

memo



To: Agency-Wide
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: November 8, 2022
Re: **INFLUENZA (FLU) SEASON, COVID-19 BOOSTERS, AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Influenza

The official flu season has begun. NACL will observe flu season from today until at least March 31, 2022. Due to a shortage of vaccines from the pharmacy who usually hosts a flu shot clinic at the NACL administration office (Central Drugs), employees are advised to get the influenza vaccine on their own. Central Drugs will be visiting NACL residences to provide flu shots to persons served.

COVID-19 Boosters

The Provincial Health Office (PHO) order requiring that staff provide proof of double vaccination against COVID-19 (or proof of a medical exemption from such) to work in the Community Living Sector (including NACL) remains in effect. Though there is no mandate for getting COVID-19 booster shots, it is strongly recommended that employees stay up to date with all COVID vaccinations/boosters, and provide proof of such to NACL.

Information on Influenza and COVID-19, including how to get vaccinated, can be found at the following links:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/flu-influenza/where-get-flu-vaccine>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine>

If you choose to get the influenza vaccine and/or the COVID-19 booster shot(s):

- Bring a copy of the confirmation of vaccination to the NACL office to the attention of Cindy Bryant; or
- E-mail a copy of the confirmation to humanresources@nanaimoacl.org.

Risk Management

The NACL Communicable Disease Plan (CDP) remains in effect.

In addition, to mitigate the risk of potential outbreaks of cold/flu/COVID-19 (or any combination of the three at any given time), including the risk of serious health outcomes for staff and persons served, all staff will be required to always wear a mask while on shift beginning Monday, November 14, 2022 through Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Exceptions to this masking requirement are:

- Staff in residential programs working a night shift when not providing direct care;
- Staff working remotely/alone and not providing direct/indirect care to persons served; and
- Administrative staff who are working remotely/alone.

Any cloth/disposable face mask must have at least three (3) layers of protection to be approved for NACL use (all disposable face masks supplied by NACL meet this requirement). If a 2-layered cloth mask has an opening to insert a filter, then a filter must be inserted to make it a true 3-layered mask or it cannot be used. If a 2-layered cloth mask does not have an opening to insert a filter, it is not approved for NACL use.

Please contact me or your Program Manager/Supervisor if you have any questions, and thank you for remaining diligent as we brace ourselves for what is to come this flu season.