

March 12, 2026

## Sent on behalf of the Fraser Health – Integrated Long-term Care and Assisted Living Services

### **\*UPDATE\*** End of 2026 Respiratory Illness Season

- This week, the Provincial Health Officer [announced the end of the 2025/26 respiratory illness \(RI\) season](#). We continue to see sustained decreases in influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory virus activity throughout the province and within our region.
- **Season Summary**
  - Emergency Department (ED) respiratory visits peaked at 22% in December—lower than last season's 26%.
  - Influenza coverage remained stable (21%); COVID-19 coverage decreased slightly (13%).
  - Health Care Worker influenza immunization reached 28%—our highest since 2021/22—supported by expanded workplace clinics and partnerships.
  - The overall Health Care Worker coverage remains below levels needed to reduce outbreaks and staffing pressures.
- **Operational Implications:** Higher staff vaccination rates support fewer outbreaks, reduced absenteeism, and more stable ED and inpatient operations—key priorities for next season.
- **Next Steps:** Continue routine IPC practices and appropriate PPE use year-round. Planning for 2026/27 will begin in April, with a focus on improving immunization uptake and operational readiness.
- **Thank you** for your leadership throughout the season and your ongoing support for safe, quality resident care.

### **\*UPDATE\*** The Viral Respiratory Illness and Outbreak Protocol and Toolkit

- Audience: Long Term Care Communities
- Updates to the Fraser Health [Viral respiratory illness and outbreak protocol and toolkit \(LTC RI toolkit\)](#) include
  - Updated link to the Provincial Influenza Prevention Policy in Tool 6 and the Influenza checklists
  - Added isolation timeline for roommates of RSV cases to the Checklist for Other Respiratory Illness (non-Influenza/ non COVID-19)
  - Added initiation of droplet precautions and tray service for roommates of cases in Influenza, COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Illness checklists
  - Tool 27 formatting updated for phone number fields to autofit to the box
- **Please note:** Your computer may have the old document cached. You can clear the old document from your cache by clicking the shift key and clicking the refresh button on your browser when you have the page open. The newest versions of the Tool 27 should appear in your browser

- If questions or concerns arise from a Care Community, please contact the Communicable Disease Nursing Team at 604-507-5471 (Monday–Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm). You may also reach out to the Public Health Communicable Disease Prevention and Control CNE's Andra Steer [andra.steer@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:andra.steer@fraserhealth.ca) and Meghan Cronin [meghan.cronin@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:meghan.cronin@fraserhealth.ca) for additional support or clarification.

## **\*UPDATE\* U-First! In-person and online workshop added**

- Workshops open to any eligible staff in the Fraser Region:
  - In-person
    - Wed, April 1 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - The Harrison at Elim Village, Surrey
    - Tue, April 14 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Hawthorne Seniors Care Community, Port Coquitlam
    - Wed, April 22 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Douglas College, Coquitlam
    - Tue, April 28 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. - The Czorny Alzheimer Centre, Surrey
  - Online – All 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Zoom
    - Thursday, April 2
    - Wednesday, April 8
    - Thursday, April 9
    - Wednesday, April 15
    - Thursday, April 16
    - Tuesday, April 21
    - Wednesday, April 29
    - Thursday, April 30
- **Register two weeks before workshop date**
- Please see attached Poster for instructions on how to register.
- Alternatively, the link [alzbc.org/ufirst-fraser](http://alzbc.org/ufirst-fraser) is also available. This includes virtual and eLearning options.
- Reminder: Only the session fee is covered, and paid education hours/backfill costs are the operational responsibility of each LTC home
- If you have any questions, please email Anita Wahl [anita.wahl@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:anita.wahl@fraserhealth.ca) or Samantha Stevens [Samantha.Stevens@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:Samantha.Stevens@fraserhealth.ca)