webinars for providers as part of Patient- and Family-Centred Care Week. The October 20 webinar, which starts at noon, takes a look at Alberta's updated health quality dimensions. [Register](#). The October 24 event, which also starts at noon, focuses on how teams are embedding patient rights and responsibilities into daily practice. [Register](#).

Grand rounds

On Tuesday, October 21, from noon–1 p.m., the next Patient- and Family-Centered Grand Rounds – available online or in-person at the Peter Lougheed Centre – explores how curiosity, language and the patient voice can transform care delivery. [More information](#).

Caregiving film screening

On Wednesday, October 8, from 6–9 p.m., the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence presents *Caregiving*, a new documentary produced by actor Bradley Cooper. [More details](#).

Connect Care providers town hall

On Thursday, October 9, from 5–6:15 p.m., prescribers are invited to take part in a town hall that will feature results from the 2025 Connect Care user surveys. [More information](#).

Mobile mammography units

Two new mobile mammography units have been launched thanks to funding from the Alberta Cancer Foundation and its donors. [More information](#).

Reminder: CanREACH openings

Registration has opened for the CanREACH Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care Program's next fellowship course. It starts with a conference on Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25, followed by 12 one-hour clinical case sessions. [More information](#).

Reminder: Pediatric vision concerns webinar

On Tuesday, October 21 from noon–1 p.m., the Alberta Association of Optometrists is hosting a webinar for health professionals about common vision concerns and issues affecting children. [Register](#).

Reminder: Alberta Virtual Pain Program webinars

Providers are invited to attend two-hour virtual webinars to learn more about the latest evidence in chronic pain treatment for adults:

- Tuesday, October 7, 5–7 p.m. [Register](#).
- Thursday, November 20, 3–5 p.m. [Register](#).
- Tuesday, December 16, noon–2 p.m. [Register](#).