

# primary cares

News & updates from the Calgary Zone



## Measles precautions

With a measles outbreak confirmed in the Calgary area, clinics and providers are asked to be vigilant in identifying symptomatic patients.

Symptomatic patients should call Health Link at 811 before visiting any health-care facility.

Suspected cases should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health on-call (403-264-5615). Clinics should check immunization records and monitor for symptoms, which include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and rash. More information about [symptoms](#).

Please note that the incubation period from exposure to prodrome is approximately 10 days with a range of seven to 18 days. The incubation period from exposure to rash onset averages 14 days with a range of seven to 21 days.

Patients who present with measles symptoms, or who call the clinic and identify possible exposure, should not be directed to the local emergency department. Resources for clinics and providers include the following:

- [Confirmed cases](#) in Calgary area
- [Summary guide](#)
- Environmental [cleaning in clinics](#)

The measles vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection and complications. People born in or since 1970 who have received fewer than two doses of measles-containing vaccine are susceptible to infection. Those who have received fewer than two doses of measles-containing vaccine and are pregnant, under one year of age, are adults and/or have a weakened immune system are at most risk of complications from measles, should contact Health Link at 811.

For pediatric patients, families can text “vaccine record” to 88111 for easier access to Alberta administered vaccines. Health care providers should have a record of two doses, a history of a lab confirmed case, or a titre showing immunity. If you do not have one of these please consider a booster. Travel clinics and some community pharmacies can offer this privately if patients are not able to access public health clinic in a timely fashion.

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## Alberta Healthy Living Program dietitians

Effective immediately, Alberta Healthy Living Program (AHLP) dietitians in the Calgary Zone are no longer accepting referrals from primary care physicians for nutrition care.

Please note that the change applies only to dietitian consults within AHLP services. All other services remain unchanged. AHLP dietitians will provide specialized nutrition care on a limited basis. For details on accepted referrals, please consult the [Alberta Referral Directory](#).

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## Pathway, tele-advice updates

Pathways are available to support primary care providers to manage two common conditions that have high referral volumes.

[Lower limb ischemia](#) and [hematuria](#) referrals are in some cases being denied due to the lack of appropriate work-up or triaging. The pathways may be helpful in clarifying what can be done in the medical home and how best to process referrals.

**Temporary closure:** Child & adolescent gynecology tele-advice will be closed from Wednesday, April 2 to Friday, April 4. Normal service will resume on Monday, April 7.

**Dermatology tele-advice:** Dermatology tele-advice is no longer available on Specialist Link. Providers seeking non-urgent advice can request eReferral Consults. Emergent cases should continue to be referred to the dermatology on-call team. [More information](#).

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## Compensation model webinar

The latest information session for the new primary care physician compensation model (PCPCM) takes place next week.

On Monday, March 24, from 6–7:30 p.m., AMA-ACTT (Accelerating Change Transformation Team) will host *Improving Accuracy of PCPCM Panel Sizes*. [Registration](#) is for AMA members only. Clinic teams can watch a recording that will be posted on the AMA website following the webinar. Other available resources related to PCPCM include the following:

- [Eligibility and enrolment](#)
  - [Understand the model](#)
  - [Operations manual](#)
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## COVID-19 immunization

Effective Friday, March 28, Alberta Health is recommending a biannual dose of COVID-19 vaccine for Albertans at higher risk of severe outcomes due to COVID-19 infection. Eligible Albertans who have previously received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine after October 1, 2024, are eligible to receive a biannual dose at least three months after their previous dose.

[Eligible patients](#) include:

- Individuals aged 65 and older
- Adults aged 18 and older who are residents of continuing care or supportive living
- Individuals aged six months and older with immunocompromising conditions
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit individuals aged six months and older

**RSV vaccination:** Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine eligibility has expanded to include community-dwelling seniors aged 70 years and older (previously 75) and First Nations, Metis and Inuit individuals aged 60 and older. Residents of continuing care homes and senior supportive living who are 60 years and older continue to be eligible to receive provincially funded RSV vaccine. [More information](#).

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## Reminder: Fax numbers for Arthur Child

Please update your records with the new fax and switchboard numbers for the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre.

If faxes continue to be sent to Tom Baker and Holy Cross, they will be automatically rerouted to Arthur Child until May 1. After Thursday, May 1, if senders have not updated their contact information, they will receive an error message.

- Main switchboard: 587-231-3100 (toll-free 1-844-465-6330)
  - Referral fax: 587-231-3580
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## Ambulatory medication information

Effective Thursday, March 20, a new display for Connect Care outpatient medication orders will be available in Netcare and will include the following:

- Data will be updated in real time
- Data will not be available via the Pharmaceutical Information Network (PIN), but as a separate tab in the medication section of Netcare
- Medications listed will be based on medication orders. This means they will be prescribed for administration, but not necessarily dispensed or administered, which is different than information in PIN that is based on dispensed medications

For more information, review this [reference document](#).

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## Quick links

### **Serological testing for celiac disease**

Effective Tuesday, April 1, serological testing for celiac disease will be standardized across the province and consolidated at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre in Calgary. [Lab bulletin](#).

### **Childhood growth guidance**

AHS monitoring guidance has been updated. [More details](#).

### **Auditor General update**

The office of the Auditor General released a Primary Care Networks progress report earlier this month. [Read the report](#).

### **CanReach sessions**

The next CanReach virtual mini-fellowship kicks off on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31. [More information](#).

### **Prostate cancer treatment**

Pluvicto, a new radiopharmaceutical treatment for advanced prostate cancer, will be available to Albertans beginning later in March. [More information](#).

### **Rural, remote family medicine resident physician bursary**

The Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program supports efforts to address the shortage of physicians in rural and remote areas. [More information](#).

### **Transitions in Care Talk**

On Tuesday, March 25, from noon–1 p.m., AMA-ACTT will host the latest Transitions in Care Talk, on *Improving Information Continuity*. [Register](#).

### **Burnout and medical culture**

On Wednesday, March 26, from 6–7:30 p.m., the AMA is hosting a Physician Practice Improvement Program (PPIP) webinar that explores the relationship between burnout and medical culture. [Register](#).

### **Caregiver-centred care**

On Tuesday, April 1, from 7–8:30 p.m., Calgary West Central PCN is hosting a webinar on caregiver-centred care. The session highlights how making time for caregivers is essential to patient care and your practice. [Register](#).

### **Rheumatology best practices**

Starting Tuesday, April 22, the University of Alberta will begin hosting weekly online sessions on rheumatology and best practices for family physicians. [Register](#).