

October 21, 2019

## RVH prepares for flu season to protect patient safety

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is once again making influenza immunization more convenient for staff, physicians, volunteers and students by offering the flu shot within the workplace.

“At RVH, safety is our promise and one of the ways we can live up to this promise is to ensure as many staff, physicians, volunteers and students as possible are vaccinated against the flu,” says Janice Skot, RVH president and CEO. “Many of our patients are in poor health when they arrive at RVH, so we want to ensure we’re doing all we can to protect them from becoming even more ill.”

Flu vaccines are available for members of TEAM RVH within the health centre during the five-week campaign (October 21 to November 24). Flu shots are not mandatory at RVH. Staff, physicians, volunteers and students do have a choice of how they protect patients and themselves.

“The flu virus is mainly spread through droplets from coughs and sneezes. This makes the flu easy to spread in the close working quarters of a hospital,” says Corinne Nesbitt, manager, Occupational Health and Safety. “A healthy workplace also means staff are protected and not sick with the flu. We need them at RVH – meeting patient needs and providing exceptional care.”

Throughout flu season, as part of RVH’s commitment to patient safety, all patients will be screened for symptoms of influenza upon arrival at the Emergency department or other patient registration areas. Anyone showing flu-like symptoms such as sudden onset of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle and joint pain and headache, will be required to wear a mask and, when possible, will be isolated from other patients.

“We owe it to our patients, our colleagues and our families to do everything we can to keep each other safe,” says Skot. “Early immunization and frequent hand-washing are the best preventive measures to stop the spread of the flu.”

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Cutline: Dr. David Boushy, president, RVH Medical Staff Association; Nancy Savage, RVH executive vice president, Patient and Family Experience; Dr. Giulio DiDiodato, critical care medicine specialist, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and chief research scientist, RVH Centre for Education and Research, and Dr. Amir Khosrovaneh, RVH Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Medical Director received their annual flu shot, launching the 2019 flu shot campaign. RVH is now offering flu shots to staff, physicians, volunteers and students within the health centre to protect patient safety.

For more information:

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