

Infection Prevention & Control

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Covid-19 Booster Vaccinations and their Efficacy

- ◇ Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an ongoing pandemic which has resulted in over 45 million confirmed cases, including more than 6 million deaths globally.
- ◇ On November 24, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a new variant of concern (VOC) of COVID-19 designated as the B.1.1.529 otherwise known as "Omicron."
- ◇ Available preliminary evidence suggests that as compared to previous VOCs, Omicron has an increased risk of transmission and infection.
- ◇ Studies have also shown that one's protection against hospitalization and death due to severe COVID-19 infection declines over time after having received one's first two (2) doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- ◇ In response to Omicron and the ongoing resurgence of COVID-19 cases, the importance of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to increase and re-boost immunity against the variant is vital.
- ◇ The intent of a booster dose is to further enhance or restore protection that may otherwise have decreased over time to a level that is no longer sufficient to protect individuals who responded adequately to their primary (first) series of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- ◇ Evidence from clinical trials suggests that booster doses of mRNA vaccines, given six (6) months after the primary series, elicit a robust immune response.
- ◇ There are over twenty-seven (27) published studies world wide that review the effectiveness of the third (3rd) booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine against the Omicron variant.
- ◇ Global data suggests that a booster dose provides good short-term protection and has a safety profile similar to the second dose of the primary vaccine series.

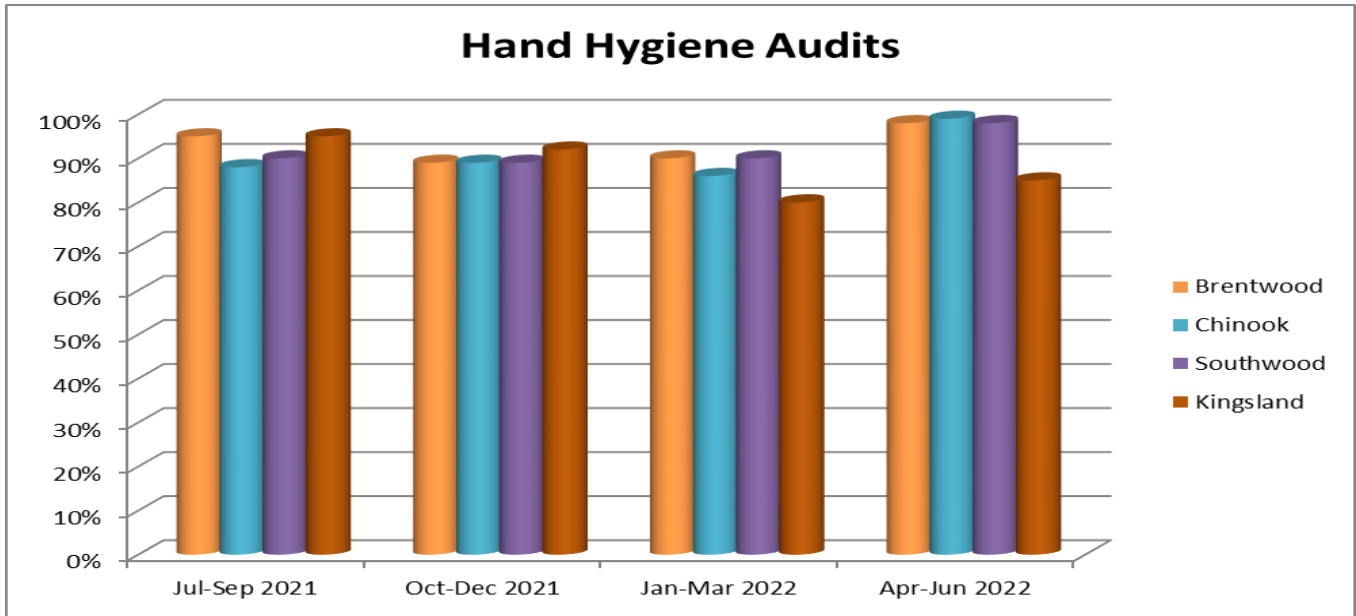


Hand Hygiene Audit Results

Hand Hygiene Auditing continues to be completed at all Intercare Care Home on a monthly basis.

During these point-in-time 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’s Care Homes.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Audit Results

With the Covid-19 global pandemic slowly moving towards an “Endemic” stage, all Intercare Care Homes continue to complete PPE audits on a monthly basis, with a shift to quarterly (versus monthly) reporting. The graph below shows results of on-going PPE auditing at Intercare homes:

