



Protocol for Healthcare Worker Influenza Immunization Surveillance in Acute Care Hospitals in Nova Scotia

Patient Safety Act

December 2016

The following protocol is an appendix to the Patient Safety Reporting Regulations for the *Patient Safety Act* and pertains to reporting of healthcare worker influenza immunization rates in acute care hospitals. This protocol will provide a standardized process for the collection of healthcare worker influenza immunization rates and subsequent process for reporting to the public and to the Health System Quality branch at the Department of Health & Wellness.

DISCLAIMER: Changes may occur to this protocol over time. Users must refer to the online version of this document located on the DHW IPCNS website (<http://ipc.gov.ns.ca/>) to ensure version accuracy.

Background

The Act to Improve Patient Safety and Health Systems Accountability (Patient Safety Act) requires that the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and IWK Health Centre publicly report patient safety indicators in accordance with protocols established by the regulations.

Beginning in the fall of 2015, healthcare worker (HCW) influenza immunization rates for the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the IWK Health Centre (IWK) will be included as a patient safety indicator under the Act. This includes reporting these rates to the DHW and reporting these rates for the public. In addition, the NSHA and the IWK will make available their HCW influenza immunization rates.

To meet the requirements of this indicator, the NSHA and the IWK will complete the DHW *Health Care Facilities Immunizing Staff/Volunteers Form* twice annually before the last day in February and December 15th. This data collection form may be updated annually by DHW at the initiation of each influenza season. The NSHA and IWK will complete this form and send to the DHW and to their local Public Health Services Office.

Why are HCW Influenza Immunization rates being publicly reported?

Influenza is the most common infectious disease cause of death in Canada and a frequent cause of outbreaks in acute care facilities. HCWs are at risk of getting the infection and potentially spreading it to patients in their care.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends annual influenza vaccination for healthcare workers¹. Influenza vaccination provides benefits to HCWs and to the patients they care for. NACI considers the provision of influenza vaccination to be an essential component of the standard of care for all HCWs for the protection of their patients. This includes any person, paid or unpaid, who provides services, works, volunteers or trains in a healthcare setting.

Transmission of influenza between infected HCWs and their vulnerable patients can result in significant morbidity and mortality for susceptible or immuno-compromised individuals. Protecting patients from influenza is a patient safety issue, therefore healthcare worker immunization rate is considered an important patient safety indicator. Public reporting of the indicator is a step towards strengthening accountability of acute care hospitals on their performance on this indicator. DHW will monitor these rates with the objective to increase the rates of influenza immunization in the acute care hospitals in Nova Scotia.

Data Collection Methodology

Definitions

- **Healthcare worker (HCW):** For the purpose of this indicator, HCWs includes employees and those who work for the hospital (e.g. nurses, physiotherapists, clerical staff) and physicians. These employees include those who provide direct hand on care to patients and those who may not. This includes those working in home or community settings. Excluded are volunteers, some contract workers and learners/students.

¹ National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2014-2015

- **HCW Influenza Immunization Rate:** This refers to the percentage of HCWs immunized in the facility. Included in this rate will be the immunizations received at the acute care, as well as those received from a provider (e.g. pharmacist, family physician) outside the facility.

Data Collection: Acute care facilities will collect HCW influenza immunization rates each February using the data collection form *Health Care Facilities Immunizing Staff/Volunteers* and instructions which are located on the DHW website: (See Appendix A for sample form).

Link: <http://novascotia.ca/dhw/populationhealth/surveillanceguidelines.asp>

Note: While only the rates of HCW influenza immunization will be required for public reporting under the Act, the additional information obtained in this data collection tool annually are a necessary part of ongoing provincial surveillance and epidemiology at DHW.

Process for Public Reporting

1. Each calendar year, the **NSHA** will provide the DHW with the HCW influenza immunization rates for acute care facilities by zone twice annually,
 - a. By the last day in February by populating the *Health Care Facilities Immunizing Staff/Volunteers* data collection tool (Appendix A), and
 - b. On December 15 by sending the most current available rates by zone (including numerator and denominator)
2. Each calendar year, the **IWK Health Centre** will provide the DHW their HCW influenza immunization rate twice annually,
 - a. By the last day in February by populating the *Health Care Facilities Immunizing Staff/Volunteers* data collection tool (Appendix A), and
 - b. On December 15 by sending the most current available rate (including numerator and denominator)
3. By the due date in February, the data collection form will be sent to the DHW via Secure File Transfer on or before the above dates. By the due date in December, a secure message containing rate information including numerator and denominator (by NSHA zone and IWK) will be sent to the DHW via Secure File Transfer at <https://stfs1.gov.ns.ca>. Secure messages must be copied to the local Public Health office for their information.
4. The DHW will report overall rates for HCW influenza immunization rates by zone for the NSHA and a rate of HCW influenza immunization for the IWK Health Centre on the DHW webpages *Public Reporting on Patient Safety* which reports all indicators under the *Patient Safety Act*. <http://novascotia.ca/dhw/hsg/public-reporting/>
5. Acute care facilities in the NSHA and IWK will post their rate on their public websites either independently or by providing a link to the above DHW webpage.
6. In addition, the NSHA and the IWK may choose their own additional methods to display and communicate their HCW influenza immunization rates.

How will DHW present the data?

The DHW will post the acute care hospital HCW influenza immunization rates by zone for the NSHA and a rate for the IWK. The DHW will also determine a provincial rate for HCW influenza immunization by aggregating the data for all applicable healthcare facilities in Nova Scotia.

The HCW influenza immunization rate is calculated by dividing the total number of immunized HCWs by the total number of HCWs working in a facility. Rates are expressed as a percentage and calculated as:

$$\text{HCW influenza immunization rate} = \frac{\text{Number of immunized HCWs}}{\text{Total Number of HCWs in the facility}} \times 100$$

How should the data be interpreted?

Rates of HCW influenza immunization can be used as a tool for hospitals to monitor their overall efforts to improve their annual HCW influenza immunization rates.

Health Care Facilities Immunizing Staff/Volunteers (Excluding LTC/RCF) 2015-2016 Season (FOR FACILITY USE)

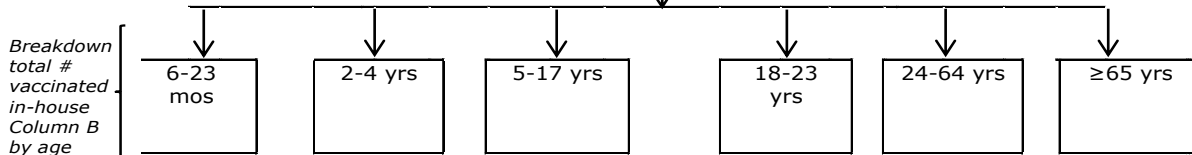
Zone: _____ **Facility/Clinic Name:** _____ **Contact Person:** _____ **Date:** (yyyy/mm/dd): _____

Facility/Clinic Type: Inpatients Occupational Health/Workplace Outpatient Clinic

Phone #: _____

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON COMPLETING THIS FORM

DATA CATEGORIES		Number in Facility (A)	#Immunized			% Immunized (E)
			In House (B)	Other Provider (C)	Total (D)	
Facility Coverage Rates	Staff					
	Volunteers Total					
	Residents/Patients Total					
	All Other Total	-		-	-	-
	TOTAL # VACCINATED (In column 'B' only)	-		-	-	-



Target Groups	Pregnant Total	-		-	-	-
	Aboriginal Living on Reserve Total	-		-	-	-

Please complete and return to your local Public Health Services office