



Suite 14, 2115 – 27 Ave N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 7E4

Tel 403.248.7071 ♦ Fax 403.235.3872 ♦ Email admin@springboardcentre.ca ♦ www.springboardcentre.ca

September 24, 2021

RE: Important Update for all SBC Staff

Hello All,

Please read through the information below before our staff meeting on Monday morning. Please note, all information is coming directly from Dr. Hinshaw, our Chief Medical Officer of Health in Alberta. This update is based on facts, current statistics, and science. This is not a media interpretation of what is currently happening throughout our province. Further, the intent of sharing this information is not to cause fear, but to convey the reality of what is occurring in our city and throughout the province. As adults who work closely with vulnerable individuals, we all have a responsibility to be aware of what is happening, and to understand how this current crisis either directly or indirectly impacts everyone.

Please know that SBC Leadership will be consulting with our Board and our legal advisors at the beginning of next week in preparation for a new policy that may include mandatory vaccination, or proof of exemption due to medical reasons and daily rapid testing. We work closely with a vulnerable population of people, and we cannot put them at higher risk of serious illness because we do not have an appropriate policy in place.

Please feel free to follow up with me directly regarding any concerns or questions you may have as we move forward.

Thank you,

Kathryn

- **Dr. Deena Hinshaw**, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, and AHS president Dr. Verna Yiu provided a COVID-19 update on Thursday.
- There were 17 new deaths reported. One was a woman in her 30s who had no known pre-existing conditions, AHS said.
- **Hinshaw said 100 per cent of new ICU admissions were among Albertans who have not gotten the COVID-19 vaccine.**
- Unprecedented patient demand is continuing to strain Alberta hospitals, Yiu said Thursday.
- Officials with Alberta Health Services (AHS) confirmed to CBC News on Wednesday that ICUs in the **central zone are operating at 100 per cent** of capacity. The Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, the zone's main facility, has 26 ICU beds, including 14 additional spaces.

DAY PROGRAM SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES
Springboard Centre is a registered charity. All donations are welcome.

Donna Crawford, *Chairperson* ♦ George Roberts, *Vice-Chairperson*
Bill Blair, *Past Chairperson* ♦ Tammy Lafortune, *Treasurer* ♦ Karen Roth ♦ Roxy Schmidt ♦ Ken Taub
Carol Allan ♦ Martin Hoornaert ♦ Christopher Rappel ♦ Jackie Ross ♦ Keith Samuels ♦ Gord Hoffman, *Honorary*
Kathryn Melrose, *Chief Executive Officer*

- Last week it was disclosed that COVID-19 patients in Red Deer are often having to be airlifted to other hospitals because of the strained capacity.
- Provincially, ICU capacity is at 89 per cent, including additional surge beds. Without the additional spaces, provincial ICU admissions would be at **179 per cent of capacity**, AHS said.
 - The north zone is also operating at more than 100 per cent of capacity, according to figures obtained Wednesday. It has 15 ICU spaces (including nine extra) split between Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie.
 - The Edmonton zone, which has 150 ICU beds (including 78 extra), is operating at 92 per cent capacity.
 - The Calgary zone, with 123 ICU beds (including 57 extra) is at 76 per cent of capacity.
 - The south zone, with 34 ICU beds (including 17 extra) is at 82 per cent of capacity.
- The province has updated its daily symptom screening checklist. It now recommends household contacts of those with COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days if they are not vaccinated, or partially vaccinated.
- Yiu said the province is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in children between the ages of 10 and 19. She said AHS supports schools creating in-school vaccination clinics.
- **Calgary city council approved a vaccine passport bylaw** Wednesday that applies the province's program consistently across many businesses in the city.
- It means people going to restaurants, bars, casinos, movie theatres and sporting events **must show proof of vaccination** or a recent negative test result to enter. Those who don't comply can receive a \$500 fine. Peace officers will be enforcing the rules.
- On Tuesday, Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver announced on Twitter that the province has **formally asked Ottawa for help** in managing the emergency.
- "As part of Alberta's ongoing efforts to boost health care capacity during the public health emergency, we have formally asked the federal government to assist us with **patient transfers and critical care staff**," he said.
- Alberta's fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit **20,180 active cases** on Thursday — more than twice as many as any other province or territory.
- Ontario Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott confirmed on Sept. 17 that Ontario would be providing assistance to help Alberta's crippled health-care system.
- B.C. says it won't be able to take any of Alberta's intensive care unit patients at a time when that province's own hospitals are also struggling.
- COVID-19 vaccine records became available **online** Sunday for Albertans looking to print a paper copy.
- Alternatively, a digital copy of vaccine records is available on the MyHealthRecords smartphone app.
- Albertans are now able to **visit a local registry** agent to request a printed version of their vaccination card at no cost. They will need to provide the month and year of any dose of vaccination, their Alberta Personal Health Number and their date of birth.
- A **QR code** for proof of vaccination will be made available in the coming weeks, Health Minister Tyler Shandro said — similar to the vaccine passport systems announced months ago by Quebec and weeks ago by B.C.
- On Oct. 25, **proof of two doses** or a negative test will be required.
- Those who want to show a **negative COVID-19 test** rather than a proof of vaccination must have one that was paid for privately, not via Alberta Health Services or Alberta Precision Laboratories.

- It must be a Health Canada-approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR or lab-based PCR test completed **within the previous 72 hours**.
- **The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta** has lost patience with doctors who have actively undermined the province's response to the pandemic.
- At an emergency meeting of the college's council Monday, council members unanimously supported issuing a **strongly worded warning letter** to doctors who spread misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines or advise patients not to get vaccinated, improperly issue exemptions for vaccines and masks, or refuse to be vaccinated or wear masks.