



April 9, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

Public Health Nursing Clinics in Okotoks, High River, Black Diamond, Nanton, Vulcan and Claresholm (Rural South Calgary Zone) are open for business. We understand that parents may feel unsure about bringing their child into the health unit/health center. We have implemented additional steps to ensure both clients and staff are kept safe and healthy when they come into our facilities.

Immunization is very important and we recommend infants and preschoolers continue with the routine immunization schedule during this uncertain time. It is important that they be protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Some of the steps that we are doing to ensure vaccination clinics are safe include:

- prescreening all families coming into the building
- screening staff for symptoms of illness before every shift
- hand washing and physical distancing
- cleaning high touch surfaces regularly
- clients may wear their own homemade/cloth masks if they choose (as long as not ill)
- limiting clinic visits to one parent and the child being vaccinated when possible
- doing vaccination only appointments to limit the time families are in the facility
- using alternate access and exit points when available

**As we are constantly learning more about COVID 19, these steps may change. Please encourage families with questions to call their local health unit/health center to get more information.

For newborn infants and their parents, we continue to provide care after hospital discharge. This usually starts with a phone call and assessment. Each family's needs are different and be assured we are still able to provide care to our newborns and their families. How we deliver care may be via telephone, home visit, clinic visit or virtually via Zoom depending on the situation and the Point of Care Risk Assessment.

Breastfeeding support for baby and mother/caregiver is also available. Please encourage families to call the local health unit or health center for details on accessing breastfeeding support.

Thank you for helping spread the message that Public Health and Immunization Clinics are still operational for our families.

Okotoks Public Health:	403-995-2600
Black Diamond Public Health:	403-933-6505
High River Public Health:	403-652-5450
Nanton Public Health:	403-646-2218
Claresholm Public Health:	403-625-4061
Vulan Public Health:	403-485-2285