

Public Statement: The Safety of Healthcare Workers

Over the weekend we heard reports of threats to some colleagues, as well as experienced the protests in front of our hospitals. We are deeply concerned about these events and the colleagues impacted by these actions.

These actions are demoralizing for us and risk further burnout. We are already exhausted and understaffed. Our hospitals are focused on care and becoming overwhelmed as the system surges with more COVID patients. Our attention must be focused on our patients, not on negativity outside the door. We need your help for the wave of COVID patients. We need encouragement and support to tackle this insurmountable tsunami. Now is not the time to turn on people who are caring for our community.

Protesting risks COVID infection for those gathering. Protesting must not interfere with patients as they already under stress. While we recognize the right of citizens to express views publicly, now is not the time for large gatherings at which COVID-19 infections can spread. When gathering is safe, the appropriate location for peaceful events is the Alberta legislature. Writing policy, legislation, and mandates is a government responsibility, not a physician responsibility. Protesters should safely write to their MLA to express their view.

Threatening safety of colleagues is not acceptable. Our physicians send the right information about COVID because they care about your health and safety. We meticulously follow evidence. We do it because we see the sick and dying in our ICUs and do not want it to be you.

Misinformation and beliefs that hurt people during this pandemic are heartbreaking. COVID not only risks your health, but also the health of everyone around you if they catch COVID from you. We will continue to speak for correct evidence that protects Albertans from COVID.

We hope everyone stays safe during the fourth wave and encourage you to get the vaccine. We need 85-90% of all Albertans to get the vaccine to protect you and our health system. The vaccine is our best option to avoid infection and prevent needing public health measures.