

Questions and answers

Long-term care and assisted living fall immunization campaign and respiratory illness season planning

Follow up FAQ from the October 3, 2024, town hall.

- 1. Will respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) be supported as a funded immunization for long-term care (LTC) residents this season?**
RSV vaccine is not yet publicly funded in British Columbia. Some pharmacies may have them for purchase.
- 2. If staff are wanting the new formulation but had the old one 2 months ago, can they get it at our clinics?**
Yes, staff can receive the new vaccine formulation. The minimum interval between doses is three months, and the recommended waiting time is six months.
- 3. Could you please provide some clarity on testing for COVID-19 or RI for assisted living (AL) communities as we do not have a billing number to send swabs to BCCDC?**
Process details are being confirmed with subject matter experts. When confirmed, the process will be added to the AL toolkit and shared with AL partners.
- 4. When will the KYI come out for immunization? Will it include new pre-printed order (PPO) and consents form? Are there any updates on physician orders for the flu vaccine or COVID-19 vaccine?**
KYI will be distributed after the townhall. The clinical team is working on the new pre-printed orders for flu and COVID-19 and have prioritised.
- 5. If we have scheduled our flu/COVID-19 vaccine booked for October 8, 2024, with our pharmacy are we able to order our vaccines this early?**
Yes, please put the order in as soon as possible. The COVID-19 vaccine is entering the health authority this week.
- 6. Are we permitted to do staff flu clinics?**
If your care community has the capacity or if the pharmacy can assist, you may conduct staff flu clinics and place orders for staff and/or residents. Please do not to order more than necessary.

Questions and answers

7. When will 'flu school' be shared with LTC Clinical Nurse Educator and Resident Care Coordinator group? Will the regional team share this?

The invite was sent out broadly for October 10, 2024. Contact amanda.worsley@fraserhealth.ca if you have not received the invite.

8. What are the education requirements for immunizers on Learning Hub this year?

Staff do not have to repeat immunizer education on Learning Hub if you completed it last year.

9. Any guidance on symptom monitoring for flu/COVID-19 amongst our residents/family/staff? We practiced this during the peak of the pandemic.

Residents: Symptom monitoring should be part of the regular nursing assessment. Being vigilant for RI symptoms and timely reporting to public health is the key to early management. Always perform point of care assessment with every resident to assess care needs.

Family: Always have medical masks available at the entrances for families and visitors.

Staff: Continue to self-monitor for symptoms. All staff follow provincial return to work guidance.

10. Three months is the minimum time from last COVID-19 vaccine, what is the minimum time since last COVID-19 infection?

Wait until symptoms of an acute illness are resolved before vaccinating with COVID-19 vaccine to differentiate symptoms of illness from vaccine side effects.

11. Is Novavax going to be an option for the residents?

At the moment, Novavax is not available. British Columbia is trying to procure the vaccine.

12. Are we allowed to keep flu/COVID-19 vaccines onsite throughout the season for those who become eligible, such as new hires. If so, how long are they good for?

If you meet vaccine storage requirements, there are two different dates you need to be mindful of:

- Thaw expiry date, which will be on the vial.
- The expiry time after first vial puncture, which will be listed on each product pages

13. Which vaccine will be available for individuals under the age of 65? Is the supply pre-filled or multi-dose?

Questions and answers

For COVID-19 vaccine there is both Moderna and Pfizer. For influenza, please refer to intended use of influenza vaccine page. The presentation of the product (pre-filled or multi dose) will depend on product and availability at time of order.

14. What are educational requirements for LTC nurse immunizers?

- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses>
- COVID-19-19 Immunization competency course – for those who will be providing COVID-19-19 vaccines only.
- Influenza Immunization competency course – for new immunizers who will be providing influenza vaccines only.
- BCCDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Course – optional but highly recommended

15. Can resident who recently had COVID-19 recently be vaccinated?

Wait until symptoms of an acute illness are resolved before vaccinating with COVID-19 vaccine to differentiate symptoms of illness from vaccine side effects.

16. Are peer immunizers for both COVID-19 and flu being supported?

Allocation of vaccine products for peer immunizations is available for your care community, however FH will not be providing immunization support for staff immunizations. Recommendation is to co-administer COVID-19 and Flu; if sites have capacity for peer immunizers, they should be offering both vaccines.

17. Do we still need a doctor's order for COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, an order is required for vaccine.