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South East IPAC Hub Update

Happy New Year! January is the perfect time to reflect, reset, and plan ahead. As we kick off this new year, it's an ideal opportunity to focus on setting SMART goals—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound — that will help you strengthen your Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) programs.

Whether you're looking to refine your surveillance strategies, enhance staff training, or implement new infection control methodologies, our team is here to support you every step of the way. Let's work together to identify actionable objectives that will drive meaningful improvements throughout the year.

Here's to a successful and goal-oriented 2025!

Education & Events

February

- **Feb 4th:** IPAC EO Novice Infection Control Network
- **Feb 11th:** PHO C. auris
- **Feb 25th:** IPAC Canada Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance Workshop for Long Term Care

March

- **Mar 4th:** IPAC Canada Novice Infection Control Network
- **Mar 12th:** PHO IPAC Environmental Cleaning Community of Practice
- **Mar 19th:** IPAC Canada Eastern Ontario Chapter meeting

April

- **Apr 1st:** **SAVE THE DATE**
C. auris - The Yeast in the Beast



REMINDER!

Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance Workshop for Long Term Care

Tuesday February 25, 2025

Get ready for an engaging, hands-on experience in IPAC Canada's 3-hour virtual workshop on surveillance in LTC! Through interactive exercises, you'll work with surveillance databases and real-world scenarios to apply key concepts in real time. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, collaborate, and elevate your surveillance expertise! This session is not a pre-requisite for our April Surveillance Skills Workshop but will be an asset for those who attend. Remember, keep an eye out for IPU's that will help with CIC/LTC-CIP recertification!

[Click here](#) to read the full description, learn more and register!

Registration Deadline: Feb 21, 2025



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us!

**SOUTH EAST IPAC HUB PRESENTS
SURVEILLANCE SKILLS WORKSHOP**

April 3, 2025

Location: Kingston, ON

Free with lunch provided | IPU's to be determined !!

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

- ★ **Angela Richmond, LTC-CIP**
John M. Parrott Centre
- ★ **Victoria Gibson, LTC-CIP**
Stirling Manor
- ★ **Payton Hunt, LTC-CIP**
Fairmount Home

Candida auris is reportable to Public Health.

NEW
Public Health Ontario Presentation - Candida auris:
A New Disease of Public Health Significance
(DOPHS): Management of this Highly-Transmission
Fungal Pathogen

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Register [here](#).





BUG WATCH

Norovirus



What is Norovirus?

- Norovirus is a **highly** contagious virus that causes gastroenteritis, otherwise known as inflammation of a person's gastrointestinal system
- It is a leading cause of vomiting, diarrhea and foodborne illness
- Norovirus is often mistaken for "stomach flu" or "stomach bug" but it is not related to influenza (the flu)

How is Norovirus spread?

Typically spread through the **fecal-oral route**:

- 1 Direct contact** with someone infected
- Consuming food or drinks contaminated with the virus
- 3 Indirect contact** with surfaces of items contaminated with the virus and then touching mouth, nose or eyes

Norovirus Symptoms

- The incubation period of norovirus is 12-48 hours after exposure
- Symptoms normally appear very suddenly

Common symptoms include:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Stomach pain

Additional symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches

How long can symptoms last?

- Symptoms typically last **1 to 3 days**
- Individuals can still be contagious for several days after symptom resolution

How to PREVENT Norovirus



Hand Hygiene

- Promote hand washing for staff, residents & visitors



Environmental Cleaning

- Check for norovirus kill claim on products
- Focus on high-touch surfaces
- Dedicate shared equipment where possible
- Review cleaning/disinfection program



Education and Awareness

- Educate staff, residents and visitors about importance of adherence to IPAC practices (hand hygiene, cleaning/disinfection, PPE use)

Additional Precautions

- Implement contact precautions for confirmed or suspected cases
- Consider droplet & contact precautions as the use of eye protection and a mask can eliminate unpredictable exposure to splashes or sprays of stool and/or vomit



Outbreak Preparedness & Management

- Understand outbreak definitions
- Report outbreak to public health
- Ensure sufficient PPE supply
- Increased surveillance for case monitoring
- Identify potential visitor restrictions
- Review staff return to work policy
- Ensure supply of enteric testing kits
- Stay home when sick!



PHU and IPAC Hub can support with outbreak management!





IPAC SPOTLIGHT



PERTH COMMUNITY CARE



IPAC Lead:
Kendra Armstrong, LTC-CIP

Perth Community Care is a 121-bed long-term care home located in Perth Ontario. Their IPAC Lead Kendra has shown great initiative by tackling an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) for a renovation project that took place in the facility in November 2024. The home needed renovations in a dish room that required removing old and installing new fixtures and removing drywall. Kendra reviewed the work plan and followed best practice guidance and CSA standards. She assessed the project and determined the preventive measures that were necessary. She ensured to set up appropriate inspections and communicated with the contractor and their teams. This exceptional work contributed to the safety of the residents and staff at this home.

Kendra shared her experience with other IPAC leads at the LGL SE IPAC Hub Community of Practice meeting. Kendra is willing to share her presentation upon request. We appreciate hearing about her learnings.

**Kudos to Kendra and the team at
Perth Community Care!**



**We love to hear your
good news!**

Get a shout out in our 'Congratulations Corner' or be featured in our 'IPAC Spotlight'! To share your IPAC successes and projects you are working on to support or enhance your IPAC Programs, please email: SEHubIntake@kingstonhsc.ca

Contact the Hub: SEHubIntake@kingstonhsc.ca



Service requests

Our team is available for a variety of services, including on-site visits, staff education, outbreak management, IPAC policy review, IPAC resource development and other supports to help enhance your IPAC program.



IPAC-related questions

Our Hub IPAC practitioners are happy to provide advice on your IPAC-related questions and direct you to best practice resources. There are also numerous resources and presentations available on our [website](https://www.kingstonhsc.ca/ipac).



We want your feedback!

We value our partner suggestions and feedback. If the Hub has provided your organization with services, please take a moment to complete our [feedback survey](#) to help us improve our program.