



## Interior Health

December 2, 2021

Dear contractors, vendors, consultants and suppliers for Interior Health,

Interior Health (IH) is committed to protecting vulnerable patients, residents, and clients from influenza by adhering to the [Influenza Prevention Policy](#), originally implemented in all British Columbia health authorities in 2012.

This policy requires covered individuals – including contractors, consultants and their employees – to receive their influenza vaccination (flu shot) or wear a mask while in patient care areas, wash their hands regularly, and stay home when ill.

Personnel working at a construction site may not see themselves as being in contact with patients, residents or clients, since they may enter their job sites from non-public entrances. However, this policy applies to anyone entering a health-care facility – whether for meetings, to visit the cafeteria, to gain access to a utility room, or any other activities that bring them into patient care areas, which include hallways and lobbies.

IH has taken steps to ensure its contractors, vendors, consultants and suppliers are in compliance with the provincial health order regarding COVID-19 precautions, and in many cases those precautions will address the measures required for response to influenza (i.e., masking). However, IH still recommends those working within our facilities receive the influenza vaccine as the best defense for themselves and our patients.

### **[Accessing the Influenza Vaccine](#)**

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Please share the link [immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu](https://immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu) with your employees to find an influenza clinic at local pharmacies or public health units. Influenza vaccines can also be accessed through primary health-care providers, such as family physicians or nurse practitioners.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing safe care. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please discuss with your IH contract manager.