

The BC Influenza Prevention Policy: Healthcare Worker Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Study

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Primary investigator

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Introduction

You are invited to participate in an online survey about healthcare workers' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding influenza immunization, influenza infection, and the BC Influenza Prevention Policy (the Policy). The Policy requires that healthcare workers (HCWs) get vaccinated against influenza or wear a mask while in patient care areas during the influenza season.

Researchers from the BC Influenza Prevention Policy Evaluation Team are interested in understanding HCWs' experiences of the Policy in the 2015/16 influenza season. We are asking you to take part in this study because you are employed at a Health Authority in BC, have a valid Health Authority email address, and the Policy applies to you. Clinical staff, physicians, administrative staff, and support staff are all invited and encouraged to participate.

The following information will help you make an informed decision about participating in this study.

Purpose of Study

The researchers conducting this study are interested in understanding:

- HCWs' knowledge and attitudes regarding influenza infection, influenza immunization and the Policy.
- Factors associated with HCWs' decision to get vaccinated against influenza or whether to wear a mask in patient care areas during the 2015/16 influenza season.

Study Activities

If you agree to participate, you will complete an online survey which is hosted by FluidSurveys. You may complete the survey at work (where appropriate) or on your own time. FluidSurveys requires the use of Internet Explorer (version 9 or higher), Google Chrome or Safari to participate in the survey. You may also use a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet, to complete the survey.

The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. If you are interrupted while completing the survey, you can save your responses and continue the survey later.

Please note that participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate, refuse to answer some questions or withdraw from the study at any time, with no negative consequences for you.

Exclusion criteria

You will be excluded from participating in the study if you are not currently employed by a BC Health Authority. You will also be excluded if you did not work at a BC Health Authority during the 2015/16 influenza season.

Possible risks involved

There are no foreseeable risks, harms, or discomforts from participation in this study.

Possible benefits involved

Upon completion of the survey, you may **enter a draw for a \$500 Visa gift card**. You must provide your valid Health Authority email address to be eligible for the prize. Your survey responses are anonymous and will not be linked to your contact information.

This study gives you an opportunity to provide feedback regarding your views on the Policy. The results will help policy-makers understand HCWs' experiences of the Policy and will improve future influenza immunization campaigns and implementation of the Policy.

Voluntary Participation and Consent

Participation in this study is voluntary, you can answer all, some, or none of the questions. You may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time, with no effect on your current or future employment. Clicking on the link and completing the survey implies your consent to participate is given. Because the survey is anonymous, data cannot be withdrawn after submission.

Confidentiality

All data collected will remain confidential. The survey does not ask for any personal identifiers and your computer's IP address will not be collected. The investigators do not have access to lists of staff in the Health Authorities. Only summary responses will be presented in reports or papers. No individual or facility level responses will be presented in reports of the survey.

Data will be collected using FluidSurveys. FluidSurveys is compliant with Canadian privacy laws (all data resides on Canadian servers) and accessibility standards (W3C). Once data collection is complete all data will be removed from FluidSurveys and stored on secure servers at the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Sharing the Results

A summary of the results for respondents and the general public will be made available online. An executive report will be completed and shared with BC's Health Authorities. Articles will be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The research will also be disseminated through academic and professional forums such as conferences on healthcare worker influenza immunization or public policy.

Contacts for questions about this research project

If you require any further information regarding this research project or your participation in the study, please feel free to contact the principal investigator at the BC Centre for Disease Control, 655 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V5Z 4R4: Dr. Monika Naus at HCW.FluSurvey@bccdc.ca.

Contacts for concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Click this link to complete the survey:

<https://surveys.phsa.ca/s/hcwsurvey/>

(Use Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, IE 9, 10, or 11, or your mobile browser)

Thank you for your time,

Dr. Monika Naus
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