



To our patients and families,

In the past few weeks, our province has seen record numbers of new COVID-19 infections and increasing numbers of hospitalizations due to the virus, including to our intensive care units. The laboratory departments have been overwhelmed with tests related to patients with COVID-19 infections. These strains on our healthcare system have resulted in temporary changes in our Outpatient Departments at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and at the Regina General Hospital, so that some of our team members can be sent to areas of urgent need.

As per the direction of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), effective immediately, only urgent patient appointments will be in-person. Your child will continue to get medical care, but this may happen via virtual or telephone appointments. Only urgent tests will be ordered.

For in-person appointments please only send one parent / caregiver, unless this has been discussed with your child's doctor and approval given.

These changes are in place until further direction is received from the SHA. We know these changes are disappointing and challenging for your family, and apologize for the distress and inconvenience. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this difficult time together.

Many families want to know how they can help. These changes are the result of the burden on the healthcare system by people who are sick with the COVID-19 virus. The most effective tool we have to protect ourselves and others from the virus is vaccination against COVID-19. These vaccines are safe and greatly reduce our chances of catching the COVID-19 virus. Fully vaccinated people who do catch the virus are much less likely to become sick enough to require hospitalization or to die from the virus. For those of you who have been fully vaccinated, we thank you. If you or your child are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination but have not yet received it, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. When the COVID-19 vaccine is made available to younger children, please get them vaccinated as well. We also request that you follow public health recommendations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, including masking, hand-washing, social distancing, and self-isolation if you or your child are sick.

If you have questions or concerns, your health care team will be happy to discuss these with you.

If we all do our part, we can come through this together. We look forward to seeing you all again in person soon.

Sincerely,

The Department of Pediatrics
Jim Pattison Children's Hospital
Regina General Hospital