

Infection Prevention & Control

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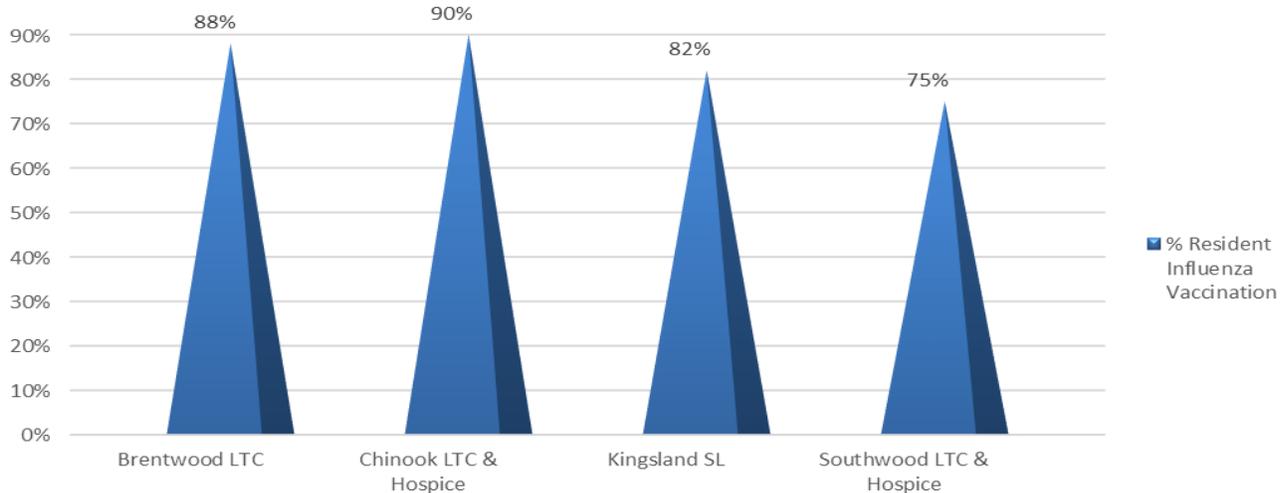
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Influenza and Covid-19 Booster Vaccinations

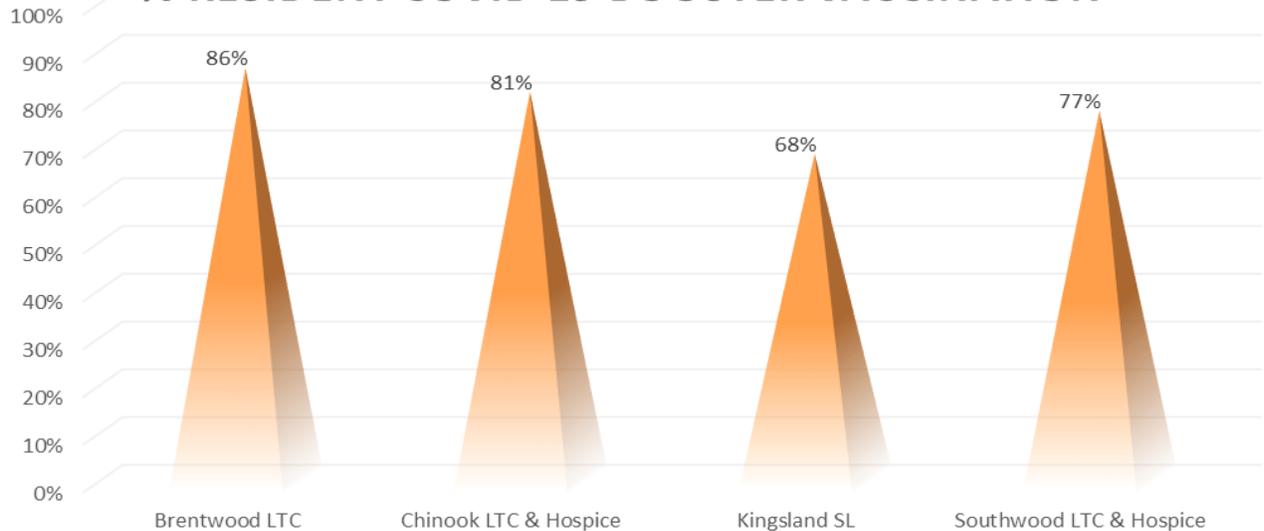
The following outlines Influenza statistics for the 2021-22 Influenza Season:

