



This Issue: Celebrating Digital Health Week, Introducing the Physician Experience team and news from the AHS Update

We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7, & 8, and the homeland of the Métis. We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.

Note: Recognizing some medical staff use an alternate email address instead of an AHS email address, some information is duplicated from the AHS Update to ensure all AHS medical staff have all up-to-date organizational information that may impact their practice.

Topics:

Medical Affairs News

- Support for Physicians
- KAIROS Blanket Exercise now available on MyLearning Link
- Health Minister Declares Pressure Injury Prevention Day
- Celebrating Digital Health Week
- Introducing the Physician Experience team
- Career Opportunities
- Additional Resources for Physicians

From the AHS Update

- Dr. John Cowell appointed AHS Official Administrator
- Action on Our 10 Priorities
- Get support while working shifts
- Mental Wellness Moment — seasonal affective disorder
- COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta
- Additional vaccine option now available for children
- Interim CEO video message – the impact of philanthropy
- Understanding link between moral distress and family and visitor access restrictions
- Clinical Ethics launches Lunch ‘n’ Learn series
- Sign up for Secret Santa
- AHS centre in Ponoka welcomes stranded youth hockey team

Our hospitals are extremely busy, particularly in our urban centres. We are experiencing an early start to the respiratory illness season and a steep rise in the number of patients seeking emergency department care. This is happening in jurisdictions across Canada and around the world, as we see increased respiratory illness and more patients with more severe illness.

I am grateful to all of you for providing care during these challenging times. We are doing all we can to add capacity at our major urban hospitals, bring emergency department wait-times down, EMS offload times and support those patients who are having to wait longer than normal.

I encourage you to [book your annual influenza immunization](#) and, once you receive the vaccine, let us know through the [Got My Flu Shot form](#). Also I encourage you to ensure your COVID-19 vaccinations are up to date. Vaccination offers powerful protection from serious illness caused by respiratory viruses. I join our [medical officers of health in encouraging Albertans to wear masks](#), especially in crowded indoor spaces, if they choose. Also, please remember to continue to adhere to our [AHS continuous masking directive](#) at your work site.

Medical Affairs News

Support for Physicians

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

AHS has also developed new resources aimed at offering support to physicians. These are now available online:

- [Webinar](#)
- [Resource Guide](#)

KAIROS Blanket Exercise now available on MyLearning Link

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE) is an interactive learning experience that teaches the Indigenous rights history we are rarely taught. Developed in response to the 1996 Report of the [Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples](#) - which recommended education on Canadian-Indigenous history as one of the key steps to reconciliation; the KBE covers over 500 years of history in a two to three hour participatory workshop. Available on MyLearning Link, key word, Indigenous.

Health Minister Declares Pressure Injury Prevention Day

Health Minister Jason Copping declared November 17, 2022 as Pressure Injury Prevention Day in Alberta. Approximately 1 in 6 of adult patients in Alberta hospitals has a pressure injury. The declaration recognizes AHS, Covenant Health, and health partners for their commitment to raising awareness to prevent, manage and treat pressure injuries.

Congratulations and thank you to the health community for providing quality services to reduce the risk of pressure injuries in Albertans.

Celebrating Digital Health Week

AHS is focused on improving the efficiency of our healthcare system and increasing Albertans' access to care, connecting them to safe, high-quality healthcare regardless of where they are located.

From Nov. 14 to 20 we celebrate [Digital Health Week](#), an event that brings together patients, health care organizations, clinicians, government, and industry to build relationships and show support for digital health.

AHS is creating [innovative models of care](#) delivery to connect Albertans with information and healthcare, across the province. [Learn more](#).

Introducing the Physician Experience team

The Physician Wellness, Diversity & Development team is changing its name to Physician Experience. The team's work will continue to provide support to physician leaders and improve the experience of our physicians.

The diversity, wellness, and development stream will help physician leaders foster a local team culture that values wellness and diversity along with many other positive goals.

The issues and concerns stream will address conflicts with approaches that maintain dignity and fairness to all parties.

Questions? Contact [Sharron Spicer](#).

Career Opportunities

Practice opportunities across a broad range of specialties are available. All vacant AHS physician practice opportunities are posted on our physician recruitment website, [Doctor Jobs Alberta](#).

Additional Resources for Physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional information page](#)
- [COVID-19 Immunization Information](#)

- [COVID-19 Resources for Community Physicians](#)
- [CPSA's Physician Portal](#)
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [MD News Digest](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Physician Wellness Educational Resources: Well Doc Alberta](#)

From the AHS Update

You can read the [full version online](#).

Announcement

Dr. John Cowell appointed AHS Official Administrator

Dr. John Cowell, AHS Official Administrator, will be responsible for the governance of AHS. The AHS Board has been dissolved. [\(more...\)](#)

Action on Our Priorities



Digital Health Evolution & Innovation

[Health supports available virtually](#)

[Connect Care expands reach](#)



Alberta Surgical Initiative

[AHS signs short-term surgical contract](#)

[Surgical wait-list update](#)



Public Health & Pandemic Response and Recovery

[New provincial lab services model brings changes](#)



Rural & Indigenous Initiatives and Engagement

[EMS meets with rural leaders at conferences](#)

[Southern Albertans invited to healthcare planning](#)

[Peace HAC event focuses on recruitment, retention](#)

[Feedback on childhood immunization sought](#)

[Chart a path forward with AHS](#)



Quality

[Celebrate Digital Health Week](#)

Your Wellness

Get support while working shifts

Support is available if shorter days are impacting your sleep and energy levels, especially if you work outside of typical business hours. [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment — seasonal affective disorder



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell explains what seasonal affective disorder is, and how it is diagnosed and treated. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

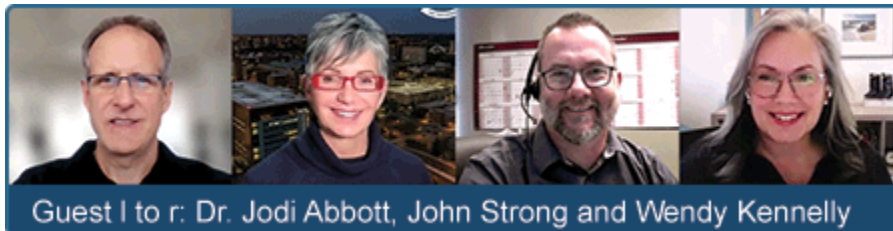
COVID-19 status and cases in Alberta

Latest hospitalizations, ICU update and information on variants of concern and wastewater surveillance. [\(more...\)](#)

Additional vaccine option now available for children

The Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to four years is another option now available. [\(more...\)](#)

Interim CEO video message – the impact of philanthropy



On Nov. 15, charitable organizations celebrated National Philanthropy Day. Last year, foundations raised more than \$285 million for healthcare.

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Understanding distress over family and visitor access restrictions

Watch a discussion about decision-making behind visitation restrictions, the link to experiences of moral distress and how to address it. [\(more...\)](#)

Clinical Ethics launches Lunch ‘n’ Learn series

The series explores healthcare issues, identifies ethical considerations and provides a framework for thinking through challenging situations. [\(more...\)](#)

Sign up for Secret Santa



Sign up by Dec. 2 to be paired with your Secret Santa and help spread joy across AHS this holiday season. [\(more...\)](#)

AHS centre in Ponoka welcomes stranded youth hockey team

An AHS facility in Ponoka provided shelter for a youth hockey team that was involved in a vehicle pileup on Hwy 2 on Nov. 5. [\(more...\)](#)

Thank you for everything you do, each and every day.

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

