



Message from
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COVID-19 Daily Update for AHS Medical Staff

Updates for May 8, 2020:

We have identified 81 new cases over the past 24 hours for a total of 6,098 [confirmed cases](#) in Alberta.

4,020 people have recovered.

There has been one death over the last 24 hours, bringing Alberta's total to 114. This individual was a woman in her 80s in a Calgary Zone continuing care facility.

There are currently 678 cases in outbreaks in Alberta's continuing care facilities.

We have completed 3,232 tests over the past 24 hours.

Currently, 80 people are hospitalized, with 17 admitted to ICUs.

An inmate at Calgary Remand Centre has tested positive for COVID-19. There is now an outbreak declared at the facility. This individual was newly-admitted to the facility and was exposed prior to arrival.

See the latest [COVID-19 update](#) from Alberta Health's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Graphics showing growth in [Alberta cases](#) and [global cases](#) are also available.

*** What you need to know**

NEW – Physician Town Hall – AHS Medical Staff are invited to weekly virtual town hall sessions every Thursday morning from 7 – 8 a.m. on Zoom, regarding COVID-19 and Alberta's response. The May 14 session will focus on work done with the community to better integrate patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic response. Please [click here](#) to register.

Thank you to the nearly 400 physicians who attended our COVID-19 physician town halls on May 5 and 7. A recording of the May 5 session is [now available online](#). A recording of the May 7 session will be

available soon. Discussion topics include physician safety, AHS' Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) strategy and physician wellness.

Here are some helpful links included in the presentation:

- [PPE Donning Poster](#)
- [PPE Doffing Poster](#)
- [New England Journal of Medicine – In Pursuit of PPE](#)
- [Vanech masks – helpful tip](#)
- [Community Physicians – ordering PPE](#)
- [Scientific Advisory Group recommendations](#)
- [Rapid Review – COVID-19 risk to healthcare worker risk](#)

NEW – Kindness Podcast with Dr. Lewanczuk – In this AHS COVID-19 podcast, Dr. Richard Lewanczuk, Senior Medical Director for AHS Health System Integration, talks about [kindness during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Anxiety and stress are just normal parts of living through COVID-19, which means practicing kindness with others has never been more important. As Dr. Richard Lewanczuk shares, being kind can actually improve your physical and psychological health.

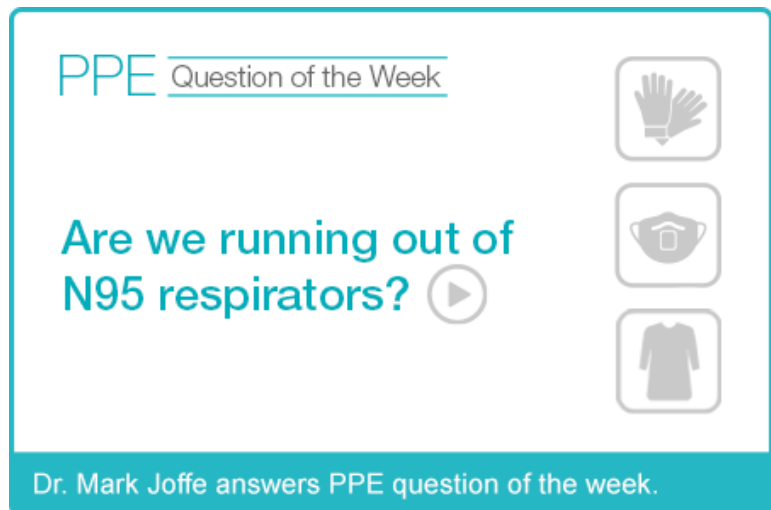
PPE Tip of the Day – The daily series - *PPE Tip of the Day* – features quick and simple reminders you can take forward into your practice, from shift to shift. If you have any questions about the tips, or suggestions for new tips, please email ppe@ahs.ca.

Mask Use: Do not wear the mask around your neck in [between patient care](#). This could lead to contamination of your face, with the mouth, nose and eyes the greatest areas of concern for virus entry. Dispose of your mask and [wash your hands](#).

PPE Question of the Week – Your PPE Taskforce is providing videos every Friday to answer a question of the week we've heard in our work with frontline health professionals. Each video will feature one question and the answer, straight from one of our PPE Taskforce members.

Are we running out of N95 respirators?

In [this week's instalment](#) of the PPE Question of the Week, Dr. Mark Joffe — Vice President & Medical Director of CancerControl Alberta, Clinical Support Services & Provincial Clinical Excellence withAHS — confirms AHS has a sufficient supply of N95 respirators. Dr. Joffe points out AHS is sourcing N95s from other manufacturers, explains what this means for front-line care providers who use them, and provides details of an ongoing recycling project — a contingency plan in the event AHS's supply of new N95s is interrupted in the months ahead.



Fit Testing Reminder: Please remember that staff must only wear the make and model of N95 respirator that they have most recently been [fit tested](#) for and use only that model. If supplies change, then FIT testing [will be updated](#). This will ensure frontline healthcare workers continue to have the protection they need to work safely.

