



Interior Health

Oct. 27, 2022

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 either receive their influenza vaccination (flu shot) or wear a mask while in patient care areas, in addition to washing their hands regularly and not entering IH facilities when ill.

This policy applies to anyone entering a health-care facility regardless of the type of work they are doing (e.g., personnel working at a construction site who enter their job sites from non-public entrances), 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 (e.g., 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](#)

Anyone registered with the Get Vaccinated system [received an invitation to book their influenza vaccination](#), just like with COVID-19 vaccines.

Although booking through the Get Vaccinated system is the most efficient way to access an influenza vaccine, limited walk-ins at some pharmacies continue to be available. Alternatively, anyone can phone the provincial call centre (toll-free): 1-833-838-2323. 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 them with your IH contract manager.