



Patients First<sup>®</sup>

January 12, 2022

Mr. Paul Smith  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health Workforce Planning and Accountability  
Ministry of Health  
Via email: [paul.c.smith@gov.ab.ca](mailto:paul.c.smith@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Mr. Smith:

**RE: PPE support for community specialists**

Last week government announced that primary care physicians, pediatricians and their staff would have access to select personal protective equipment (PPE) at no-cost from January 4 until February 28, 2022 to enhance safety during the spread of the Omicron variant.

The Alberta Medical Association was very appreciative of this announcement, but we would like to request that this limited time, no-cost PPE offer, be expanded immediately to include community specialists who are essential partners in managing the care of Albertans in this next wave. We are asking for government to support all community physicians in running safe and sustainable practices for their patients.

Given what we are facing, even in the best-case scenario, we know we will need to rely heavily on our community physicians in the coming weeks and months. If we hope to keep patients out of the acute care system, steps must be taken immediately to support our community frontline – whether dealing directly with COVID or helping Albertans address illness and injury before they are sickened further. PPE for family physicians and pediatricians is a great start. As we collectively work through, not only this next wave of the pandemic, but also the care deficit and backlog that has been accumulating since 2020, it is important that we do all we can to ensure all community physicians are supported.

We believe this is a priority in the COVID response and are asking government to act now.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig Hodgson  
President  
Section of Family Medicine

Dr. Samantha Myhr  
President  
Section of Rural Medicine

Dr. Graham Campbell  
Chair  
Specialty Care Alliance

cc: Paul Wynnyk, Deputy Minister of Health  
Mike Gormley, Executive Director, AMA  
AMA Board of Directors