

Calgary Zone

Pandemic RESPONSE



Thursday, March 4, 2021

Dear colleagues, PCN staff and teams,

Primary care's role in the pandemic response took an important step forward today with the release of details about how physicians and clinics can express their interest in participating in COVID-19 vaccinations.

On behalf of the Calgary Zone Primary Care Networks, we wanted to provide some context about our plans and how we might support those interested in taking part.

Completing the Alberta Medical Association's Expression of Interest form does not mean any physician or clinic is obliged to participate. However, it will allow them to find out more about the logistics of "putting needles in arms," while providing primary care leadership with valuable information about how best to proceed. PCNs in the Calgary area are currently exploring a number of options to help support the vaccination campaign, which are listed below.

1. Support and enable willing physicians and clinics, where possible, to offer vaccination. Discuss how to improve access in hard to reach or vulnerable populations
2. Offer clear, concise information about evidence and guidelines via webinars, Q&As, pathways, tele-advice and other communication tools to support physicians, staff and teams
3. Provide information to patients about the importance of vaccination; manage and report on side effects
4. Identify at-risk patients and populations in panels and encourage them to be vaccinated
5. Continue to advocate for physicians and primary care at zonal and provincial tables


If you have questions, concerns or feedback related to the expression of interest or the vaccination campaign, don't hesitate to reach out to your PCN. You can also email us at info@calgaryareapcns.ca. It was confirmed earlier that family physicians and 'clinicians' will be eligible for the vaccine as part of Phase 2 (c).

There are many questions still to be answered and details yet to be announced but we will do our very best to keep you informed. Regardless of whether or not you or your clinic is interested in submitting an expression of interest, family physicians have a crucial part to play in talking to patients who may have questions or concerns about vaccination.

On a final note, we would like to thank you for your dedication to your patients and your contributions to the pandemic response to date. We're very proud of the central role primary care has played locally, which in no small part has contributed to the Calgary Zone having the lowest COVID-19 hospitalization rates in Alberta, at around four per cent.

These are challenging but exciting times. We look forward to continuing to support you in your efforts to provide the best possible care to your patients.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Spady', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Michael Spady
Medical Leader, Community Health Services
Alberta Health Services, Calgary Zone

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Greyvenstein', with a complex, stylized structure featuring multiple horizontal and vertical strokes.

Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein
PCN Physician Lead,
Calgary Zone