

## Alberta Vaccine Booking System - Communication #1

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution continues to scale up, the Government of Alberta will implement a centralized COVID-19 vaccine appointment booking system to support expanded public vaccination. Similar systems were recently launched in British Columbia and Ontario.

The Alberta Vaccine Booking System (AVBS) will provide an easy, quick, one-stop solution for Albertans to book a vaccination appointment in their community, whether through a community pharmacy or an Alberta Health Services clinic. For community pharmacies across the province, the AVBS will provide a single, integrated and standardized platform to manage and track vaccine appointment bookings and administration.

Reporting appointment availability and confirmed appointment bookings supports the effective distribution of vaccine supply to community pharmacies, and will ease administrative burden for pharmacies as Albertans will no longer be able to book multiple appointments at different vaccine providers or book second vaccine doses too early. In addition to supporting the province's COVID-19 vaccination efforts, the AVBS will also support future public health vaccine campaigns.

In preparation for launch of the AVBS, community pharmacies will receive an invitation to participate in information sessions. Exact dates and times will be confirmed, but they will occur during the week of May 10 and/or May 17. These information sessions will provide background about the AVBS, demonstrations of the patient and pharmacy experience, and more specifics on the rollout plan and what is required of pharmacies to implement the AVBS.

Initial rollout of the AVBS will begin with three pharmacy pilot sites in early June. The AVBS will be launched for all remaining pharmacies over a three-week span based on provincial health zones.

Pharmacies participating in the Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program (ACPIP) will be required to use the AVBS to receive vaccine shipments and administer COVID-19 vaccinations to Albertans. The AVBS will replace current COVID-19 vaccine appointment booking processes, including independently operated online booking sites.

Community pharmacies not currently enrolled in the ACPIP will have until May 11 to submit their ACPIP enrolment form to Alberta Blue Cross. After this date, ACPIP enrolment will be paused until July 2021. Non-enrolled pharmacies will not receive access to COVID-19 vaccines until ACPIP enrolment is open again.

**We understand you will have questions and appreciate your patience. More information will be available next week, including details about the upcoming information sessions.**

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

**780-498-8370** (Edmonton and area)

**403-294-4041** (Calgary and area)

**1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

**FAX 780-498-8406** (Edmonton and area)

**FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

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