

## Department of Medicine

### COVID-19 Information Bulletin

March 24, 2021

#### Calgary Zone COVID-19 Hospital Admission Data

Calgary Zone COVID 19 Status of Patients on Site as of 24 March 2021\*



**Confirmed:** inpatients with an active Isolation order *and* either (1) Positive Covid-19 test up to 30 days prior to admission *or* (2) CD/OM Confirmed up to 30 days prior to admission

Pending + Isolation: 19 | Pending, Non-Iso: 15

**Pending:** patients with Covid-19 test pending in SCM or ProvLab

**Isolation:** patient has an active SCM Isolation order

**Non-Iso:** patient does not have active Isolation order

\* Data from [Calgary Zone COVID 19 Operational Reporting Tableau Database](#) as of: 2021-03-24 9:30 am

#### All Patient Census by Site for 24 March 2021 as of 07:00<sup>‡</sup>

	GIM	HEMA	NEPH	RESP	GI	CARD	COVID	GERI	HOSP	ID
FMC	70	34	38	12	11	76			234	
PLC	62	7		12	1	20			162	
RGH	59					20		39	241	
SHC	39			1		9			91	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>125</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>728</b>	

#### COVID Patient Census by Site for 24 March 2021 as of 07:00<sup>‡</sup>

	GIM	HEMA	NEPH	RESP	GI	CARD	COVID	GERI	HOSP	ID
FMC	4	1	1	2		1			2	
PLC	8								7	
RGH	5								5	
SHC	3								5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>19</b>	

<sup>‡</sup> Data from [CMS Attending Groups Hourly Census](#) Tableau workbook as of: 2021-03-24 7:00 am

## COVID-19 Outbreaks

### Zone Outbreak Summary for 24 March 2021

- Acute Care: 1
- Long Term Care: 9
- Correctional Facility: 3
- Community: 6
- Other: 5

#### FMC

- Units on outbreak: 0
- Units on watch: 0

#### PLC

- Units on outbreak: 0
- Units on watch: 0

#### RGH

- Units on outbreak: 0
- Units on watch: 0

#### SHC

- Units on outbreak: 0
- Units on watch: 0

#### AMH

- Units on outbreak: 0
- Units on watch: 0

#### Rural

- Sites on outbreak: 1 (Strathmore DHS)

#### Senior's Health Update

- Sites on outbreak: 9

## COVID-19: Vaccination Update

For more information: [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) | [Health Professional Immunization Information](#)

## COVID-19 Variants of Concern and Evolving COVID-19 Management

While we continue to be encouraged with improvements in outbreaks and watch situations in acute and continuing care, and the mounting evidence of effectiveness of vaccination in preventing severe disease and hospitalization, all parties are watching closely to understand the impact of Variants of Concern (VOCs) of COVID-19 which may have shorter incubation periods, higher infectivity, and higher virulence.

Specific guidelines regarding the management of potential VOCs in continuing and acute care are being actively developed. In the interim, the confirmed presence of VOCs in the Calgary Zone reinforce the need for ongoing vigilance with adherence to public health measures and flawless use of PPE. Vaccination against COVID-19, while effective against development of symptomatic and severe illness, does not impact the need for PPE use and strict adherence to public health protocols.

Interactive Variants Data: <https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm#variants-of-concern>

## Involvement of IPC in Clearing Isolation Precautions for COVID-19

In the previous context of multiple outbreaks of COVID-19, FMC leadership had asked for the involvement of IPC practitioners in clearing all precautions for COVID-19. Going forward, IPC remains available for consultation if there is any uncertainty regarding clearance of these precautions, but this decision may now be made by the Most Responsible Health Practitioner / Attending Physician, in collaboration with another regulated health professional such as the Unit Manager or Charge Nurse.

IPC should still be consulted if there is any uncertainty related to immunosuppression of the patient (which may lengthen the recommended duration of precautions), COVID-19 risk factors, or possible contact with a COVID-19 positive case or outbreak/watch environment. If in doubt, please ask. The unit IPC practitioner can be contact through the unit charge nurse as required.

When clearing isolation requirements for COVID-19, please continue to use the relevant SCM documentation tool ("COVID-19 Discontinue Isolation Precautions"). Uptake of this tool by the medical staff has been excellent, and this is greatly appreciated by unit staff and IPC.

## COVID-19: New / Updated Resources and Information

**NEW** [Memo: Upgrade to the AHS online immunization booking tool](#) (3 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [Memo: Expanding Second Dose COVID-19 Immunization Window](#) (3 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [Memo: AHS extending PPE ordering option](#) (3 Mar 2021)

**NEW** Recalcitrant Patient Data Collection and Collation Process (4 Mar 2021)

- [Flowchart](#)
- [Memo: Recalcitrant Patient Data Collection and Collation Process](#)
- [Secure Isolation Patients Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

**UPDATED** [Use of N95 Masks in MRI](#) (Mar 4 2021)

**NEW** [Memo: Rollout of Phase 2A and AstraZeneca](#) (5 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Accepted Cleaning Terms and Definition List](#) (8 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Acute Care COVID-19 Expanded Testing Algorithm](#) (8 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [Bamlanivimab Key Messages and Background Information](#) (8 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [BMJ study on mortality risk associated with the "UK variant"](#) (9 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [COVID-19 Variants of Concern FAQ](#) (Mar 10 2021)

