**MEMO**

**DATE:** Oct 14, 2022

**TO:** Community andFamily Physicians

**FROM:**

**RE:** Upcoming Respiratory Virus season

We are approaching another unpredictable respiratory virus season. Influenza activity was notably absent in 2020, steeply declined in 2021 and January of 2022, and began to rise in the spring of 2022 in what would be considered a late influenza season. Influenza circulated much longer than expected during the 2021-2022 season, with activity spiking unusually late and continuing into early summer.

The more predictable trends of the past have been replaced with unpredictable respiratory virus seasons that require a sharper focus on proactive preparation to meet the needs of our patients.  Due to co-circulating pathogens, the unknown impact of emerging infectious diseases, and a multitude of other complicating factors, health care providers need to be informed and prepared. The tools below contain information about seasonal respiratory virus activity, as well as recommendations and tips for how to improve patient flow and safety in regards to infectious diseases such as pre-screening, scheduling appointments for end of day, creating overflow waiting areas or having patients wait in their car until their appointment time.

Be sure to keep abreast of the relevant Saskatchewan Health Authority and other resources for helpful content that includes:

* [Updates on seasonal activity](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID-19-cases)
* [CPSS Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) for clinical office practice](https://www.cps.sk.ca/iMIS/Documents/Legislation/GUIDELINE%20-%20IPAC%20Clinical%20Office%20Practice.pdf) includes practical strategies and infection control recommendations for Routine Practices, Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) and when caring for patients presenting with infectious illness
* [SHA COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Providers](https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/intranet/health-provider-resources/clinical-resources/covid-19-information-health-care-providers) includes resources related to screening, testing, and PPE recommendations for management of patients presenting with COVID-19 or other respiratory viral illnesses.
* SHA [Clinical Practice Resources](https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/intranet/about-sha/news/covid-19-information-health-care-providers/clini-cal-practice-re-so-urces-0)
* [Canadian Family Physician Choosing Wisely Canada Series](https://www.cfp.ca/content/by/section/Choosing%20Wisely%20Canada)
* [College of Medicine Continuing Medical Education](https://cmelearning.usask.ca/covid-19/covid-19-information.php#COVID19Updates)
* [British Columbia College of Family Physicians](https://bccfp.bc.ca/covid-19/)
* [CMA Ethical Considerations During Pandemic Document](https://policybase.cma.ca/viewer?file=%2Fmedia%2FPolicyPDF%2FPD08-04.pdf" \l "page=1)

**Please also encourage your patients to get vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19, when they are eligible and also for Influenza.**