

Nov. 13, 2020

Colleagues,

First, let us say thank you. This has been an extraordinary year in so many ways, and the work that you have done, and are doing, for Albertans in a difficult time is deeply appreciated.

Many of you have expressed your concerns about the rising COVID-19 case numbers in Alberta, and the need to put in place stricter measures. Thank you for expressing your concerns. This week, measures have been put in place to try and stem the tide, flatten the curve, and prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. These short term measures must be coupled with more serious and intentional conversations with Albertans about serious impacts of COVID-19 in their own health and their loved ones.

We need your help to communicate with patients about the obligation to take COVID-19 public health measures seriously. Many of you have done this already, however there are Albertans who believe that COVID-19 is not a significant threat, and that any measures to contain its spread inevitably do more harm than good. This puts all Albertans at risk. The more that we collectively follow the daily preventive measures to limit spread, the less over-arching restrictions we will need. We ask you to encourage your patients to keep incorporating distancing, masking, hand hygiene and staying home if sick. Please also encourage them to work with contact tracers and case investigators, should they have COVID-19 or be a contact of a positive case. For discussions with patients or colleagues who may be thinking that herd immunity through natural infection is a good course of action, you may be interested in [reading and sharing this article](#).

For your offices, if you need COVID resources or information, [please see Alberta Health Services' webpage with information for community physicians](#). If you or your patients have questions about guidance for different sectors or current COVID-19 numbers and trends, [this is available here](#).

We hope this information is helpful, and we thank you for your help in reminding Albertans that we are in an extraordinary time that calls for extraordinary efforts. We can and will get through this by supporting each other. Thank you again for all that you do.



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