

To: Medical Staff, Clinical Fellows and Resident Doctors

From: Dr. Roger Wong, Vice President, Medicine and Academic Affairs

Dr. Matthew Kwok, Interim Vice President, Quality and Safety

Dr. Patty Daly, Vice President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer

Dr. Jennifer Beaveridge VCH HAMAC Chair

Subject: Influenza Immunization and Reporting

Preventing the spread of influenza (flu) to our patients, clients and residents is a responsibility shared by medical staff, staff, visitors and family members. During flu season, all staff, medical staff, volunteers, learners, casual staff and contractors are encouraged to get a flu shot as soon as the vaccine is available and self-report their immunization.

The vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu, and flu shots for health-care staff are free.

Getting a Flu Shot

Staff flu clinics have started. Book your appointment at one.vch.ca/flu

- Medical staff can pre-book their immunization appointments at their preferred site location and date online.
- Appointments will be scheduled at intervals
- Drop-ins will be accommodated

Medical staff can get also get immunized at their worksite through the Peer Immunizer Program, community pharmacies, or through their primary care provider. For a list of pharmacies offering flu shots in BC, visit lmmunizeBC.

Please bring your BC services card to your appointment as data on flu vaccinations delivered through all VCH clinics will be recorded into the ImmsBC database. This ensures the province can accurately track vaccine usage. VCH will not have access to this data once entered into ImmsBC so self-reporting of vaccination status is still required. Staff who choose to opt out of having their personal health number entered into ImmsBC can still receive their flu vaccine.

Visit <u>flu.healthcarebc.ca</u> to self-report your immunization by December 1.

This influenza self-reporting site is the single reporting tool regardless of your current work site in the province.

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are available at staff immunization clinics in limited quantities. They are also available for all health care workers at most pharmacies that offer flu vaccinations, and the two vaccines can be given at the same time. As COVID-19 is not a seasonal virus and the vaccination provides protection from infection for 12 to16 weeks, medical staff may choose the timing of their COVID-19 vaccination based on their personal circumstances.