Influenza Cases Province Wide	Influenza Case at Intercare Sites	Dominant Influenza Strain this Season	% of Influenza Vaccines Administered Province Wide	% of Influenza Vaccines Administered to Residents at Intercare
36	0	H3N2	25%	84% (average)

% Resident Influenza Vaccination



% RESIDENT COVID 19 BOOSTER VACCINATION

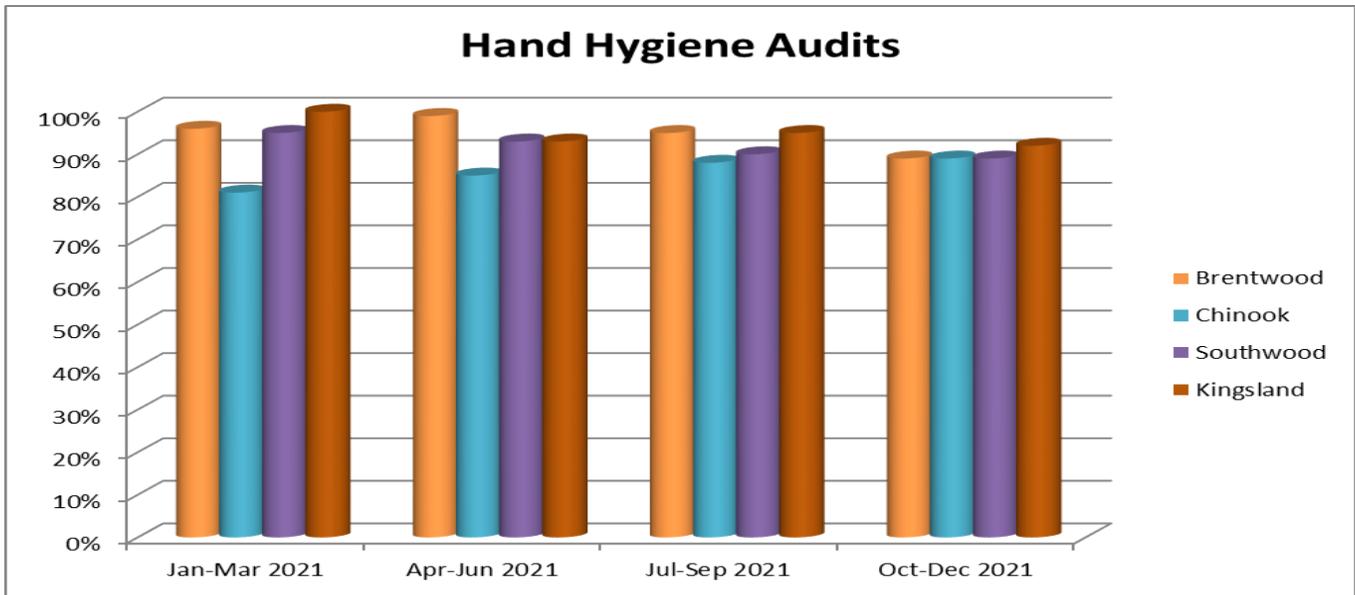


Hand Hygiene Audit Results (2021)

Our hands are the main pathways of germ transmission during the delivery of care. Proper hand hygiene is, therefore, one of the most important safeguards that can help us avoid the transmission of harmful germs and prevent the spread of infection in healthcare settings.

