

PURPOSE

To prevent exposure to seasonal Influenza in all patient care areas, including AHS emergency departments (ED), urgent care centres (UCC), acute assessment clinics, other ambulatory clinic settings (including diagnostic imaging clinics, laboratory testing and collection sites), and patient care units.

Screening

1. All patients should be screened for Influenza-like illness (ILI) immediately upon entrance to the facility/area.

Health care workers should look for the following symptoms:

ADULT: Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough, AND with one or more of the following:

- Sore throat
- Joint pain
- Muscle aches
- Severe exhaustion

PEDIATRIC: Acute onset of any of the following symptoms; runny nose, cough, sneezing, +/- fever.

Note: In children under age 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under age 5 or age 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

2. Ensure all patients with respiratory symptoms are separated from persons without respiratory symptoms by at least 2 metres.

Point of Care Risk Assessment

Staff caring for patients with symptoms of ILI must perform point of care risk assessment (PCRA) prior to performing care. [Point of Care Risk Assessment for Patients with Influenza-Like Illness \(ILI\) or Confirmed Influenza](#)

Respiratory Hygiene

Encourage patients to practice respiratory hygiene by covering their cough and sneezes (with mask or tissues provided) and performing hand hygiene.

Hand Hygiene

Encourage strict adherence to hand hygiene.

Isolation Precautions/Patient Management

Ensure Contact and Droplet Precautions are adhered to: [Contact and Droplet Precautions Information Sheet](#).

- N95 respirators are required for aerosol generating medical procedures ONLY.

Influenza Immunizations

- Protect yourself, our patients and your families – get immunized! It is not too late to get your influenza vaccination [Influenza Immunization Clinics](#)

For more information or clarification, please contact your facility Infection Control Professional or Designate.

Additional resources:

IPC Resource Acute Care Manual - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/6854.asp>

Contact and Droplet signage - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ipc/hi-ipc-contact-and-droplet-sign.pdf>

Influenza information - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp>