Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Variants of Concern in the Workplace

Variants of concern can be more contagious & spread quickly. They may also cause more severe illness. Here are some tips to help prevent the spread of variants of concern in the workplace.

1. Support staff to stay home if they are sick or if they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. Screen staff & clients for symptoms & possible exposures to other people who may be infected.

2. Require staff to wear a mask that covers their nose, mouth & chin. Provide eye protection such as goggles or a face shield if physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained.

3. Clean & disinfect shared spaces frequently, especially high-touch surfaces.

4. Promote good hand hygiene & provide soap, paper towels & alcohol-based hand sanitizer for staff & clients.

5. Help staff take all measures for self-protection, including wearing personal protective equipment correctly, keeping at least 6 feet/2 metres distance & limiting contact with others as much as possible.
   - Because variants of concern can spread quickly, when there is a case of COVID-19 in a workplace, there is a lower threshold for classifying close contacts who must self-isolate. This is based on factors including amount of contact, use of masks & eye protection & ventilation.

6. Encourage staff to get vaccinated when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to them.