



Fall immunization update

Previously, Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) announced Monday, Oct. 19 as the coordinated launch date for the fall immunization program.

However, with influenza activity increasing earlier than expected, pharmacies and select medical clinics (those that have received vaccine and have the operational capacity to immunize) may begin administering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to [eligible individuals](#) immediately.

Primary Care Alberta's Public Health teams will start their public program on Monday, Oct. 19, as planned. To book an appointment through Primary Care Alberta (PCA), Albertans can [book online](#) or call Health Link (811).

Immunization will also be a featured topic in the first webinar of the new Alberta Primary Care Rounds series from PCA, the Alberta College of Family Physicians, and the Alberta Medical Association's Accelerating Change Transformation Team.

On Monday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m., the 90-minute webinar will feature presentations and discussion on:

- Immunization and the coming respiratory season
- GLP-1 prescribing
- Specialty access and pathways
- System updates and other hot topics

[Register today.](#)

Important updates on RSV bronchiolitis and rabies infection management

In response to recent high-quality evidence, pediatricians at Alberta Children's Hospital are now advising most families with children hospitalized with bronchiolitis to schedule a follow-up visit only as needed:

- If their child's symptoms are not improving
- If they have any other concerns

Due to this change, your practice may receive fewer requests for hospital follow-up appointments for these patients. Children with compelling reasons for immediate follow-up (i.e., medical complexity, comorbid asthma) should still receive a follow-up appointment shortly after discharge.

Rabies: AHS's Safe Healthy Environment team updated the *Rabies Prevention & Control Manual* in January to reflect current rabies risk assessment guidance in Alberta.

Updated processes and resources:

- The [manual](#)
- New interactive animal exposure [notification form](#)
- [Patient care sheet](#) for animal exposure wound follow-up
- Rabies animal exposure and referrals [algorithm](#)
- [FAQ](#) for rabies risk assessment

Enhanced Alberta's Pathway Hub

Based on feedback from users, [Alberta's Pathway Hub](#) for provincewide clinical, referral, and patient pathways has been improved with:

- Content tailored to your practice location for information relevant to you and your patients
- Clinical, referral, and patient pathways all in one place
- Enhanced search capabilities so you can find information faster

[Visit the hub](#) to explore its pathways.

[Specialist Link](#) remains your home for Calgary Zone-specific clinical pathways and tele-advice.

The Specialist Link team has updated the links on the website's clinical pathways [web page](#) to the pathways on Alberta's Pathway Hub.

PCPCM: Locum changes

On Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 12:15 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 45-minute webinar on important changes to Primary Care Physician Compensation Model (PCPCM) locum coverage and as a general Q&A opportunity. [Register](#).

Physicians are reminded that for any length of leave, the locum must have a Locum BA in place before coverage begins.

For five calendar days or less of locum coverage:

- PPHS does not require formal notification.
- Locums must use their BA and are not permitted to use the host physician's PCPCM BA.

For more than five calendar days of locum coverage:

- PPHS requires formal notification.
- The locum may use their own Locum BA or the host physician's PCPCM BA; the choice of BA affects who receives payment, if the host physician's panel remains active, and whether Clinical Administration payments will continue.
- If the locum uses the host physician's PCPCM BA, the host physician is not permitted to submit PCPCM claims during the same coverage period.

A summary of BA usage, payments, and required communication with PPHS is on the [PCPCM locum web page](#).

Cancer screening notifications going paperless

PCA's Alberta Cancer Screening Programs team is moving toward paperless screening notifications to Albertans through MyHealth Alberta's MyChart online platform instead of mailed letters.

Patients not enrolled in MyChart will continue to receive printed letters.

Cervical cancer screening notifications went paperless on Sept. 15, and colorectal cancer and breast cancer screening notifications will follow in 2027.

Screening results:

- Normal screening results will be available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.
- Abnormal test results will be mailed, posted on MyChart, or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.

To help raise awareness, you can:

- Notify your patients of the change and share the MyHealth Alberta [help centre](#) for instructions on getting started with MyChart
 - Put up [this poster](#) in your clinic
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Advancing equitable care with Indigenous patients

Practicing Good Relations (PGR) is a new learning program designed to strengthen family physicians' ability to recognize and respond to the structural conditions that shape Indigenous patients' health, healthcare experience, and access to care.

Part of a University of Alberta research study led by Dr. Stephanie Montesanti, the program is looking for interested physicians for beta testing (no registration fee) to help test and refine it.

Grounded in the Educating for Equity (E4E) Care Framework, the program:

- Includes one six-hour, in-person E4E primer workshop in Calgary and then four two-hour virtual case-based learning sessions held approximately every two weeks
- Is certified for up to 14 Mainpro+ Certified Activity credits, with participants able to earn up to 12 additional credits through the optional MyL3Plan
- Offers access to a PGR Online Hub where participants can access curated resources, case-based session recordings, and connect with their peers

You can find more details in the program [one-pager](#) and [infographic](#). If interested, please email [Dr. Stephanie Montesanti](#), who will follow up with a poll to plan dates and registration details.

Quick links

Funding opportunity

Applications are open until the end of Monday, Nov. 2 for PPHS's Primary Care Innovation Fund to support innovations that improve how primary care is accessed, delivered, and experienced in Alberta. [Get the details](#).

New cultural safety standard

PCA is encouraging primary care teams to read and share a [new document](#) from Canada's Health Standards Organization on culturally safe health design. The organization is also hosting a webinar about the standard on Monday, Nov. 9, from 7 to 8 a.m. [Register](#).

Alberta infant RSV town halls

In October and early November, Praxis Health is hosting multiple one-hour webinars with physician experts on the updated RSV program, new guidelines, and practical advice to help you support families; register for the date of your choosing (Thursday, Oct. 22 at [7 a.m.](#) or at [noon](#), Monday, Oct. 26 at [5 p.m.](#), or Monday, Nov. 2 at [5 p.m.](#)).

ACFP: Third physician wellness webinar

On Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m., the third 90-minute webinar of the Alberta College of Family Physicians' three-part series on physician wellness focuses on psychological safety, peer discussions, and strategies for fostering communities of support within physician groups and workplaces. [Register](#).

New transition planning ECHO mini-series

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 6 to 7:45 p.m., the first of a two-part, virtual ECHO series on supporting adolescents and young adults with medical and behavioural complexity transition to adult care focuses on principles of transitional care, while the second part (Wednesday, Nov. 25) focuses on a shared care model and resources. [Register](#).

Choosing Wisely Talks

On Wednesday, Oct 28 at 10 a.m., join a one-hour webinar on how Calgary Foothills PCN

embedded Choosing Wisely principles into quality improvement initiatives across the teams and medical homes in their PCN to drive measurable reductions in low-value care. [Register](#).

PPIP: Caregiver-centred care

On Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m., the Alberta Medical Association is hosting a 75-minute webinar on the Caregiver-Centered Care Framework and practice-level strategies to include caregivers as care team members; it is designed for any PPIP-required activity and has prerequisites. [Register](#).

Build confidence in supporting infertility

On Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m., the Calgary West Central PCN invites Calgary Zone physicians and their clinic staff to a 90-minute webinar featuring an infertility specialist on optimizing fertility and local programs from the Calgary Regional Fertility Program and the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Centre. [Register](#).