

CSSEA Info keeps members informed about human resources and labour relations issues in the community social services sector.

For more information, contact your human resources/ labour relations consulting team.

PROTECTING YOUR EMPLOYEES DURING FLU SEASON

HEALTH CARE INFLUENZA VACCINATION INITIATIVE

For the 2012 flu season, the Ministry of Health and B.C.'s Health Authorities announced a mandatory influenza vaccination initiative for the health care sector. Under this initiative, all provincial health care workers must get the influenza vaccine or wear a surgical mask once the Provincial Health Officer issues a declaration marking the official start of the flu season.

This policy applies to all health care workers including nurses, physicians, students, volunteers and those providing contracted services who come into contact with patients, clients or residents whether in hospital, community, or home care settings.

HOW DOES THIS INITIATIVE AFFECT CSSEA MEMBERS?

Employees of CSSEA members, that have service contracts with the Ministry of Health or a Provincial Health Authority, must also be either immunized for influenza or wear a surgical mask when providing services to clients of a Health Authority.

CSSEA member employees can obtain influenza immunizations without charge at pharmacies that administer an immunization program by indicating they are a public sector employee delivering client services within the health care system.

All other CSSEA members are encouraged to participate in an immunization initiative and promote hand-washing (hygiene) campaigns during this year's flu season.

In addition, CSSEA recommends that members with vulnerable clients in Community Living facilities adopt the same mandatory influenza vaccination initiative during this influenza season. Getting immunized or wearing a mask will be a significant change for your employees, but these enhanced protection measures will improve the safety of your vulnerable clients by reducing the risk of influenza transmission.

For further information, please read the [Influenza Control – Questions and Answers](#) document posted on our Members website or contact your HRLR Consultant.

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