

# COVID-19 UPDATES

Thursday, August 27, 2020

## Pediatric patient pathways

Specialist LINK has [clinical pathways](#) for pediatric patients who have COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive:

- Primary Care COVID-19 Pediatric Patient Management [Pathway](#) for children with symptoms
- Pediatric COVID-19 Primary Care [Pathway](#) for children with confirmed COVID-19

The pathways outline approaches for primary care with links to more information, including [isolation information](#).

Dr. Rick Ward presented the pathways during the Monday, August 24 Calgary Zone webinar. His presentation begins at the [recording](#)'s 90-minute mark. Following his presentation, Dr. Christine Luelo presented helpful scenarios to illustrate the differences for school-aged children compared to adults.

Pediatric infectious disease tele-advice (for complexities about COVID-19 care and risk in a particular patient) and general pediatric advice (for general care of respiratory symptomatology in a child) are also available through Specialist LINK to support family physicians to care for children who are presumed or confirmed COVID-19 positive.

Physicians can request tele-advice from the service online using the Specialist LINK [website](#) or by calling 403.910.2551 and pressing 8 – 2 for COVID-19 support and 3 – 1 for general pediatrics.

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## Calgary Zone webinar (recording)

View the [recording](#), [Q&A](#) and slides from the two-hour Calgary Zone PCN webinar on the return to school from Monday, August 24, which featured:

- A mental health moment addressing anxiety over the return to school, with tips and resources for parents from Dr. Andrew Baxter starting at the two-minute mark ([slides](#))
- COVID-19 science relevant to school opening by Dr. John Conly starting at 21 minutes
- Public health overview and updates from Dr. Jia Hu at 48 minutes ([slides](#))

- School planning and implications by Joanne Pitman with the Calgary Board of Education at 59 minutes ([slides](#))
- Approaches for symptomatic pediatric patients with Dr. Cora Constantinescu at one hour and 15 minutes ([slides](#))
- Two new pediatric patient pathways with Dr. Rick Ward at one hour and 30 minutes ([slides](#))
- Applying the pediatric pathways in practical scenarios presentation by Dr. Christine Luelo at one hour and 40 minutes ([slides](#))

Physician questions from the event are answered in the [Q&A document](#), which covers themes of mental health, masking, back to school, isolation guidelines and virus transmission.

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## Pediatric transmission

A [report](#) by AHS's Scientific Advisory Group on the role of children in COVID-19 transmission summarizes current evidence from multiple jurisdictions.

Transmission from child to adult appears to occur at a lower rate than from adult to child or child to child based on epidemiologic observations from multiple countries.

Children also appear to have milder symptoms and low risk of severe illness.

In schools and daycares, transmission rates are variable. Overall, school outbreaks are most common in areas with higher community transmission. Existing data suggests schools are not likely to be the primary source of community outbreaks.

Teachers in Sweden, where schools did not close, had a similar risk of infection as the overall population.

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## IPC advice

AHS Infection, Prevention, and Control (IPC) experts worked with PCN operational leadership to identify and provide guidance on common IPC concerns:

**Screening:** Prescreen patients with a phone call before appointments.

If a concern exists for a symptomatic patient, refer them for testing AND if they must be seen in clinic, place them directly in an exam room immediately upon arrival.

**PPE:** Store clean PPE outside of exam rooms so it is readily available and sanitize hands before accessing.

When leaving a room where precautions were used, remove the gloves and gown in the room, exit the room, and remove eye protection and mask, placing directly into a garbage, sanitizing hands after each contact with PPE. Then don a clean mask.

**Patient flow:** Minimize the number of patients in waiting areas and conduct screening to reduce unprotected encounters.

Try to ensure no traffic in hallways when doffing PPE to avoid unprotected contact.

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Encourage spot cleaning of common areas and high-touch surfaces throughout the day.

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## Patient masking support

AHS has published [four-steps](#) you may find useful when encouraging patients or visitors without masks to wear one.

Steps:

1. Ask and listen to understand their perspective
2. Share and connect by showing empathy
3. Share your safety knowledge and explain why wearing a mask is important
4. Work toward possible solutions

Possible solutions include ways to adjust the mask so it is more comfortable, focusing on slow, deep breaths if they are anxious, and reinforcing that masks are effective and important with and without symptoms.

They also have [masking guidance](#) for community physicians, which includes all patients and essential companions wearing masks during visits to primary care settings.

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## COVID Corner

On Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m., the U of C is hosting a two-hour webinar on school opening and the second wave. [Register](#).