



Message from Dr. Sid Viner & Lori Anderson

Continuous masking – it is a requirement

To all Calgary Zone staff, physicians and volunteers,

In recent weeks, the Calgary Zone has experienced outbreaks of COVID-19 in several of our healthcare facilities, with transmission among staff. This endangers the safety of our patients, visitors, yourself and your family, and your co-workers.

It is critical we all continue to be vigilant and to take required precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within AHS workplaces. The best protection is to wear a mask, practice proper hand hygiene, avoid crowding, and to maintain physical distancing whenever possible.

Wearing a mask at all times can help keep everyone safe. Don a mask immediately upon entrance to the facility. This is not only an expectation – it is a **requirement** of our visitors, staff, physicians and volunteers and applies to all AHS facilities. Please see the updated [AHS Continuous Masking Guidelines](#) for more information.

We **MUST** hold ourselves and those around us to the highest standards in our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. This can mean gently reminding your staff and our peers when you notice they might be forgetting good practices, and being grateful if they point out the same to you.

This is especially critical in small, enclosed spaces like break rooms, charting areas, open work spaces, where there is an extremely high-risk for transmission of COVID-19. This means that if you need to remove your mask to eat or drink, and there isn't room to social distance, you **MUST** find another location.

All healthcare workers and physicians who are deemed a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case are required to self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure, regardless of whether their test is positive or negative. With staff forced to remain at home,

added pressure is placed on those who need to cover open shifts.

We will only be successful in limiting the spread of COVID-19 by working together, and we thank you for your dedicated efforts to keep our sites as safe as possible for our patients, staff and visitors.

Sincerely,

Lori Anderson

Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone

Dr. Sid Viner

Medical Director, Calgary Zone

