

Oct. 16, 2025

Dear contractors, vendors, consultants and suppliers for Interior Health (IH),

Influenza and COVID-19 infections can pose serious health and safety risks, particularly for the very young, those with chronic medical conditions and those over 65 years of age, who make up a large part of the residents, clients and patients receiving care.

We would like to take a moment to share how you can help keep yourself, family members, patients receiving care in IH facilities, and others safe during the respiratory illness season.

## Influenza and updated COVID-19 vaccinations

We strongly recommend and encourage all contractors, vendors, consultants and suppliers to receive your annual influenza and updated COVID-19 vaccinations. Getting vaccinated is safe and is one of the most effective defenses people have to protect themselves, their families, their colleagues, and those in our care.

Anyone registered with the <u>Get Vaccinated system</u> has received or will soon receive an invitation to book your vaccinations. Although booking through the Get Vaccinated system is the most efficient way to access vaccines, walk-ins at participating community pharmacies and clinics may be available. Anyone who needs help booking their appointment can contact the provincial call centre (toll-free): **1-833-838-2323**. Please bring your BC Health Card to your appointment.

## **Additional guidance**

Please continue to practice good hand hygiene by frequently using alcohol-based hand rub or washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

If you are feeling unwell or experiencing any symptoms of respiratory illness, please stay home and follow established advice and recommendations from <u>BC Centre for Disease Control</u> or <u>HealthLink BC</u>.

If you have any questions regarding the <u>AV1350 – Influenza Prevention</u> and <u>AV0900 – Management of Occupational Exposure to Communicable Diseases</u> policies, which apply to contractors and vendors as well as staff, please discuss them with your IH contract manager.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment to ensuring safety across all our IH sites.