

# Infection Prevention & Control

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## SPIKEVAX Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine

As we learn more about COVID-19, different types of vaccines are being developed including one that provides more robust protection against the Omicron strain. This new type of vaccine is known as a **‘bivalent’** COVID-19 vaccine. Bivalent vaccines target two (2) strains of the COVID-19 virus: the original SARS-CoV-2 virus from 2019 and an Omicron variant. While work is still being done worldwide on the bivalent vaccine, research to date has demonstrated a stronger antibody response against Omicron infections when compared with the original vaccine.

The SPIKEVAX Bivalent vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the COVID-19 infection. SPIKEVAX Bivalent uses a molecule called messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA, the genetic code for a piece of the virus) to deliver the set of instructions that cells in your body can use to make antibodies to help fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

As with any vaccine, SPIKEVAX Bivalent may not fully protect all those who receive it. Therefore, even after vaccination it remains important to follow the recommendations of local public health officials to prevent spread of COVID-19. The SPIKEVAX Bivalent vaccine will begin to be offered to Intercare residents starting in October, along with the seasonal Influenza vaccine.

## IP&C Responsibility

Although infection prevention and control measures are continually changing in Alberta, it remains everyone’s responsibility to minimize risk to those most vulnerable as well as for ourselves, our friends, our colleagues and families. The following outlines measures that each of us can take to help safeguard our residents and prevent the spread of infections and outbreaks in our Care Homes and the community.

### What our Residents can do:

- ♥ Use proper hand hygiene
- ♥ Use respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- ♥ Let someone know when they are not feeling well
- ♥ Stay in their rooms when they are not feeling well
- ♥ Use a mask or PPE if required, when going out
- ♥ Get their Covid-19, Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccinations

### What our Visitors can do:

- ♥ Use proper hand hygiene
- ♥ Use respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette.
- ♥ Do not visit when not feeling well
- ♥ Inform the Care Home if they become ill following a recent visit at the Care Home
- ♥ Use a face mask or PPE if required, when visiting
- ♥ Get their COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations

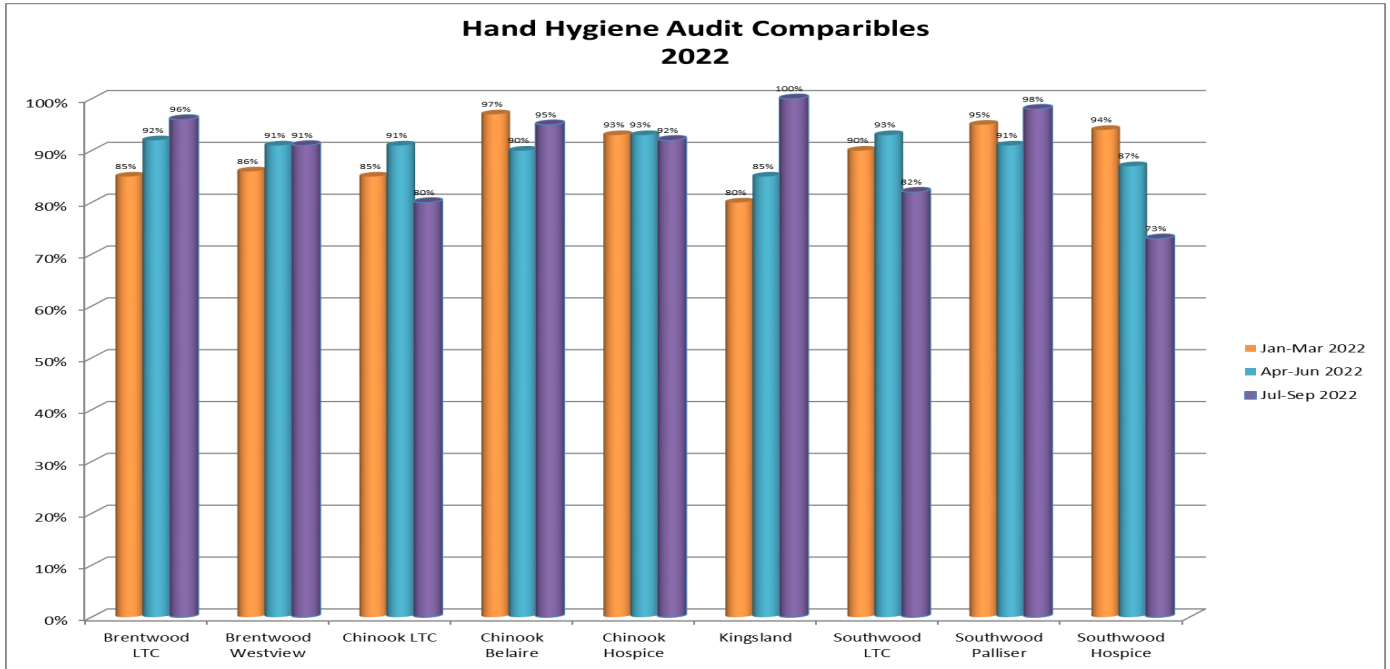
### What our Staff can do:

- ♥ Use proper hand hygiene
- ♥ Use PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, eyewear).
- ♥ Use respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- ♥ Clean and disinfected environmental surfaces
- ♥ Do not come to work when feeling unwell
- ♥ Get their COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations

## Hand Hygiene Audit Results

Hand Hygiene Auditing continues to be done on a monthly basis at all Intercare sites. During these audits, the “Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene” are observed, as well as proper glove use.

The graph below shows results of on-going Hand Hygiene Auditing at Intercare Care Homes.



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Audit Results

With the Covid-19 global pandemic slowly moving towards an “Endemic” stage, all Intercare Care Homes will continue to complete PPE audits but we have decreased the frequency to monthly with Quarterly summaries. The graph below shows results of on-going PPE Auditing at Intercare homes:

