### A message to Albertans from your doctors:

# What is happening right now in community primary care?

#### **Omicron & 5th Wave**

With high rates of illness and death,
Omicron is not minor. The long-term
effects are unknown. Our hospitals and
community physician offices are
strained to their limits. We know those
who are vaccinated have less severe
illness.

## Two years of the pandemic have taken their toll

People and resources are exhausted.

Appointments have been delayed or missed, diagnoses have been delayed and there is a major backlog for surgeries, treatments and other procedures.

Physician and health care worker shortages are causing disruption. In Lethbridge alone, there are approximately 45,000 without a family doctor.

We need to stabilize hospital and primary care for today and tomorrow, this includes training and attracting doctors and other health care professionals.

#### Seek hospital care if you need it, but most COVID care is delivered in the community

That's why it's important to reduce the burden, as much as we can, on family physician clinics.

Get vaccinated. Get your booster. Mask. Distance. Play it safe.

## Advocating for stable & viable family medicine practices

Family physician offices are dealing with staff shortages and many other challenges. For now, your care and the way our clinics work may look a little different.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

