

Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Booking Entertainment in Residential Care

Purpose:	To support residential services with infection control risk assessment in booking entertainment that is non interactive such as musical performers at their facilities.
Background:	In 2012 Island Health adopted the British Columbia Influenza Control Program Policy requiring all employees, students, physicians, residents, contractors, vendors and volunteers to get immunized or to wear a mask during influenza season in our healthcare facilities.
Scope:	All residential care facilities owned and operated by Island Health.
Outcomes:	To continue to provide safe environment for residents whose home is in an Island Health Facility

1.0 Guideline

While most residents are in residential care because they can no longer care for themselves, the quality of life must also be considered. Watching performances such as music/singing/dancing is an activity that all can benefit from regardless of health condition.

Entertainers must perform hand hygiene upon entry and exit of the residential care facility. Hand hygiene is the key to prevention and transmission of illness. Other infection control measures, including cough etiquette and restriction on visiting while ill remain the cornerstone of efforts to control transmission of infectious disease.

Entertainers should go directly to their designated area. It is recommended that there is minimal contact of the entertainer with any furniture they do not immediately require to complete their job.

Entertainers should not make physical contact with the residents or involve themselves in any patient care activities such as serving refreshments, feeding, or pushing wheelchairs. Entertainers are to call for the assistance of staff to meet resident's needs as there is the risk of transmission of illness while performing these activities.

During Influenza Season

It is the responsibility of the organization of the group coming into the facility to advise their participants that Influenza vaccination is recommended and available for free for any visitor to a healthcare facility. The organization should notify their members as soon as possible if a visit or performance in a residential care facility is planned during influenza season.

Influenza season arrives in BC between fall and early spring (typically November to April). The Provincial Health Officer will determine and announce the dates for the vaccination period at the beginning of flu season every year. All entertainers must comply with the general guidelines listed above as well as the Island Health protection policy.

Influenza immunization is recommended for all visitors to residential care facilities. However, if the following requirements are met, the entertainer(s) will not be required to wear a mask during a performance.

- **Entertainers are permitted:**
 - Are permitted in an area such as a dining room outside of mealtimes excluding snacks
 - Are permitted in an area outside where personal care activities take place
 - Are placed at least 6 feet away from the residents

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- **Entertainers are not permitted to attend:**
 - If they are ill
 - In a resident's room
 - Resident care location (where personal care is being provided)

During Outbreak

- Social activities /events will be cancelled on the unit for the duration of the outbreak.

2.0 Definition

Entertainer: May include persons or group of persons who sing or dance in front of a group of individuals but do not interact. Persons booked for interactive activities such as cooking/crafts are excluded from this guideline.

Vaccination required period: Refers to the time period that the influenza protection policy comes in effect. This includes but is not limited to the instructions for all persons entering an Island health facility to be either be immunized for influenza or wear a mask for the duration of the flu season.

3.0 Related Island Health Documents and Standards

- Island Health Influenza Protection Policy – Purpose and Background. 5.8.6
<https://intranet.viha.ca/pnp/pnpdocs/influenza-protection-policy-purpose-and-background.pdf>

4.0 References

- Island Health Infection Prevention and Control. (2015) Infection Prevention and Control Reference Guide. Retrieved from: <http://www.viha.ca/quality/care/clinical/ipc/manuals.htm>
- British Columbia Health Link BC. <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/facts-about-influenza>
- British Columbia. Ministry of health. Frequently asked questions. Retrieved Nov 18, 2016 from ; http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/faq_influenza-policy-masking.pdf

5.0 Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Influenza. Retrieved Nov 16, 2016 from: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>
- Plans-Rubio P. (2012). the vaccination coverage required to establish herd immunity against influenza viruses. Jul;55(1):72-7. Retrieved Nov 24, 2016 from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22414740/>

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