

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2020-2021: Bulletin #2

The influenza vaccination campaign is now underway. We are pleased to report that vaccine distribution to physician offices commenced this week. Please start immunizing as soon as you receive the vaccine. Offices not offering influenza vaccine this season can refer their patients to vch.ca/flu or immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu in order to identify immunization locations close to them.

Infection control recommendations for mass influenza vaccination clinics*:

Screening for COVID-19 infection	Please alert patients at time of booking to symptoms of COVID-19 and advise to rebook if ill; passive screening using signage at the clinic location is acceptable.
Hand hygiene	Everybody should wash/sanitize hands frequently: Patients should sanitize when they enter a clinic and before and after receiving the vaccine.
Personal Protective Equipment	PPE may be used for the full duration of a shift but should be replaced after a break. Soiled, wet or damaged masks should be promptly replaced.
Immunizers need:	Medical masks + eye protection. Gloves are only needed for intranasal or orally administered vaccines. Gowns and aprons are not required.
Support staff need:	Medical mask. Eye protection only if cannot maintain a 2 metre distance.
Staff responding to emergencies:	Medical mask, eye protection, gown and gloves should be available to personnel who need to provide first aid or respond to a health emergency.
Cleaning & disinfection	Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door knobs, light switches, telephones, keyboards, pens, charts, toys, bathrooms) are to be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. Immunization stations (e.g., chairs, tables) are to be cleaned & disinfected at least twice a day. No table coverings should be used on the immunization preparation surface (e.g., blue pads, table cloths) to ensure ease and efficacy of cleaning. To reduce the need for cleaning in between patients, we emphasize hand hygiene, suggest using chairs without arm rests, and position chairs facing away from the immunization station surface so there is no potential contamination from the client.
Control flow in the clinic	Support physical distancing by using signage to direct flow, appropriate spacing of tables and chairs, and appointment based immunizations.

* Regular office visits that include immunizations should defer to the [BCCDC Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Community-Based Physicians, Nursing Professionals and Midwives in Clinic Settings](#).

Shortened observation period following influenza vaccine administration? The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends that the 15-minute observation period following influenza vaccination be maintained with attention to physical distancing.

A shorter observation period of 5 minutes or more *may be considered* when volume of clients and space available in waiting rooms precludes appropriate physical distancing. Reduced observation period is appropriate for clients who have received influenza vaccine before, do not have a history of severe allergic reaction to the influenza vaccine or its components or severe immediate reaction to any vaccine (e.g., syncope), agree to stay in the vicinity of the clinic (e.g., parking lot) for a total of 15 minutes post immunization with another responsible adult, do not operate a transportation device, and know when and how to seek post-vaccination advice.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

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