

Message from South Zone Leadership

South Zone Executive Leadership credits their team's strength, flexibility, resilience and innovation as key elements in the zone's response to the unprecedented and challenging demands of the past year.

The pandemic response in large and small communities, as well as the Kainai and Piikani Nations, demonstrates the commitment to the care and safety of those to whom they have the honour of providing services; particularly during times of unpredictability and constantly changing requirements and expectations.

"We are so proud of our ongoing relationships and linkages with communities as these have served as the foundation for our response to their needs," says Linda Iwasiw, Chief Zone Officer, South Zone. "We also worked closely with our continuing care and addiction and mental health partners across the zone to best care for resident and client needs."



Dr. Bilal Mir in the ED at Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge. Photo by Leah Hennel/AHS.

South Zone teams continue to partner with health officials on the Kainai and Piikani reserves to support their response as needed, including off-reserve vaccine clinics for Indigenous Peoples.

They also acknowledge the unprecedented response of Public Health teams across the zone. Another critical component of their COVID-19 response has been staff and visitor screening at all facilities, work that is especially important at rural sites, where even a small outbreak among staff could quickly limit available resources.

The ability and willingness to go above-and-beyond for the safety of those who require services and for fellow staff and physicians in these uncertain times has been remarkable, and cannot be overstated.

"We have the honour every day of providing health services to southern Albertans," says Dr. Aaron Low, Zone Medical Director, South Zone. "We rely on and work with our colleagues, and our internal and external partners throughout the province each and every day. We want our staff and physicians to know how much their work means to everyone. We are so grateful to those who don't always receive the recognition they should. We want to say thank-you to everyone for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make."

Linda Iwasiw
Chief Zone Officer, South Zone

Dr. Aaron Low
Zone Medical Director, South Zone

