

Sept 13 COVID-19 Webinar

Presenters:

Drs Rick Ward, Christine Luelo, Valerie Taylor, Deena Hinshaw

General themes: Fecal transplant to treat depression, primary care testing for covid, vaccine exemptions, current state update	
Questions	Answers
<p>How do we refer for fecal transplant?</p> <p>If we have patients that may be interested how do they contact your study?</p>	<p>The study currently ongoing is looking at fecal microbiota transplantation for depression. Information on this study can be found at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/participate/study/15014/clinical-trial-evaluate-safety-and-efficacy-fecal-microbiota-transplantation-population or email: fmtmddstudy@ucalgary.ca</p> <p>If patients are interested in contributing biological samples to study how gut bacteria impacts mental health, they can contact: Ella Nosrat at orbit@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>I am so curious about the donor feces. Do they come from non-depressed donors? Do you ensure the capsules are standardized in some way, so everyone gets the same treatment even if different donor?</p>	<p>There are strict safety protocols that are used for donors (similar to blood donors but more extensive) to ensure that they are very healthy individuals. Considerations include: BMI 20-25, no history of mental illness, no chronic illness, no travel to foreign countries, no antibiotic use in a certain timeframe, among others.</p>
<p>Is there information on a nurse run clinic that helps people with needle phobia?</p>	<p>Patients that need a low stimulus clinic for vaccination (which includes patients with needle phobia), can book an appointment by calling 811. Further information can be found at: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-special-needs-needle-phobia-patient-info.pdf</p>
<p>Are people with mixed dose mRNA eligible for a third dose?</p>	<p>People with mixed dose mRNA vaccines are eligible for a third dose, if traveling to a country that does not accept mixed dose vaccines. Further information can be found at: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17389.aspx#boost</p>
<p>Could you please put links for vaccine exemption, vaccine hesitancy counselling on the one pager?</p>	<p>AHS Scientific advisory group rapid brief on Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Vaccine: Jurisdictional scan: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-medical-exemptions-to-mandatory-vaccination-rapid-review.pdf</p> <p>Calgary Zone medical exemptions decision guide: https://www.specialistlink.ca/files/COVID_VaccineExemption_Sept2.pdf</p> <p>AMA vaccine toolkit: https://www.albertadoctors.org/about/COVID-19/vaccine-positive-clinic-toolkit</p>
<p>I thought US did not recognize double Pfizer unless it was < 6 weeks apart?</p>	<p>We cannot comment on what the US government will accept. It is advised that patient's inform themselves of the vaccine considerations prior to travel.</p>
<p>Can we vaccinate a patient with generalized</p>	<p>We would recommend consulting with the hematologist/immunologist on the patient's case ideally. It may be worth considering having the patient would have the patient</p>

<p>mastocytosis in our office or do we need to send her to the hospital?</p>	<p>immunized at an AHS site so that there is protocol in place for any reaction and for longer term monitoring in a private space</p>
<p>For double vaccinated clinic staff with mild symptoms that have resolved over the weekend, can we do rapid test before returning to work?</p>	<p>The clinic should follow the guidance recommended here: https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-community-physicians-fit-for-work.pdf which would indicate that return to work would be based on whether the symptoms were core COVID symptoms.</p>
<p>Travelers from countries like Pakistan where they received Sinopharm vaccine, Should they be revaccinated with mRNA vaccine?</p>	<p>Alberta recognizes all vaccines with emergency authorization by WHO. However if the patient would like to receive an mRNA vaccine, they would be able.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17389.aspx#imm-travel</p>
<p>Any tips for managing kiddos who have been swabbed multiple times in the last 18 months and now terrified of covid swabs?</p>	<p>This is a tricky question, and will vary depending on the age of the child. Some suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the child with dropping by the officer for friendly visits • Support them in becoming more comfortable with the idea of testing. Talk about the test when they are not receiving one- perhaps give them a swab to hold and carry around • Support the parents in managing their stress and anxiety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One question to consider is why are they getting swabbed so often? Are the family staying put as much as possible, masking appropriately, keeping cohort as small as possible? Are they swabbing too quick because parents are freaked out and need some supportive counselling by you or your team to bring down their anxiety? (recall with kids you can wait 24 hours and if symptoms resolved they don't need swab) ○ Provide the parents with some resources to support their mental health and knowledge on what they can do to support their children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1eiSa-vbaU ▪ https://ucalgary.ca/news/6-tips-prepare-your-child-easy-covid-19-testing <p>Unfortunately, sometimes it's just about the 'repair work' done at the next visit!</p>
<p>Are you able to bill for a virtual and in person appointment on the same day?</p>	<p>You are able to bill for both if you use the JR billing code for the phone and not the CV or AD, or you can add the time on the phone to your total visit time to calculate your time modifier.</p>
<p>Can you share the references for the data that you're presenting?</p>	<p>https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailycases_7daycasesper100k</p> <p>https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html</p> <p>https://ourworldindata.org/explorers/coronavirus-data-explorer</p> <p>https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm#total-cases</p> <p>https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm#severe-outcomes</p>

