Vancouver
CoastalHealth
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.

October 19, 2020

To: Medical Staff, Fellows and Residents
From: Dr. Dean Chittock Vice President, Medicine, Quality and Safety
           Dr. Chad Kim Sing, Associate Vice President, Medicine, Quality and Safety
           Dr. Don Griesdale, Associate Vice President, Medicine, Quality and Safety
           Dr. Patty Daly, Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer
           Dr. Marshall Dahl, VCH HAMAC Chair

Subject: Influenza Immunization and Reporting

VCH supports its staff to be well and one of the many things you can do keep yourself and others healthy is get a flu shot. This year, more than ever, getting the flu shot will be an important step to protect yourself and those around you. It can help keep your health-care team strong and your family healthy.

A flu shot can reduce your chance of developing symptoms that resemble COVID-19 which would require you to get tested and self-isolate. This can increase wait times for test results and delay the identification of COVID-19 cases. The vaccine is the best way to protect against the flu, and flu shots for healthcare staff are free.

Getting a flu shot

Staff flu clinics start on October 14, 2020. To allow for proper COVID-19 physical distancing, this year staff will be encouraged to pre-book their immunization appointments online at their preferred site location. Appointments will be scheduled at intervals and staff will be asked to follow proper hand hygiene upon arrival. The information can be found on the **VCH intranet** at my.vch.ca/flu. If you cannot pre-book your appointment, drop-ins will be accommodated.

You can also get immunized at most doctors' offices and at pharmacies. To find a location closest to you, please check out this map of public clinics across BC.

Reporting your choice: Please report whether you have been immunized or choose to wear a mask

UBC Postgraduate Residents will need to visit https://www.influenzareporting.org to self-report their immunization or mask status. This influenza self-reporting site is the single reporting tool regardless of your current work site in the Province.

All Medical Staff (including VCH employed physicians) and Fellows can choose one of the following methods to report their immunization or decision to wear a mask. Regardless of your current work site(s) in the Province, i.e. VCH, FHA, IHA, NHA, PHC, PHSA or Island Health, **you will only need to report your information once using one of the following methods.**

   A) **EMAIL:** Respond to the email you will be receiving asking for flu reporting or send an email to medicalstaffhealth@vch.ca with the following information.

      • **If immunized,** date you received your immunization and site where you received your immunization (i.e. VCH site or off site at a family physician's office, pharmacy, public health clinic or other)
      • **If not receiving a vaccination**, indicate if you will be wearing a mask or that you are not working during influenza season

   B) **PHONE:** Call and leave a voicemail at 604-875-4111 ext.69597
      Please include the following information in your voicemail:

      • First and last name
      • Professional College ID
      • Phone number
      • Email Address

      • **If immunized,** date you received your Immunization and site where you received your immunization (i.e. VCH site or off site at a family physician's office, pharmacy, public health clinic or other)
      • **If not receiving a vaccination,** indicate if you will be wearing a mask or if you are not working during influenza season