Clinical Policies and Practices

- **NEW – Clinically Necessary Laboratory Testing during COVID-19** – In March, APL and DynaLIFE strongly recommended cessation of non-essential and routine laboratory testing in an effort to enhance patient safety within lab collection sites and to relieve the strain on the lab system. We are now asking our community physicians and other providers to continue to only order lab work for patients that is immediately medically necessary (based on the physician’s clinical opinion). Please refer to the [lab bulletin](#) posted today.
- **NEW – Infection Prevention and Control Virtual Information Sessions** – AHS Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is hosting a series of virtual information sessions for AHS staff and physicians on the Five Key Messages of COVID-19. The sessions will take place on Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and Wednesday, May 13, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Following the presentation by an IPC physician, the IPC team will answer questions. Register for these sessions [here](#).
- **NEW – COVID-19 Patient Discharge from Hospital** – Guidance is now available for acute care staff and physicians to support the consistent and safe discharge of COVID-19 patients. These documents are available on the COVID-19 Staff and Physician Resources [Insite](#) table:
 - [Provincial Pandemic Flowsheet](#)
 - [COVID-19 Safe Patient Discharge Checklist](#)
 - [Safe Patient Discharge Checklist Appendices](#)
- **NEW – Recommendations for Anti-Microbial Use for Secondary Infections in Patients with COVID-19** – This review was requested to assess current data on the incidence of co-infections at presentation, or bacterial or fungal superinfections, to inform guidelines around anti-microbial use in patients with COVID-19. In their review, the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) noted the apparent under-utilization of microbiologic testing to assess for secondary infection, while also noting that broad spectrum antibiotics are given to the majority of COVID-19 patients. This supported recommendations to acquire specimens before antibiotic therapy and use antibiotics more judiciously, guided by clinical assessment.

Antibiotic use in patients with COVID-19 has not been proven to improve clinical outcomes, but unnecessary antibiotic use in the stewardship literature has been proven to be associated with an increased risk of *C diff*, and other adverse drug effects. For more information, see the [Rapid Review](#).

- **NEW – Maternity Care Pathway** – The Maternity Care pathway for healthcare providers has been updated and is [now available for review](#).

- **NEW – Cohorting in Congregate Living Settings** – Recommendations are now available to provide practice principles for Congregate Living Operators to use in collaboration with IPC/MOH (or designate) when making decisions related to cohorting:
 - [Cohorting Clients](#)
 - [Cohorting Staff](#)
- **NEW – Resources for Community Physicians** – New guidance documents for community physicians and teams are now available in the “Clinic Staff” section on www.ahs.ca/covidphc:
 - [Contact and Droplet Precautions for Isolation Rooms](#)
 - [Environmental Cleaning Guidelines](#)
 - [Daily Fit for Work Screening](#)

Physician Wellness

- **Physician Wellness Zoom Rooms** – Mondays and Wednesday 4-5pm. [Click here](#) to register. Upcoming speakers:
 - May 11th Dr. Lynora Saxinger, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Alberta, presents, “*How much do you need to worry about the ‘real’ risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 as a healthcare worker?*” This includes global and local data on healthcare worker risk and discussion of risk reduction.
 - May 14th Dr. Jeremy Beach, Assistant Registrar for the Physician Health Monitoring/Practice Conditions Monitoring Program for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), presents, ‘*The CPSA and Physician Wellness*’.
- **Infographic** – Please see the [Supporting Team Members Grieving COVID-19 Related Loss](#) infographic for information and resources related to supporting colleagues during COVID-19.
- **Weekly drop-in: Mindfulness Practice and Discussion for Physicians** – Every Thursday from 7 – 8pm on Zoom. [Click here](#) to register. Hosted by Dr. Diana Meakins University of Alberta Hospital Psychodynamic Psychiatry Service and colleagues.

Workplace Health and Safety

- No updates at this time.

Do you have COVID-19 questions or information you would like to see covered in an upcoming edition of the COVID-19 CMO update? Let us know at CMO@ahs.ca.

Resources for Physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [COVID—19 FAQ for Clinicians](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing and Self-Isolation Criteria](#)
- [CPSA’s physician portal](#) – indicate your availability to be redeployed to support the COVID-19 response
- [Cumming School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education \(CME\) Resources](#)
- [Donning and Doffing of PPE](#)
- [How to Access AHS Insite and Email](#)
- [How to do a Nasopharyngeal \(NP\) Swab](#) (New England Journal of Medicine)

- [IPC Emerging Issues](#)
- [Online Healthcare Worker Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Physician & Family Support Program](#) - 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637)
- [Spectrum](#) – A mobile app customized to deliver local antimicrobial stewardship guidelines, resistance data, dosing information, and AHS COVID-19 related content.
- [Well Doc Alberta Wellness Tips for Physicians during COVID-19](#)
- COVID-19 Questions? Contact your local Zone Emergency Operations Centre (ZEOC):
 - ZEOC.South@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Calgary@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Central@ahs.ca
 - ZEOC.Edmonton@ahs.ca
 - PHC.ZEOCNorth@ahs.ca
- If you would like Zone MOH to assist in risk assessment, contact your [Zone Medical Officer of Health](#) on call.

For more information

- Visit the [COVID-19 Healthcare Professional information page](#) on the AHS website for more information or contact AHS.ECC@ahs.ca.
- Additional updates and information are being shared through the [College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta \(CPSA\)](#).
- AHS Medical Staff can also view the daily update from the AHS CEO and Senior Medical Officer of Health (SMOH) by accessing their AHS email inbox.

This COVID-19 update is intended to provide a daily summary of the key action items, information and decisions for AHS Medical Staff. It is forwarded to physicians' preferred email inbox.

Please review these updates regularly as the COVID-19 pandemic response continues to evolve.