

AVI350 – INFLUENZA PREVENTION

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka’pamux, Secwépemc, St’át’imc, syilx, and Tšilhqot’in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

Interior Health recognizes that diversity in the workplace shapes values, attitudes, expectations, perception of self and others and in turn impacts behaviors in the workplace. The dimensions of a diverse workplace include the protected characteristics under the human rights code of: race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, criminal or summary conviction unrelated to employment.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect health care workers, patients, residents, clients, visitors and the public from viral respiratory illness.

Applicability

This policy applies to all Interior Health employees, Medical Staff, Clients, Visitors, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Interior Health (including contracted service providers).

Scope

This policy applies during a period determined by the Provincial Health Officer, usually from the end of November until the end of March. The period may vary with seasonal epidemiology and will include any period relating to novel strains of influenza.

During a declared Infection Outbreak, policy [AVI300 Healthcare Worker Respiratory Illness Outbreak Management](#) supersedes this policy.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Client</i>	<i>A person who is receiving, has received, or has requested health care. Term is inclusive of Client, Patient and Resident.</i>
<i>Employee</i>	<i>A person currently employed by Interior Health in a full-time, part-time, and/or term-specific position. Includes all medical staff, nurses, allied health professionals, support staff, contractors, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of IH.</i>

Policy Sponsor: VP, People and Engagement	1 of 3
Policy Steward: Executive Director, Workplace Health and Safety	
Date Approved: September 2023	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: Dec 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

AVI350 – INFLUENZA PREVENTION

TERM	DEFINITION
Medical Mask	A medical grade mask that meets standards as set out by American Society for Testing (ASTM) . The Medical Mask provides the wearer protection against droplets. It also protects others from the wearer’s respiratory emissions. See IH’s Medical Mask guidelines .
Patient Care Area	An area within a health care facility (including a contracted facility), which is accessible to Clients who are there to access care or services. This includes any other location where care is provided, such as home and community care locations (including a Client’s home). It does not include locations such as administrative areas or private offices which are not generally accessed by Clients.
Visitors	Any individual within an IH facility who is not classified as a Client or Employee.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 Interior Health Employees must report their influenza immunization status each year by December 31.
- 3.2 Clients, and Visitors must wear a Medical Mask where required by provincial policy.
- 3.3 Employees must wear a Medical Mask or a respirator when indicated by a point of care risk assessment, where required by a medical health officer and where required by any other Interior Health or provincial policy.
- 3.4 Mask use is encouraged based on personal preference in all other settings where a Medical Mask is not required.
- 3.5 Employees and Visitors are requested to avoid Patient Care Areas while experiencing influenza-like/ viral respiratory illness.
- 3.6 Interior Health collects influenza vaccine coverage data for Employees who have reported their vaccination status and report aggregate information to health authority leadership and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). Data may be written or presented in flow charts.

Compliance

- 3.7 Any Employee found in violation of this Policy may be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, cancellation of contract and/or revocation of privileges.
- 3.8 Any Visitor found in violation of this Policy may be denied access to Patient Care Areas until the Visitor complies with this Policy.

Policy Sponsor: VP, People and Engagement	2 of 3
Policy Steward: Executive Director, Workplace Health and Safety	
Date Approved: September 2023	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: Dec 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	

AV1350 – INFLUENZA PREVENTION

4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 IH informs Visitors of the requirements of this Policy and makes Medical Masks available to Visitors.
- 4.2 Employees can report their immunization status through the [Provincial Online Reporting Tool](#).
- 4.3 Employees who experience influenza-like illness/respiratory infection should follow IH's established reporting protocols (e.g., informing their supervisor, the Employee Absence Reporting Line [EARL], and the Provincial Workplace Health Contact Centre [PWHCC] as necessary).

5.0 REFERENCES

- 1. Government of BC. [Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Preventing Viral Respiratory Illness](#).
- 2. Interior Health. [Biological Exposure Control Plan](#)
- 3. Interior Health. [AV0100 – Occupational Health and Safety Program Policy](#)
- 4. Interior Health. [AV1300 – Staff Respiratory Infection Outbreak Management Policy](#)
- 5. OHS Solutions. [Influenza Self Reporting](#)

Policy Sponsor: VP, People and Engagement	3 of 3
Policy Steward: Executive Director, Workplace Health and Safety	
Date Approved: September 2023	Date(s) Reviewed-r/Revised-R: Dec 2025 (R)
<i>This is an Interior Health CONTROLLED document. A copy of this document in paper form is not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version to ensure accuracy.</i>	