

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## Quarantine changes, pathways updated

The COVID-19 [adult](#) and [variants of concern](#) pathways have been updated to reflect changes to quarantine requirements for household contacts and new recommendations for testing protocol.

For original or “wild type” COVID-19 and B.1.1.7 (U.K.) cases, if a case has a separate bathroom and bedroom, and is separated from the rest of the household contacts for their infectious period, the 14-day quarantine for household contacts begins on the last day of contact with that case. For B.1.351 (South Africa) and P.1 (Brazil) cases, every day the case is isolating at home is considered a new exposure to household contacts. [More information](#).

Close contacts should now be tested twice during their quarantine period. A first test should be booked as soon as confirmation is received that the individual is a close contact of someone who tested positive. If the first test is negative, a second test should be booked 10 days after the last exposure to the confirmed case but before the end of the quarantine period. If symptoms are developed at any time during the quarantine period, a test should be booked. [More information](#).

The [adult pathway](#) is designed to help support the management of patients who are presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19, have influenza-like symptoms, or present with symptoms despite having a negative swab. It is also for patients with the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) strain. The [variants of concern pathway](#) is for patients with a presumed or confirmed variant of concern (other than B.1.1.7).

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## Support for socially isolated seniors

A support group run by medical student volunteers is providing social connection for socially isolated seniors. Volunteers check in and chat via weekly phone calls. Physicians and teams can refer to the Student-Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership program by emailing [ssipp@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ssipp@ucalgary.ca).

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## Rapid testing program in schools

A rapid testing program is offering tests to students and staff in Calgary-area schools. The program is starting at Robert Thirsk and Ernest Manning high schools and expanding to other schools in the coming weeks. Rapid testing kits are not as accurate as lab-based tests. Those with positive rapid screening results are required to isolate for 10 days from the date their test is completed, unless their lab test is negative. Close contacts of

someone who has a positive rapid screening test result are not required to quarantine unless a lab test confirms the positive results. [More details](#).

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## Webinars

- On Monday, May 3, from 6-8 p.m., community clinic vaccination will be among the hot topics featured in the next PCN COVID-19 and mental health webinar. Dr. Rick Ward and Dr. Christine Luelo will host a panel discussing the most pressing questions and issues for physicians, staff and teams. [Register](#).
  - On Wednesday, May 12, from 7-9 p.m., the University of Calgary’s COVID Corner series returns with *Vaccines vs. Variants (Part 2)*. Sign up for [notifications](#).
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## Physicians, staff book vaccinations as Phase 2C opens

Community physicians and community health care staff began booking their shots on Monday, April 12 with the opening of Phase 2C of the vaccine rollout. Family doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals who provide “in-person, direct patient care” – including office and support staff – are now eligible for COVID-19 immunization. [Complete list of eligible health care workers](#).

Appointments can be booked in the following ways:

- Online at [www.alberta.ca/vaccine](http://www.alberta.ca/vaccine)
- By calling 811
- Via [participating pharmacies](#)

Proof of employment or professional registration, such as an employee ID card, letter of employment or placement, is required to be shown at appointments. When attending appointments, personal ID that shows date of birth is also required. Proof of employment templates and practice permits are available from the [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta](#).

Not all those eligible for vaccination as part of Phase 2C can book a shot starting Monday. Residents and support staff at congregate living and work settings, as well as caregivers of Albertans who are at risk of severe outcomes, will be able to book their shots in “the coming weeks.” Walk-in appointments for AstraZeneca (Albertans aged 55 to 64) opened Tuesday, April 13 – initially in Calgary and Edmonton – at participating pharmacies. Appointments can also be booked. [More details](#).

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## Community vaccination pilots set to begin next week

Family physicians at 10 clinics in Alberta will begin offering COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible patients on Monday, April 19 as part of a “proof of concept” to test new processes and procedures ahead of a scheduled province-wide rollout in May. Two community clinics in each of the five health zones will provide up to 200 doses to patients who have not yet been vaccinated. The pilot is a joint initiative between the Alberta Medical Association, Primary Care Network physician leaders and Alberta Health.

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Participating clinics will offer appointments to existing patients who are currently eligible for vaccinations. Vaccination will not be offered to the general public. Based on lessons learned from this pilot, it is hoped the program will expand to include additional clinics as early as May. [More details](#).