

COVID-19 UPDATES

Calgary Zone PCN webinar: Immunization and managing alcohol use disorder

Alberta's COVID-19 immunization campaign is the focus of the next webinar in the Calgary Zone series on Monday, February 1 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Vaccine eligibility, availability and processes will be discussed by a panel of experts who will also address the role family physicians and primary care teams can play in encouraging patients to be immunized.

This month's mental health moment will feature a presentation on managing alcohol use disorder.

[Register](#)

AHS vaccine update

AHS has an updated vaccine [FAQ web page](#) and [memo](#) for community physicians with resources and information on the phased vaccine rollout.

The memo includes [information](#) on the vaccine and the [process](#) for reporting adverse events following immunization.

Physicians who have patients being offered the vaccine can request tele-advice via the COVID-19 line on [Specialist LINK](#). This service is not suitable for questions about logistics or feedback on the phased approach.

Rollout:

- Phase 1 (December): Acute care sites with the highest COVID-19 capacity concerns
 - Intensive care unit healthcare workers, respiratory therapists, and staff in long-term care and designated supportive living facilities
- Phase 1A (January):
 - Expand to home care workers and healthcare workers in emergency departments
- Phase 1B (February):
 - Seniors 75 years and older, First Nations, Metis and individuals 65 and over living in a First Nation community or Metis settlement

- Healthcare workers in medical, surgical, and COVID-19 units and operating rooms
- Phase 2 (April – September):
 - Planning underway but not yet finalized; expected to include frontline healthcare workers.
- Phase 3 (fall):
 - Anticipated rollout to the general public

The timeline is subject to vaccine supply.

AHS has a [strategy](#) to minimize the risk of wasting vaccine dosages.

- Doses are thawed and prepared according to pre-scheduled appointments
- Appointments are overbooked
- Waste is 0.3 per cent compared to typical immunization program wastage around six per cent

Other vaccine webinars:

- The AMA addressed COVID-19 vaccine safety, efficacy and hesitancy in their COVID Talks for Docs webinar on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The webinar recording will be made available in a few days on the [Webinars & Online Learning](#) page.
- On Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m., the College of Family Physicians of Canada is hosting a one-hour [webinar](#) on the vaccine as part of their COVID-19 Pivot series: Vaccine update for family physicians.

Resources for coping with COVID-19

AHS has a [resource booklet](#), *Coping with COVID-19: Addiction & Mental Health Resources*, compiling dozens of existing supports in one place.

The booklet includes helplines, virtual supports, and community resources for:

- Mental health
- Addiction
- Family matters and seniors
- Financial and employment stress
- First Nations
- Wellness and physical wellbeing

[Download the booklet.](#)

Testing and return to work

Individuals who tested positive and completed the mandatory isolation period do not need to be [re-tested](#) before returning to work and normal activities.

Evidence shows individuals are not infectious after 10 days from the start of their symptoms — as long as their symptoms have resolved — unless they have an immune compromising condition.

Re-testing within 90 days of a positive test is not useful.

COVID Corner webinar

On Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m., the U of C is hosting a two-webinar, COVID Corner: The Shadow Pandemic, on the impact of COVID-19 on excess mortality and morbidity and strategies to minimize it.

Learning objectives:

- Recognize the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on excess mortality and morbidity in Alberta during 2020
- Describe how the pandemic has adversely affected the presentation and management of other acute and chronic medical conditions
- Strategize how in 2021 we can minimize the impact of the pandemic on our care for patients with and without COVID-19

[Register.](#)