**UPDATED** [Recommendations for Management of COVID-19 Variant of Concern Cases and Close Contacts in Acute Care](#) (15 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [IPC Resources for Resuming Ambulatory Care Clinics during COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (16 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [Reporting COVID-19 variant of concern test results](#) (17 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Compassionate Exemptions from Quarantine](#) (website, 17 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Immunization FAQ – for Community Physicians](#) (18 Mar 2021)

**NEW** [Memo: COVID-19 Immunization Phase 2C Eligibility Details](#) (19 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group Rapid Evidence Report](#) (19 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** COVID-19 Vaccination / Vaccines

- [Immunization Program Standards Manual](#) (website, 10 Mar 2021)

- [AHS COVID-19 Vaccine Waste Mitigation Strategy](#) (17 Mar 2021)
- [Vaccine Sequencing for Healthcare Workers](#) (website, 23 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Back to School During COVID-19 FAQ](#) (19 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** Commitment to Comfort: Ease Patient Anxiety Before, During & After Immunizations (15 Mar 2021)

- [Orientation](#)
- [Summary](#)
- [Client Summary](#)
- [Numbing Cream](#)
- [Use Positive Language](#)

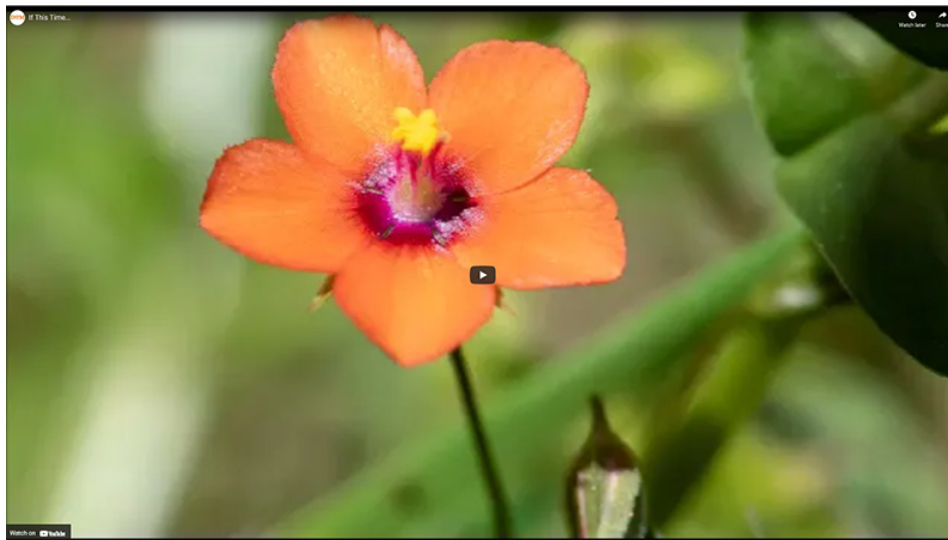
**NEW** [Human Factors Guidance for Covid-19 Signage Blindness](#) (21 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [IPC Resources for Emergency Department Waiting Areas During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (22 Mar 2021)

**UPDATED** [Department Standard Operating Procedure COVID-19](#) (website, 23 Mar 2021)

## Physician Wellness

A short video for self-reflection:



## COVID-19 Research Trials

### [Medical Mask vs N95 Respirators Study](#)

#### Why enroll in this study?

- There are shortages of medical masks and N95 respirators worldwide.
- A randomized trial at McMaster found there was no significant difference in coronavirus infection rates among nurses wearing N95 respirators compared to medical masks.
- This national study will evaluate the use of medical masks vs N95 respirators for routine care of COVID patients.

#### What will my responsibilities be if I take part in this study?

- Answer brief baseline questionnaire.
- Have baseline and end of study blood samples taken for antibody testing.
- Weekly text prompts for 10 weeks (regarding your adherence to hand hygiene and mask use and to report any signs and symptoms of COVID-19).

**What are the possible benefits for me?**

- This information could help better protect healthcare workers.
- If you consent to participate, you will receive a thermometer and be given a total value of \$75 in VISA gift cards for your time.

**If you work at least a 0.6 FTE and are interested in learning more or signing up, please contact Linet Kiplagat at [lkiplaga@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lkiplaga@ucalgary.ca) or Darlene Sola at [dsola@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dsola@ucalgary.ca) or call/text 403-614-9431.**

**[Canadian Treatment of COVID-19 Trial \(CATCO\) / WHO Solidarity Trial](#)**

COVID19 treatment trials available for any adult patient admitted with COVID-19 illness to Calgary Adult hospital sites. Please page 01815 during daytime hours 7 days a week if your patient is agreeable to be contacted by our team to get more information about enrolling.

**COVID ARP**

If you plan to volunteer on a COVID team and you have not done so already, please consider joining the COVID ARP. Both FFS and AMHSP members can join (with AMHSP members only submitting time sheets to the COVID ARP for hours worked on evenings/nights/weekends/stat holidays that are over and above your AMHSP contract). Please contact Christopher Jappert ([ChristopherT.Jappert@ahs.ca](mailto:ChristopherT.Jappert@ahs.ca)) for further details.

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