

# Provincial Partner Oversight Team News

January 2024

## Important Reminders

- The number of influenza cases are rising. It is not too late to offer both COVID-19 and Influenza vaccine to any new or missed residents or staff. Immunizations should be completed by February 15, 2024.
- Transmission of influenza and COVID-19 from staff to residents is very common and severe outcomes include hospitalization and death. Encourage your staff to get immunized. Check out the [Provincial Partner Oversight \(PPO\) website](#) for resources.
- Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is now available for those who are unable or choose not to have a mRNA vaccine. [Call Health Link](#) to book.

## Did you know?

Most vaccines should be stored at +2°C to +8°C. A cold chain excursion or 'break' occurs when vaccines have been exposed to temperatures outside of the recommended range of +2°C to +8°C, or exposed to light. A cold chain excursion can make a vaccine less effective which can result in poor protection against disease.

Temperature and light exposures must be reported. through the process outlined in the [Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) webpage.

## Contact Us

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[Provincial Partner Oversight Team](#)  
[Alberta Outreach Immunization Policy](#)

## At a glance

### Thinking Ahead

Are you interested in having your own facility staff immunize in the 2024-2025 season? Email us at [congregatelivingimmsupport@ahs.ca](mailto:congregatelivingimmsupport@ahs.ca) to learn more and start the process.

### Facts and Stats

Respiratory illnesses including influenza and COVID-19 are increasing. Check out [The Respiratory Virus Dashboard](#) for more information.

Influenza is easily spread and can be a serious disease. Learn about more [Flu facts](#).

Healthcare providers can learn more about COVID-19 XBB. 1.5 variant vaccine from the [AHS Q&A for Healthcare Providers document](#).