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Intercare Corporate Group Inc.

“The Heart of Excellence”

Infection Prevention & Control

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Resident Influenza and Covid-19
Vaccination Time p1

Staff Influenza
Vaccination p2

Covid-19
Vaccination -
Phase 1 Eligibility p2

Resident Influenza and Covid-19 Vaccination Time!

Seasonal influenza vaccination is the most effective way to protect ourselves against influenza and its complications, including hospitalization and death.

Every fall and winter, influenza and its complications place increased pressure on the healthcare system, especially as other respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), circulate. In addition to protecting individuals against influenza and its complications, influenza vaccination helps reduce strain on healthcare resources during these peak seasons.

Some diseases that vaccines can prevent are more serious in older adults and seniors. This is because our immune systems may not respond as well as we begin to age and get older. This puts you at a greater risk for certain diseases, including:

- ◆ COVID-19
- ◆ Influenza (the ‘Flu’)
- ◆ Pneumococcal Disease
- ◆ Shingles
- ◆ Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

If you are age fifty (50) years of age or older, you are more likely to get shingles and you are at higher risk of other health problems from shingles.

If you are age sixty-five (65) years of age or older, you are at higher risk of getting very sick from influenza, pneumococcal disease, and COVID-19.

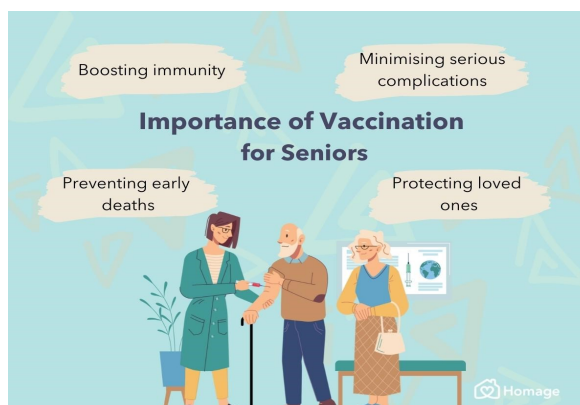
If you are age sixty (60) years of age or older and living in a ‘congregate setting’ - e.g. a continuing care home or supportive living accommodation - you are at higher risk of getting very sick from RSV.

If you are age seventy five (75) years of age or older, you are at higher risk of getting very sick from RSV.

~ Influenza and Covid-19 vaccine clinics will begin at Intercare’s Care Homes in early October ~

At that time, both vaccinations will likely be provided simultaneously. Residents will, however, be able to take either or both vaccination.

Pneumococcal and RSV vaccination is also available at the Care Homes for residents who are eligible. Pneumococcal and RSV vaccination are typically administered as a single dose, however some residents may need a booster depending upon when last vaccinated and medically complexity.



Staff Influenza Vaccination

As a condition of employment, all Intercare employees hired on or after May 1, 1993, are required to receive an annual influenza vaccination, unless they provide proof of medical exemption from their physician.

Influenza vaccinations are offered to all staff at Intercare Care Homes by Staff Nurses free of charge, as recommended by Alberta Health Services (AHS).

During an **influenza outbreak** on a unit or within a Care Home, Intercare follows:

- ◆ **AHS's Outbreak Guidelines**
- ◆ The direction of the **Medical Officer of Health (MOH)** and the **provincial Outbreak Management Team (OMT)** for post-exposure immunization, prophylaxis and/or work restrictions to control influenza outbreaks.

Covid-19 Vaccination- Phase 1 Eligibility

Alberta's government is committed to ensuring that the **highest 'at-risk' Albertans** have access to vaccines that they need to protect themselves from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines will be made available to Albertans in two (2) phases, starting with the highest risk groups, before being made available to a wider range of Albertans.

Eligible populations can access the **COVID-19 vaccine** from the time their phase starts until the end of the season or as long as the vaccine is available. **Phase 1 Eligibility** is outlined below:

Phase	Eligibility Criteria	Start date	Fee
1	◆ Health Care Workers ◆ All residents of continuing care homes and seniors supportive living accommodations ◆ Home care clients ◆ Individuals 6 months of age and older with underlying medical or immunocompromising conditions ◆ Individuals experiencing homelessness ◆ Individuals sixty-five (65) years of age and older receiving the Alberta Seniors Benefit	October 1, 2025 (pending vaccine availability) to the end of vaccine campaign	Free of charge

Eligible underlying medical conditions:

- ◆ Cerebrovascular disease
- ◆ Chronic liver diseases
- ◆ Chronic lung diseases
- ◆ Chronic kidney diseases
- ◆ Cystic fibrosis
- ◆ Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and type 2
- ◆ Disabilities (for example, Down syndrome, learning, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; ADHD; cerebral palsy; congenital disabilities; spinal cord injuries)
- ◆ Heart conditions (for example, cardiomyopathies, coronary artery disease, heart failure, etc.)
- ◆ Mental health disorders (limited to: mood disorders, including depression; schizophrenia, spectrum disorders)
- ◆ Obesity
- ◆ Pregnancy
- ◆ Tuberculosis

Eligible immunocompromising conditions:

- ◆ Cancer (currently receiving treatment)
- ◆ HIV infection
- ◆ Primary immunodeficiency diseases
- ◆ Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant
- ◆ Use of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive medication or CAR T-cell therapy