

## **FREE FOR:**

In B.C., the inactivated influenza vaccine or flu shot is provided free this year to the following groups of people:

### **People at high risk of serious illness from influenza, such as:**

- Children 6 months to less than 5 years of age
- Pregnant women who are at any stage of pregnancy during the influenza season
- Seniors 65 years and older
- Residents of any age living in residential care, assisted living or other group facilities
- Aboriginal people
- Children and teenagers required to take Aspirin® or ASA for long periods of time due to a medical condition
- Children and adults with certain medical conditions, including:
  - Heart or lung disorders that require regular medical care, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or cystic fibrosis
  - Kidney disease, chronic liver disease such as hepatitis, diabetes, cancer, anemia, or weakened immune system
  - Those with health conditions causing difficulty breathing, swallowing, or a risk of choking on food or fluids, such as people with severe brain damage, spinal cord injury, seizures or neuromuscular disorders
  - Those who are very obese

### **People able to transmit or spread influenza to those at high risk of serious illness from influenza including:**

- Household contacts of people at high risk
- Household contacts, caregivers and daycare staff of children under 5 years of age
- Doctors, nurses and other health care providers
- People who live or work in confined settings, such as correctional facilities
- Those who provide care or service to people at high risk in potential outbreak settings such as cruise ships

### **Other groups who are also eligible to receive the flu shot for free include:**

- People who provide essential community services such as police officers, firefighters and ambulance attendants
- Farmers and other people who work with live poultry

Starting in 2013, visitors to health care facilities and other patient care locations will be expected to wear a mask if they did not get an influenza vaccine. Such visitors will be eligible to receive the vaccine for free.