



CMO UPDATE

Dr. Francois Belanger

Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

This Issue: Immunization Clinics; MD Culture Shift Newsletter; Upcoming Conferences and Seminars; Career Opportunities; Resources and Supports for Physicians; October Celebrations; News from the AHS Update and more.

We would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 & Treaty 8 and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta and eight Metis Settlements. 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.

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Medical Affairs News

AHS immunization clinics open next week

Respiratory virus season is upon us again, and AHS is encouraging staff, physicians and volunteers to get immunized this year. Immunization plays a critical role in reducing the number of influenza and COVID-19 cases, reducing outbreaks, and protecting staff and patients from getting sick, especially vulnerable populations such as seniors and young children.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) immunization clinics will open across all zones starting the week of Oct. 10. You can [walk in](#), [book online](#) or call 811 to make an appointment. To get the influenza vaccine, you can also check your facility for a roving cart or get immunized by a site champion on your unit.

This year, you will have the option to receive an mRNA XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine and an influenza vaccine at the same booking at participating [WHS clinics](#).

Questions? Visit [Employee Influenza Immunization](#) on Insite.

On Oct. 10, all Albertans can book their immunizations online at [ahs.ca/vaccine](#) or by calling 811. Appointments begin Oct. 16, offering influenza vaccine, free of charge, to all Albertan six months of age and older. COVID-19 vaccines may also be offered to eligible individuals with each influenza vaccine appointment booked.

MD Culture Shift Newsletter

Check out the [October edition](#) of the MD Culture Shift newsletter.

Register for the i4 2023 conference

The future of health and care takes place at the intersection of people, relationships, community and science and technology. Success in health and care services is tied to societal progress and the exploding speed of technology. On Nov. 1 & 2, the i4 conference will bring together collaborators to help you invent the future of health and care services. Be part of that future.

There is still time to register – get in before it closes! Learn more [here](#).

Register for the 35th Annual Cardiovascular Update

The Cardiovascular Update is a one-day course providing participants with practical and up-to-date information on the management of cardiac problems. Participants will engage in a combination of interactive case-based workshops, presentations, as well as opportunities to network with colleagues and faculty.

Participants include urban and rural primary care physicians as well as internists, ER doctors, nurse and nurse practitioners, fellows, residents, medical students, and allied health professionals.

Nov. 18, 2023
7:50 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

For more information and to register, please visit www.cvupdate.ca. This conference sells out every year, so register now!

Poison & Drug Information Services (PADIS) Conference 2023

Join us on Nov. 4, 2023, for an intensive, one-day clinical toxicology course. This will be of interest to anyone who provides care to poisoned patients. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists and paramedics whose practice includes emergency medicine, critical care medicine or internal medicine will find this course useful.

In person attendance or access to recordings only registration is offered for this course. Learn more and register [here](#).

Register for the 2023 Diabetes & Endocrine Update

This one-day course will provide physicians and health care professionals with the latest in diabetes as well as an approach to common endocrine problems. The format of interactive workshops and presentations will enable the participant the opportunity to discuss cases and topics of importance to clinical practice.

Once completed, you should be able to:

- Describe and use new developments in the management of diabetes, and
- Develop an approach to diagnosis, management and follow-up of common endocrine conditions.

Nov. 18, 2023
7 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Lister Centre, University of Alberta

This group learning program has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Alberta Chapter for up to 7.00 Mainpro+ credits.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Webinars for Conflict Resolution Day

To celebrate Conflict Resolution Day, which is on Oct. 19, Employee Relations – Respectful Workplaces will be putting on [one-hour sessions](#) via MS Teams during the week of Oct. 16.

In partnership with other AHS teams, related sessions are being offered that week and on October 26, 2023. [Check out the session descriptions for more information and to register](#). Learning together about different ways to support conflict resolution supports a Respectful Workplace at AHS.

This year's topic for Conflict Resolution Day is *The Apology Unraveled*. Conflict Resolution Day was first organized in 2005 by the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) in the United States. Now it is celebrated internationally on the third Thursday of October.

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](#).

Support for physicians

The [Physician & Family Support Program](#) (PFSP) continues to offer CONFIDENTIAL services on an individual basis that you can access by calling the 24-hour assistance line at 1-877-767-4637.

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

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

Additional resources for physicians:

- [AHS Virtual Health](#)
- [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](#)

- [Support Services: Well Doc Alberta](#)
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October celebrations

- [World Mental Health Day](#) (Oct. 10)
- [Health Information Professionals Week](#) (Oct. 16-20)
- [Infection Prevention & Control Week](#) (Oct. 16-20)
- [Canadian Intensive Care Week](#) (Oct. 23-27)
- [Canadian Patient Safety Week](#) (Oct. 23-27)

To see more AHS celebrations, visit the [Celebrating Health page](#).

From the AHS Update

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

Action on Our Priorities

We are working to urgently address four key priorities. They are:

- Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

Much of this work is underway. We will continue to use this update to highlight actions being taken to address our priorities.

Reducing emergency medical services (EMS) response times

[AHS EMS dispatch is ACE](#)

Improving patient flow and continuity of care

[Endocrinology services now available in central Alberta](#)

Reducing surgery wait times

[Surgical waitlist update](#)

Work continues on other AHS priorities including:

Workforce Recruitment & Retention

[Newly recruited international nurses arriving in province](#)

Your Wellness

Access stress supports

Prolonged stress is harmful and leads to burnout. Get support from the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#). [\(more...\)](#)

Mental Wellness Moment



Dr. Nicholas Mitchell discusses the role boredom plays in maintaining good mental health and 'recharging' the brain. [\(more...\)](#)

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Latest News

AHS immunization clinics open next week

AHS immunization clinics will open across all zones starting the week of Oct. 10. You can [walk in](#), [book online](#) or call 811. [\(more...\)](#)

Respiratory virus dashboard now online

The Government of Alberta has launched a [respiratory virus dashboard](#). It includes reporting for influenza, COVID-19 and RSV. [\(more...\)](#)

Thank you for your E. coli efforts

Thank you for the dedication shown by all groups and disciplines that continue to work to manage the E. coli outbreak in Calgary. ([more...](#))

AHS Vlog – spotlight on eSIM



Guests on the AHS Vlog discuss the eSIM program, which enables participants to practise their skills in a real-world environment. ([more...](#))

Watch Video 

Listen as a Podcast 

Restart your computer to apply Microsoft Teams update

If you have a dedicated AHS computer, please restart your computer as soon as possible to ensure security updates are applied. ([more...](#))

Help protect AHS from cyber-threats

Cyber security is important at organizations like AHS. [InfoCare](#) has helpful resources, tips and information on this important topic. ([more...](#))

Talk on health systems partnering with people, communities

Register for Cormac Russell's Nov. 6 virtual presentation that explores how communities and citizens are co-creators of health. ([more...](#))

[Register Now](#)

Reminder to register for the i4 2023 conference

Registration for the [i4 2023 conference](#) closes Oct. 27. ([more...](#))

With enduring gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. Francois Belanger
Vice President, Quality & Chief Medical Officer