<p>Have we seen variant infections in people who have previously had COVID?</p>	<p>Yes we have – there is a bigger question around duration and robustness of prior infection against new infection with same or different variant</p>
<p>Do we expect flu to make a comeback this year?</p>	<p>Likely with a vengeance since we did not “see” it last year – our immune systems are out of practice. GET YOUR FLU SHOT! And ICYMI - there was a communication this week on signing up for providing in your clinic – delivery will be through new channels this year and you need to sign up ASAP</p>
<p>Does Delta COVID infection confer with the immunity against all other variants? Karma Vaxxed?</p>	<p>We are not aware of any research on this BUT it is a moot point as delta is 98% of the circulating virus. Delta cases still need to get vaccinated once they recover if they were not yet vaccinated.</p>
<p>Third dose boosters for MD’s vaccinated Dec 2020/Jan 2021- vis a vis waning immunity?</p>	<p>There is currently no information available around the anticipation of third doses for this population.</p> <p>The most up to date information on vaccine eligibility can be found at: https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx#second</p>
<p>I would be interested in hearing more about the most constructive ways we as community docs can give feedback about our concerns with future plans and be heard.</p>	<p>Thank you for engaging with us and also for the respectful tone throughout the webinar.</p> <p>We will also be discussing feedback from this webinar at our Zone Council meeting this week and sharing these questions with our Zone Lead – Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein.</p> <p>I think it is fair to say that Dr. Hinshaw has heard loud and clear at many tables and through many channels that we are feeling the pressure of this wave. That we are drowning. She gives recommendations that are protected by “cabinet confidence.” The government ultimately makes the policy decisions, not unlike a surrogate decision maker does for a patient.</p> <p>You may also consider seeking out your local MLA to provide your feedback as any constituent can.</p>
<p>Several questions related to masking in schools</p>	<p>There is no credible evidence that masking is harmful for kids, although some communication can be a challenge and some people do experience negative reactions from wearing masks. It is a reasonable thing to recommend children wearing masks based on community transmission.</p>
<p>Several questions related to Public Health response in this wave and triggers to enact further measures</p>	<p>The government made an announcement on Wednesday about further measures. Dr. Hinshaw also explained ‘cabinet confidence’ as it pertains to delivery of recommendations. You can watch the announcement here: https://youtu.be/Q_tkbvlsOEo</p>
<p>Several questions around currently hospitalized patients that are double vaccinated</p>	<p>There were references to this question in both Dr. Hinshaw’s answers and comments on the live chat from physicians working at hospitals, in terms of increasing anecdotal evidence of cases of double-vaccinated patients in hospital. Dr. Hinshaw further addressed this in her Wednesday news conference.</p>
<p>Several questions around aerosol vs droplet transmission</p>	<p>We don’t have any further information about this at this time. We will forward this question to public health.</p>

