



# novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

**Date:** March 11, 2021  
**To:** Primary Care Networks and primary care physicians  
**From:** COVID-19 PCN Incident Response Task Force  
**Subject:** Extension of PPE Safety Coach Program to Primary Care Networks

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As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, working together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through the continued and correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) remains crucial at the front lines of care, including in Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and their member clinics.

In November 2020, AHS launched the [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#) within AHS to offer peer-to-peer support to help increase the proper selection and use of PPE, and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses in Alberta.

This program is now available to PCNs and primary care clinics.

The role of a [PPE Safety Coach](#) is to observe, educate and advise colleagues on PPE selection through friendly, informal, supportive feedback and guidance.

## How to Get Involved

PCNs are encouraged to identify one or more coaches who would then support the PCN and member clinics as deemed appropriate by the PCN. Individual clinics can also choose to designate their own PPE Safety Coach.

Potential coaches are to be identified based on an individual's experience and demonstration of strong communication, collaboration, leadership and coaching skills.

Once an individual is identified and receives support to participate in the program from their immediate supervisor, they will complete a two-hour online training course, following which they will be able to support their primary care teams in the proper selection and safe use of PPE. Their role will not be to police or audit PPE practices but to support and work together with staff to keep everyone safer.

PPE Safety Coach candidates should visit the [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#) website and complete Steps 1-4. After completing Steps 1-4, you will be contacted to complete Step 5 - Competency Check. For questions, please contact [phc@ahs.ca](mailto:phc@ahs.ca).

Thank you,

**Rob Skrypnek**  
Senior Program Officer  
AHS Primary Health Care

**Dr. Linda Slocombe**  
Senior Medical Director  
AHS Primary Health Care