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AFTER HOURS ON CALL

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September 19, 2023

Long-term care influenza and COVID-19 vaccination starts soon

Dear long-term care providers –

On September 12, an influenza outbreak was declared in a long-term care home on the island, which may indicate an early start of the fall respiratory season. Updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are arriving soon, and providing these to your residents as soon as possible will offer the best prevention against transmission and severe disease from these pathogens.

What you need to know:

- Refer to bit.ly/CVPislandhealth for all instructions on ordering, storing, handling, administering, and documenting influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. It will be updated throughout the season.
- Order vaccines the week of September 25, for pick up the week of October 2. Vaccines can be ordered for both residents and staff.
- **Aim to offer vaccines to all residents before mid-October.** Influenza season typically begins in mid-October, and it takes two weeks to generate maximum protection after being vaccinated.
- We encourage co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Staff will be invited to book appointments through the provincial Get Vaccinated system. If they are new to BC, advise them to register through getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or by calling 1-833-838-2323.

Regular townhalls will be held before and during the respiratory season.

If there are outstanding questions after reviewing bit.ly/CVPislandhealth, please contact your local public health unit: islandhealth.ca/our-locations/health-unit-locations.

Thank you for your collaboration in reducing severe disease and transmission of influenza and COVID-19.