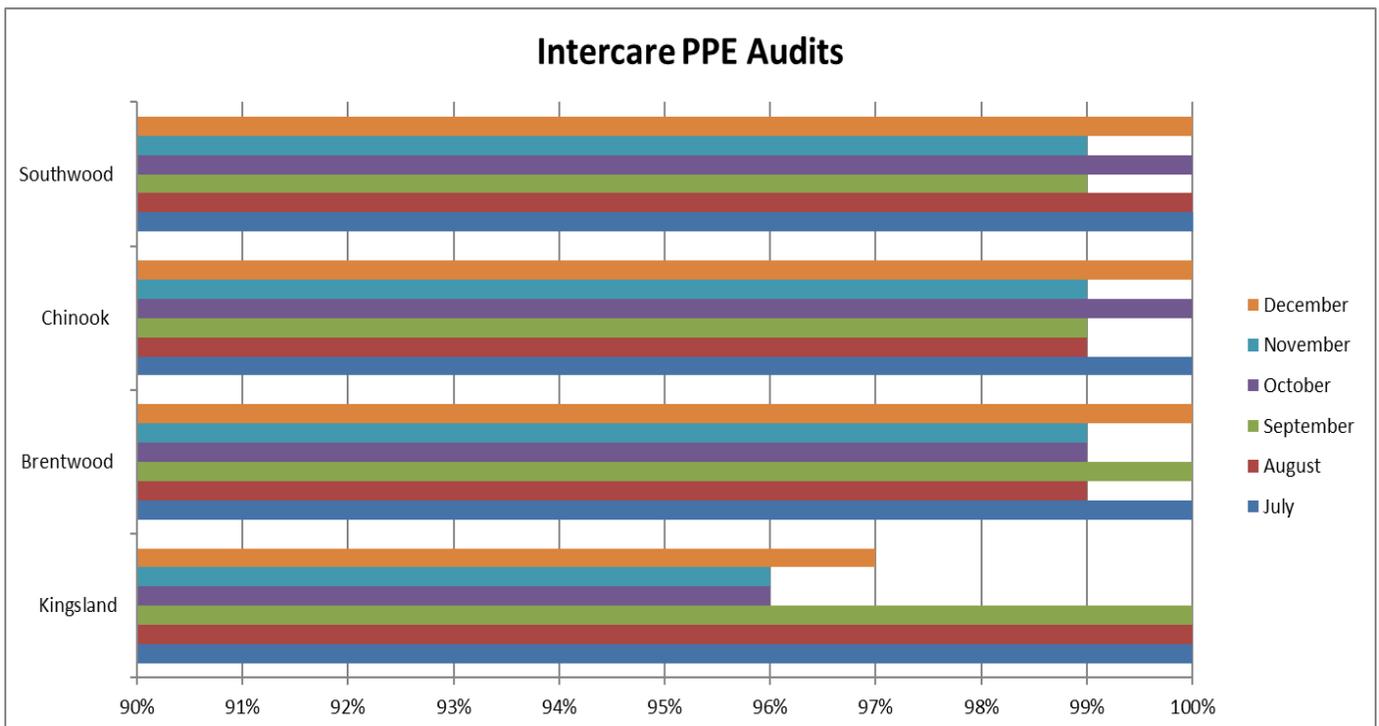
Hand Hygiene Auditing continues to be done on a **monthly basis** at all Intercare sites. During these audits, the “*Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene*” and proper glove use are both observed (audited).

The graph below shows results of on-going Hand Hygiene Auditing at Intercare’s four (4) sites:



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Audit Results (2021)

As the Covid-19 global pandemic continues and influenza season is upon us, all Intercare sites continue to complete **PPE Audits** on a **regular basis**. The frequency of PPE Auditing may change in the future, depending upon CMOH restrictions and requirements.



What is the Omicron Variant?

On 26 November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the variant 'B.1.1.529' as a variant of concern (named **Omicron**) on the advice of WHO's [Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution](#) (TAG-VE). This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves - for example: how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes. Below is a summary of what is currently known about Omicron.

Current knowledge about Omicron:

Researchers in South Africa and around the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and will continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available.

Transmissibility:

It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) as compared to other variants, including Delta. The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa affected by this particular variant, but epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if it is because of Omicron or due to other factors.

Severity of Disease:

It is not yet clear whether infection with Omicron causes more severe disease as compared to COVID-19 infections with other variants, including Delta. Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa, but this may be due to increasing overall numbers of people becoming infected, rather than a result of specific infection with Omicron. There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants. Initial reported infections were among university students (i.e. younger individuals who tended to have more mild disease), but understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take more time to assess. All variants of COVID-19, including the Delta variant that is dominant worldwide, can cause severe disease or death particularly for those most vulnerable and, thus, prevention remains key.

Article Source Document: WHO



Masking and Health Screening Requirements (CMOH Order 37-20-21)

As a reminder, COVID-19 protective measures set out in CMOH Order 37-20-21 remain in effect in all continuing care settings at this time. Given this, continuous masking and health screening requirements are still required when visiting/attending all Intercare sites. For additional information, please visit our website at:

<https://www.intercarealberta.com/covid-19-updates-2/trusted-information/>