



Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta

December 8, 2020

Honourable Tyler Shandro  
Minister of Health  
Office of the Minister  
Health  
423 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6  
Sent by email: [health.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Mr. Shandro:

On behalf of Alberta pharmacy technicians, I am writing to raise awareness of our profession's commitment to helping with Alberta's COVID-19 response. Alongside pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, pharmacy technicians are helping to meet the health needs of Albertans in community pharmacies and Alberta Health Services facilities across the province. Yet, we know we can do more!

We appreciate the Government of Alberta's leadership on finding ways to increase COVID-19 testing and as the pandemic responses evolves, providing access to immunizations. This includes the authorization for regulated professions to perform certain restricted activities. Current regulations provide a barrier to utilizing the potential of pharmacy technicians to help combat rising infection rates in our province. The pharmacy technician profession is willing and interested in performing the technical tasks of completing the collection of nasopharyngeal swab and administering drugs and vaccines by injection. Should the asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 in community pharmacies be restarted, we are also willing to exercise standards of practice already in place within our profession to collect throat swabs for this purpose.

We realize the challenges you are facing so we urge you to accept our offer and authorize pharmacy technicians to perform the restricted activities noted above. We look forward to your response and would be happy to discuss these opportunities further.

Sincerely,

Morgan Lahl  
President  
Pharmacy Technician Society of Alberta  
[president@pts.ca](mailto:president@pts.ca)