

PURPOSE

To prevent exposure to seasonal Influenza in all resident care areas in Alberta Health Services owned and contracted Continuing Care Facilities.

Screening

1. All residents should be screened for Influenza-like illness (ILI) on a daily basis.

Health care workers should look for the following symptoms:

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

Residents over 65 years may not have fever.

2. Ensure all residents with respiratory symptoms are placed on [Droplet and Contact Precautions](#).

3. Conduct ongoing surveillance and monitoring for unusual clusters of illness in residents and staff and identification of possible ILI outbreaks. [Outbreak Management Guidelines](#)

ILI Outbreak Definition: 2 or more cases of ILI within a 7 day period, with a common epidemiological link (e.g., same location or same care giver, and evidence of transmission with the unit or site).

Point of Care Risk Assessment

Staff caring for residents 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 residents 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

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

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

Influenza Immunizations

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

Visitors

Instruct visitors (family, friends, private caregivers, etc.) to:

- not visit when feeling unwell
- perform hand hygiene upon entry into and exit from the facility
- practice respiratory hygiene while visiting
- contact facility staff if providing direct care to a resident

Additional Resources

IPC Continuing Care Resource Manual - <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/9237.asp>

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

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

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