

Public Health	
Questions	Responses
Should Care Communities still use Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and maintain a stock of RATs or rely on PCR testing	PCR is the preferred method of testing for respiratory illness; RAT does not capture other RI viruses such as Influenza, RSV etc. therefore, generally RAT should not be used.
Can we use expired RATs or PCR swabs	Discard expired tests/kits, they should not be used
Can physicians write a standing order for COVID-19 vaccine that can be used for each booster recommendation	These questions will be brought forward to the LTC Leadership team for consideration in the future
When will COVID-19 vaccine be included within the LTC routine immunization standards; not needing to obtain written consent but rather resident and family consenting to the program and fall campaign be normalized?	These questions will be brought forward to the LTC Leadership team for consideration in the future
Is reporting to the Ministry of Health still occurring? Any changes to this process?	Yes, no change to the process at this time
When is the updated toolkit going to be available?	Additional guidance is still pending. The anticipated timeline for posting to the external Fraser Health website would be no later than the end of the month. If you have any questions in the interim, please reach out to Public Health/IPC
Who is the main Cerberus contact	If you require a Cerberus account, please email your request to: COVIDINTAKEHUB@fraserhealth.ca For technical issues: contact Service Desk
Tool 28 (Staff cases) is still needed to be reported to PH for GI	Yes, submit tool 28 (staff cases) for GI outbreaks
There are no changes to the PPO order this year	No changes this year. Refer to Tool 4 and new tool, Tool 3, once posted
Immunizations	
What interval between COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 immunization	Fraser Health recommends that individuals with a recent COVID-19 infection defer their next COVID-19 vaccination for 3-6 months. However, COVID-19 vaccine can be safely offered to a client without contraindication any time after recovery from a recent COVID-19 infection. For more information about COVID-19 vaccine, please refer to the Healthcare Provider Q&A (bccdc.ca)
Is RSV vaccine publicly funded	We are still waiting for information from BCCDC. There will not be a publicly funded RSV vaccination program this respiratory season.
What are the course numbers for the Learning Hub courses discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal Influenza Updates 2023-2024: 31263 • Influenza Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza Disease & Vaccines (bccdc.ca): 19654

Will there be peer immunizations.	Peer Immunizations are optional this year. Each site will determine if they are able to offer immunizations to staff. All Influenza and COVID-19 immunizations must be entered into
	ImmsBC. Staff should self-report their flu immunization status using the provincial self-reporting site by December 1 st
When is the anticipated date to receive and start immunizations	Oct 10, 2023
Can you mix COVID-19 and Influenza vaccine in one syringe and offer the vaccine	No, products should never be mixed together and administered in one syringe
Do Affiliate sites order vaccine through Public Health?	If you ordered through Public Health previously, please continue to do so.
Pfizer XBB 1.5 is not listed on the Imms form	It will be added to the ordering form when it becomes available
Infection Control and Prevention	
Can IPC consider bringing back donning/doffing posters for extended mask/PPE use?	Extended mask donning and doffing posters were created due to unique circumstances (i.e. during the pandemic when there was a provincial shortage of PPE supplies). At this time, under normal circumstances, the use of extended mask is not recommended.
Can Accel be used instead of bleach for GI	Yes, both accelerated hydrogen peroxide 0.5% and sodium hypochlorite 1000ppm wipes are effective for cleaning and disinfection during GI outbreaks. Refer to GI Toolkit (tool 16) for details on surface cleaning. For additional questions consult with CD EHO for GI outbreaks or IPC for routine queries
What should we do when a staff refuses to wear a mask, as it is not mandatory? The words that are used are vague and open to many interpretations.	The manager of the staff should have a conversation with the staff and find out the rationale for refusal. The provincial mask policy has been put in place to protect patients, residents, health-care workers, and the public during respiratory illness season. Refer the staff to the Ministry Announcement and Policy Communiqué .