

COVID-19 UPDATES

Tuesday, May 12

Testing in Calgary

Effective for one week starting Monday, May 11, asymptomatic residents of the Calgary Zone who work outside their home can sign up [online](#) for testing.

There is capacity of **1,000 tests per day**, booked on a first-come, first-served basis, to understand how asymptomatic carriers may be contributing to transmission.

Connect Care

AHS has **temporarily** [delayed](#) the roll-out of Connect Care.

The delay supports the strategic use of resources given the increasing demands on frontline physicians, staff and services due to COVID-19.

Connect Care remains an organizational priority.

Visitation update

AHS updated their visitor [guidance](#) to clarify **additional exceptions** after the orders from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

- Acute care and outpatient settings may allow one visitor at a time for patients with challenges such as mobility, hearing or developmental disabilities that require support.
- ICU visitation is restricted to one to two designated visitors to patients without COVID-19.
- ICU patients with COVID-19 may have one to two visitors in exceptional situations on a case-by-case basis.
- AHS will facilitate care for Indigenous peoples who choose an end-of-life pathway in their home or home community.

Routine lab testing

Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL; formerly Calgary Laboratory Services) and DynaLIFE continue to [ask](#) physicians to order only medically necessary testing to minimize the number of patients going to labs.

The lab has enhanced safety measures at collection sites, but they are unable to return to full patient volumes until physical distancing restrictions are lifted.

Safety measures:

- Screening patients before they enter the facility
- Special appointments for immunocompromised patients
- Adjusting waiting rooms to ensure physical distancing
- Appropriate use of PPE

They are developing solutions to serve more patients in the current conditions. The timeline for a plan to resume full service is not known at this time and will affect relaunch for family practice.

Quick links

COVID Corner webinar

On **Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m.**, the U of C host a two-hour [webinar](#), Planning, Priorities and Partnerships: Re-establishing Continuity of Care during COVID-19 (PART 1), following the journey of a patient with chronic medical conditions during this pandemic.

Grant opportunity

Effective immediately, the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine and the Canadian Medical Association Foundation are accepting [proposals](#) for a grant program in response to COVID-19; applications are due on **Thursday, June 4 at 2 p.m.**

Isolation rooms

AHS has a [guide](#) for contact and droplet precautions for isolation rooms for primary care physicians and their teams.

Virtual care

The AMA has a new privacy and security [checklist](#) for setting up virtual care.