

CANADIAN  
NURSES  
ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION DES  
INFIRMIÈRES ET  
INFIRMIERS DU CANADA

November 29, 2012

Dear nursing colleagues,

On Wednesday, November 28, 2012, the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) board of directors approved a [position statement regarding the influenza immunization of registered nurses](#) (RNs). Our position statement is consistent with our stated commitments: to advance nursing excellence and positive health outcomes in the public interest and to act in the public interest for Canadian nursing and nurses, providing national and international leadership in nursing and health.

CNA's position statement contains background information and evidence to support the statement we have made on the issue. CNA believes this statement demonstrates the value of immunization for public health and recognizes influenza as a serious illness that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, putting them at higher risk of complications.

It is CNA's position that all RNs should receive the influenza vaccine annually, to protect themselves, their families and those in their care, except RNs who have a condition that exempts them (e.g., an allergy). CNA also believes that any immunization policy should be part of a comprehensive workplace and patient-safety strategy that draws from the expertise of front-line RNs. Further, we believe it is up to employers to decide whether to introduce policies that would make immunization a requirement.

I urge you to read CNA's complete [position statement](#), which outlines our position in detail and provides important supporting evidence. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [president@cna-aiic.ca](mailto:president@cna-aiic.ca).

Sincerely,

Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)  
President, Canadian Nurses Association